



# Temple Anshe Amunim

26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 - 413-442-5910 - [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org)  
[www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org) - [www.facebook.com/ansheamunim](https://www.facebook.com/ansheamunim)

## Inside this issue:

### page two

Rabbi's column continued  
 Schedule of Services  
 Rabbi's Blog

### page three

President's Message

### page four

PFTY Shabbat & Lasagna Dinner  
 Young Families Kabbalat

### page five

Rosh Chodesh  
 WRJ Membership Dinner

### page six

Passover Seder

### page seven

Save the Dates  
 Social Action Committee

### page eight

PFTY Carnival Photos

### page nine

Board Members  
 JFB Film Screening  
 JFB Super Sunday  
 Mazel Tov

### page ten

Donation Form

### page eleven

Donations

### page twelve

April Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
 and Yahrzeits

### page thirteen

April Calendar



Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch

From the Rabbi

## Change in Seasons, Change in Prayers

It is beautiful and amazing that our prayers allow us to recognize the passing of time and the changing of seasons. Each Shabbat, we sing familiar words and learn new melodies for prayers that unite us as a community. I love sharing these Shabbat services with you as a time to sing, pray, and gather together each week. The poetic words that we recite in Hebrew and English deepen the meaning of our time together.

Some of you also ask me questions about parts of our prayerbook, Mishkan T'filah, the Reform Movement's *siddur* (prayerbook) that we use each Shabbat. The editor and guide of the group that created Mishkan T'filah, Rabbi Elyse Frishman, has explained that Mishkan T'filah is "polyvocal" - that is, it reflects multiple voices, traditions, and perspectives within one prayerbook, even within a single page. For example, each prayer takes up at least a two-page spread in order to provide creative alternatives to the more traditional words. Of course, both Hebrew and English texts are offered as well, and we frequently read both, emphasizing the importance of understanding the words we are saying.

I want to highlight a few small words on page 168 [using the numbers in the brackets!] of Mishkan T'filah, which is the second blessing of the Amidah. The root of this Hebrew word literally means to stand; we stand for this prayer and offer words of thanks and praise. The first blessing of the Amidah remembers and connects us to our biblical ancestors - Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah.

The second blessing speaks of God's awesome power. The name of the blessing, the G'vurot, literally means "mighty." The more traditional text of this blessing focuses on God's ability to control all natural aspects of the world, creating a direct correlation between our prayers and behavior to God's actions on earth. We see a hint of this traditional language in the words offered in parenthesis in this blessing, which speak of God's ability to bring life to the dead, a seemingly impossible feat in the face of the natural order of the world. While we do not recite these words in our congregation, opting for the Reform movement's reinterpretation of this phrase, this is an example of the polyvocal nature of our prayerbook. Multiple perspectives on theology and tradition are respectfully represented at the same time.

In that same blessing, I encourage you to take a closer look at page 168. In a smaller font on the top of the page, we find two short phrases. In both the Hebrew and the English, there are two options: one for winter and one

*Continued on page 2*



## Schedule of Services

### Friday, April 5

5:00 p.m. - Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat

5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service led by Religious School students

### Saturday, April 6

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Torah Plus and Shabbat Morning Service

### Friday, April 12

5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, April 13

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Torah Plus and Shabbat Morning Service

### Friday, April 19

**No Erev Shabbat Services**—first night of Passover observed

### Saturday, April 20

10:30 a.m. Torah Plus and Festival Services

5:30 p.m.—Passover Second Night Seder

### Friday, April 26

6:00 p.m. - Concluding Holiday Shabbat service with Yizkor Memorial

### Saturday, April 27

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Torah Plus and Shabbat Morning Service

## Rabbi's Message Continued from front page

for summer. The winter option is *Mashiv haruach u'morid hagashem* - You cause the winds to shift and the rain to fall. The summer option is *Morid hatal* - You rain dew upon us. According to rabbinic tradition, we recite the winter phrase from Simchat Torah until Passover, and we recite the summer phrase from Passover until Simchat Torah comes again.

Dividing the year into these two "seasons," one in which we ask for rain and one in which we simply ask for dew, reflects the seasons in the Land of Israel. For anyone who has been in Israel in the summer, you know that saying it is hot and dry there is certainly an understatement! And the winter season is the rainy season in Israel, when we hope that enough rain falls to sustain life through the dryer time of the year. The rainy winter season in Israel really does run from Simchat Torah to Passover, and it is quite warm and dry from Passover until Simchat Torah.

I have had the joy of feeling the first raindrops of the year fall on my head just as I was celebrating Simchat Torah in Israel, on the very first day that we make the slight change to our prayers to ask for rain to fall. While I and many of you do not believe that God controls the weather patterns, changing this phrase in the Amidah prayer reflects a greater sense of connection to the holy rhythms in our world. We connect to places and people beyond our synagogue, and we recognize the power and beauty of natural phenomena that we do not completely understand. Most of all, when we switch to saying the words for the "summer" after Passover, which begins this year on April 19, we recognize that springtime and warmer weather are just around the corner, even if that is still sometimes hard to imagine in April in the Berkshires!

I invite you to reflect on these words to ours prayer the next time you are at Shabbat services, and to talk with me about what it means to you to say them. I look forward to celebrating Shabbat and Passover with our Temple Family, particularly at our **Annual Second Night Seder on Saturday, April 20th!**





Rabbi Liz invites you to check it out.

Were you unable to attend a service or Torah study? Don't worry!

You can find her weekly Torah writings posted at this link:

<https://ansheamunim.org/rabbi-lizs-blog>



To My Temple Family,

## Reforming Our Worship and Learning Experiences

As we continue our period of transition as a congregation, I wanted to make you aware of a few important changes that you may have already noticed, and some that you will notice in the coming months. The Management Team, in collaboration with the House and Worship Committees, have identified several areas of change, which can provide for a more meaningful worship and socialization experiences at Temple.

Here are some brief remarks on some of these changes that have recently been enacted:

- The Julius and Rose Adler Mason Library has been an incredibly valuable resource to our clergy and staff members and congregants for over five decades. However, over the past five years or so, we have lacked an active Library Committee to conduct the regular and proper oversight of the management of the library materials. