



*Spirit Soars* by Susan Schwarz (used with the artist's permission)

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# Pathways

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January – March 2017

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# Sisterhood's Quiet Revolution

By Bonnie Leff

The headline read *Sisterhood Meeting: All Ladies Welcome to Attend*. So what's wrong with that? Sisterhood has undergone a quiet revolution. A few years back, The Temple Concord Sisterhood amended its bylaws to open Sisterhood membership to all interested individuals: people of all genders, not just "the ladies."



Bonnie Leff, Sisterhood co-president with Ellyn Roloff, says that when the change was proposed, she was "prepared for vigorous discussion and debate." The decision? Remain a women-centered organization—to retain the value of sisterhood—but not be a women-only organization. Leff continues, "I am proud that Sisterhood came to this conclusion. When we hold a Sisterhood-sponsored activity and include everyone, we simultaneously support the concept of sisterhood and continue our quiet revolution."

For Leff, this decision is personally appealing. As a young feminist, Leff chose William Smith College, which pairs with Hobart Collage as a coordinate college. In this arrangement, William Smith has a separate student government, with its own budget for women's issues, and offers the choice of separate or coeducational dorms. On the other hand, in the 1980s, Leff experienced firsthand the discord when feminist mothers had to exclude their sons at a certain age from the *Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice* at the Seneca Army Depot. Leff is grateful for and convinced of the necessity for women-only space. Still, she wonders, "When does separation become oppressive, despite its original purpose of addressing oppression?" Now, as a mother of sons, including a trans-man, the question is even more important for her.

Notes Leff, "Gender is frequently in the news. Inversely, it is—in many important ways—becoming a non-issue. A woman was nearly elected to the highest US office; Bono was awarded *Woman of the Year* by *Glamour* magazine because of his feminism and his advancement of women's causes; in Israel, Reform- and Conservative-movement rabbis joined Women of the Wall to hold a Torah service at the Kotel. By acting together, no one involved can be dismissed as being on the radical fringe." See <https://templeconcord.shulcloud.com/community/sisterhood> for the 2016 - 2017 Sisterhood-sponsored activities, which are generally Sundays at 9:30 AM. Temple membership is not a requirement. You may contact Bonnie Leff at [bonniesleff@gmail.com](mailto:bonniesleff@gmail.com).

The Temple Concord Sisterhood is an active and vibrant component of the Temple community, sponsoring monthly activities and programs during the school year. The Sisterhood strives to create and nurture a social network by providing those who worship at Temple Concord the opportunity to participate in religious, social, and educational activities.

# The Character of a Congregation

By Rabbi Fellman

*Rabbi Daniel Fellman sat down with Sally Cutler to discuss the character of a congregation and, in particular, the character of Temple Concord.*

**Character [noun]: the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing; moral or ethical quality; qualities of honesty, courage, or the like; integrity; reputation; good repute.**



Every person and indeed every institution has its unique character. What is the institution known for? Moreover, what are its core values, what drives it forward? For a faith-based institution, what is its sacred character?

These are questions not lightly asked or answered. But, Rabbi Fellman says, “The hallmark of a sound institution is that it knows its own character. It knows where its character came from, knows what its character is currently, and can envision the ways in which that character might—or might not—shift...and why.”

Fellman believes that Temple Concord’s character comprises three core values. The first is a love of tradition coupled with the willingness to wrestle with it. The second is a desire for connections, be they connections to G-d or to Judaism, connections with fellow members or with the clergy, or connections with the community at large. The third is an inclination and openness to reimagining itself, to not standing still.

In a healthy synagogue, three sectors overlap to shape the synagogue’s character: the membership, the clergy, and the lay leadership. Fellman emphasizes that “these are partnerships and democracies of the willing” and that “it’s not a healthy situation if only one on these sectors drives the character of the synagogue.”

Fellman chooses to see the Temple community as a collective of individuals arrayed along a common Jewish continuum. This view motivates his notion of what the Temple can strive for, namely, “a multiplicity of ways for individuals to engage.” Fellman asserts that the character of the Temple is strengthened when more people enter the arena. “The result can be holiness...or chaos,” notes Fellman, and he grants that there is a fine line between the two. The key to avoid devolving into chaos, he believes, lies in the character of the community.

Ultimately, the character of the Temple is built on individual character. So how does one develop one’s individual character and, by extension, contribute to the development of the Temple’s character? “You can wrestle with traditions and beliefs, delve into our collective history, and read both sacred and non-sacred texts in our tradition and that of others,” says Fellman. “And then,” he emphasizes, “we interact, we discuss, we wrestle with issues ranging from the significant to the mundane.” Fellman continues, “Ultimately, as a congregation, we place all of these activities in a Jewish context, keeping in mind our mandate to leave the world better than we found it.”

# Give a Little, Save Some Lives: Temple Concord's Commitment to Blood Drives

By Mark Kotzin

*Mark Kotzin, Temple Concord's "Vampire," sat down with Sally Cutler to discuss Concord's long-standing commitment to holding Red Cross Blood Drives.*

Your body is full of a renewable resource: your blood. And donating blood is one of the most direct—and, frankly, mostly painless—ways that you directly contribute to saving lives and to the overall well being of our Central New York community.

Twice annually, Temple sponsors Red Cross Blood Drives. These typically result in about 50 donations, and every donation can save up to three lives. We take whole blood, and double-red cell donations at each drive.

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## Did you know that...

- Someone needs blood every 2 seconds?
  - Only 10% of those eligible to donate do so?
- 

Mark Kotzin says, "You never know when you may be in need. And when you are, you need someone heroic to step up and give." As Jews we are admonished to "Choose life." Kotzin's blood type is especially significant in this regard because it is O Negative—the universal donor type. Moreover, he is negative for a particular virus, making his blood suitable for newborns. How does Kotzin feel about this? "It's a blessing," he says. "It's the most holy thing I can do personally."

Many of those who donate are "regulars," notes Kotzin. "They view this as a responsibility—even a sacred one—a very real way to do tikkun olam...to help heal the world."

The best way for you to join in this mitzvah is to pre-register (although walk-ins can be accommodated, albeit with some waiting time). **The next Temple Blood Drive is Sunday, April 9, 2017 from 9 AM to 2 PM.** Beginning in March, you can go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), using sponsor code TEMPLECONCORD, and register from there. You can also use the Red Cross smartphone app or contact Mark Kotzin at [concordvampire@verizon.net](mailto:concordvampire@verizon.net) or by phone at 315.288.0773.



**Aaron Spitzer donates during a recent Concord Blood Drive.**



**Margie Johnson is all set to donate—and to catch up on her reading.**



# The Urgency of Now: Six Ways to Take Action in the New Political Landscape

By Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner

*Reprinted with permission from The Union of Reform Judaism's "Weekly Update" of December 9, 2016.*

The deeply polarizing 2016 election elevated rifts in our social fabric, underscored the pain of those who feel excluded from our evolving economy and culture, and emphasized a persistent distrust and scapegoating of “the other.” Throughout the campaign, we heard violent, exclusionary, and racist rhetoric in ways not seen in mainstream politics in a generation. We witnessed thinly veiled allusions to centuries-old anti-Semitic propaganda, hate crimes against Muslims, and deplorable actions and threats against marginalized populations.



Our tradition's ageless and enduring call of Torah to *rodeph tzedek* – pursue justice – continues to inspire today's Reform Movement. As members of the largest and most diverse Jewish denomination in North America – which includes liberals and conservatives, Democrats, Republicans and independents alike – we have a responsibility, individually and collectively, to reject hate and help heal our nation. We are called to stand up for

values that are central to Reform Judaism and now are threatened – a just immigration policy, universal health care, LGBT equality, and unfettered access to the ballot.

The need for *tikkun olam*, world repair, at this moment is enormous. So, how can we act in ways that are nonpartisan, principled, Jewishly-inspired, and universally applicable?

There are several things every Reform Jew can do now.

- Check out the most pressing legislative and transition-related action alerts and resources, including future training webinars for activists across North America.
- Join us to pose questions to cabinet nominees about their views and records on critical issues by suggesting topics for senators to probe during confirmation hearings.
- Sign-up for emails from the Religious Action of Reform Judaism, the hub of the Reform Jewish community's social justice work, to help focus your efforts and stay up-to-date on the issues most important to you.
- Call on President-Elect Trump not to appoint Steve Bannon to a senior White House position. As executive chair of Breitbart News, Bannon gave voice to those trafficking in anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hate, and misogyny.
- Urge President Obama to protect undocumented immigrants who have applied for or participated in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- Register for Consultation on Conscience, the Reform Jewish community's premiere social justice gathering, in Washington, DC from April 30 – May 2, 2017. (continued on page 7)

## The Urgency of Now (continued from page 5)

The Reform Jewish community stands united against hatred and bigotry and for respect and justice. We have a long and proud history of working with elected leaders from across the ideological spectrum to advance our social justice goals. When our values are at stake, we speak loudly and clearly, championing religious liberty, defending reproductive rights, and upholding constitutional principles of equal justice.

The challenges we face today are significant and we must respond to them robustly – and in new and creative ways. Each of us must be ready to do our part to protect and advance that which we hold dear. The knowledge that I am part of our powerful the Reform Jewish community – rooted in tikkun olam, proud of its history of activism, and committed to the work ahead – sustains me. Never have the words of Pirkei Avot (2:21) resonated more for me: You are not required to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner represents the Reform Movement to Congress and the administration as the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism ([www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org)). He also serves as the senior vice president of the Union for Reform Judaism ([www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org)). Named one of the most influential rabbis in America, he has been an inspirational leader, creative entrepreneur, and tireless advocate for social justice.

## Meet a Temple Member: Shana Gadarian

Shana Gadarian is part of the Temple Concord Board's *Class of 2019*. She and her husband, Mike, live in Jamesville. Shana is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.



Shana and Mike have two children: Jonah, who is 7, and Ethan, who is 4. Jonah attends the Temple Religious School. The Gadarians chose to locate in Central New York because they found it to be an ideal place to raise a family. They have been Temple Concord members since 2014, and for them, a key part of Central New York's quality of life is Temple Concord.

Shana notes that having a Rabbi and Cantor who, like herself and her husband, have young children is in large part what draws her to be involved. Says Shana, "Temple is a place for my children not only to gain a religious education but also to connect with other kids, to make friends."

In her role on the Board, Shana feels that giving ear to the voices of all of Concord's diverse constituencies is and will continue to be key. She aims to use her skills and expertise to keep Temple Concord pointed toward a dynamic future. Included is a strong emphasis on continuing to offer a warm welcome to all, to support and nurture families, and to serve as home base for the religious, social, cultural, and community-engagement experiences the Temple community desires.

# Donors Are Making the Endowment Campaign a Success

By Sally Cutler

*Generations: The Campaign for Temple Concord* has received commitments from the following donors, who have generously embraced the campaign's aims: to build our endowment and to enhance our building. Thanks are due to all those who have made gifts to the Campaign.

(Donors listed reflect commitment forms received as of December 14, 2016.)

Six Anonymous Donations

Anonymous: In Memory of Peter Cavellier

Anonymous: In Honor of Rabbis Fellman & Ezring and for the future congregants

Anonymous: In Honor of Ira & Kayla Zames, Leslie & Barbara Davis

Dr. and Mrs. Mark Adelson and family: In Memory of Robert & June Adelson, Raymond & Jane Rosenwinkel, our loving parents

Dr. & Mrs. Ira H. Ames: In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Ames

Chris Baltus & Banna Rubinow

Neal & Nomi Bergman: In Honor of our children, Rebecca, Dori and Allison

Lorraine & Irvin Bodofsky: In Honor & Memory of our parents

Lawrence Brown

Joyce Carmen

Sherry Chayat: In Memory of Sylvia Chayat

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Sally F. Cutler: In Celebration of Family

Aveeya & Jonathan Dinkin: In Memory of our parents: Lillian and Isador Dinkin, Sarah and Allen Elias Engel Family

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Dr.'s Thomas & Lenore Griffiths

Eleanor Hayman

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## Donors Are Making the Endowment Campaign a Success (continued)

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The Kotzin Family

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Bonnie Leff

Jeffrey & Meryl Lefkowicz: In Honor of our children and grandchildren

Chana Meir

Alan & Bonnie Messie

Jeanette & Dan Myshrall: In Support of a successful campaign

Louis Orbach, Anastasia L. Urtz & Benjamin N. Orbach

Judy A. Papenfus: In Memory of Roberta Grossman

Lawrence & Susan Paul

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Douglas Reicher & Camille Tisdell

Elaine Rubenstein

Ellyn & Paul Roloff

Paul & Marlene Roodin

The Salzhauers: In Honor of our children

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Gloria Sage

Robert Sarason

Cantor Kari Siegel Eglash & Joe Eglash

Scott & Deborah Saroff: In Memory of Irma & Leonard Saroff

Gordon & Anita Sclar

Anne, John, Ethan & Victoria Sonne



## Donors Are Making the Endowment Campaign a Success (continued)

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Barbara Sutton and Liz Kolodney

Steven & Frances Volinsky: In Memory of Jerry & Ethel Volinsky

Martin & Linda Weiss

Warren Wolfson & Carole Kametz: In Memory of Rosalind Wolfson Gingold

Alan Wyckoff

## “Spirit Soars”: A Note About the Art and the Artist



This is an image of *Spirit Soars*, a painting by Pennsylvania-based artist Susan Schwarz. *Pathways* has adopted it as part of our masthead.

The Internet offered this up when we sought an image to capture the sense of “pathways.” Some pathways lead straight ahead, and some meander; some are obvious, and others are less so. To us, Schwarz’s painting embodies these notions.

Schwarz says that this and another piece “represent a rebirth of my art life.” Schwarz can be reached at [ssuzeqs@consolidated.net](mailto:ssuzeqs@consolidated.net).

## Temple Concord Links



[Rabbi Fellman’s Weekly Videos](#)



[Temple Calendar](#)



[Make a Donation to “Generations”](#)



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## Recent Deaths

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the families of those recently departed.

### **Gertrude "Git" Radin – October 2, 2016**

Gertrude was the aunt of Temple member, Jim Brule. She is survived by her children, Lewis (Carol) Radin, Marsha (Alan) Poushter, and Andrew (Doreen) Radin; as well as her grandchildren Rachel, Jeffrey, Rose, Charles, Elana, Evan, and Dana; four great-grandchildren and by her good friend, Irving Wagner.

### **Donald F. Roberts – November 20, 2016**

Donald was the grandfather of Temple Administrator, Cheri Lass. He is survived by his sons Donald (Diane) Roberts, Jr. and Thomas (Denise); and several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren.

### **Fannie Seidberg – December 13, 2016**

She is survived by her son, Dr. Bruce (Judith) Seidberg; 3 grandchildren, Dr. Neal (Dr. Tobey) Seidberg, Daniel (Jenee) Seidberg, and Allison Pinsky; and 6 great grandchildren, Jennie, Hali, Meghan, and Ashley Seidberg, Ethan and Cody Pinsky.

## Recent B'nai Mitzvot

*Mazel Tov to the b'nai mitzvot and their families.*

*Evelyn Fay – December 3, 2016*

*Nora Wilson – December 31, 2016*

## Recent Fund Donations

We appreciate all donations given to support Temple funds. Listed are those who have given \$18 or more in September, October and November of 2016.

### ADAM FRANK FUND

*In Memory Of*

**Adam Frank**

Mrs. Jennifer Bahr  
Sally & Lew Cutler  
Judy & Mark Frank  
Ellen Golden  
Mr. Paul Harvey  
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Paul Taber

### THE ALEXANDER SAUL LANDSCAPING FUND

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**Dr. Mary Jumbelic & Dr. Marc Safran**

30th Anniversary

Michael Kalet and Philippa Read

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### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In Appreciation of*

**Jim Brule**

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*In Memory of*

**Barry Joseph**

Lisa Rothman

**Gertrude "Git" Radin**

Norma Maddy

### RAKOV MUSEUM FUND

*In Memory of*

**Gertrude "Git" Radin**

Gary Lavine & Mady Kudisch

*In Celebration of*

**Judy Silverman's Birthday**

Mel Shindler

### RUBENSTEIN ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*In Memory of*

**Gertrude "Git" Radin**

Ron Killian

## Recent Fund Donations (continued)

### TEMPLE CONCORD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*In Memory of*  
**Gertrude "Git" Radin**  
 Mr. Thomas Sinclair  
**Robert & June Adelson**  
 Kathy & Mark Adelson  
**Raymond & Jane Rosenwinkel**  
 Kathy & Mark Adelson  
**Melvin & Helene Jacobs**  
 David Jacobs  
**Philip Holstein**  
 Marlene & Sandy Holstein

### TEMPLE CONCORD GENERAL FUND

*In Memory Of*  
**Adam Shifra Eydelson**  
 Sophie & Noah Serper  
**Hy & Anne Miller**  
 Barbara & Philip Miller  
**Gertrude "Git" Radin**  
 Mathilde Bersani  
 Mrs. Shirley Berson  
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### FLAH ADULT EDUCATION FUND

*In Memory of*  
**Gertrude "Git" Radin**  
 Judy Granatstein

FOOD PANTRY

*In Fund Support*  
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**Gertrude "Git" Radin**  
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**Louise G. Hirsch**  
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### FOOD PANTRY (continued)

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**Robert Hesslein**  
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**Ruth & Morton Saltman**  
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*In Honor of*  
**Sophie Friedman**  
 Dave Friedman & Kathy Miller  
**Sue and Ernie Wass**  
 Sally & Lew Cutler  
**The Thoughtfulness of Sue Gordon**  
 David Jacobs

*In Celebration of*  
**Adele Lucas' Birthday**  
 Mrs. Ivy Besdin

## Recent Fund Donations (continued)

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*In Honor of*  
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Pamela & Stephen Laffer

### IRENE EZRING MEMORIAL HANUKKAH FUND

*In Memory of*  
**Myles H. Leblang**  
Adrienne Brounstein LeBlang

### LOIS ARNOLD GALE LIBRARY FUND

*In Memory of*  
**Lois Gale**

### Patty KigurRABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Roger Grody

*In Honor of*  
**Abraham Budlova**  
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*In Appreciation of*  
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Larry & Brenda Eschelbacher  
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*In Honor Of*  
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Ellen & Mark Kotzin

*In Appreciation of*  
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Nancy Levine  
**Lewis Gardner**  
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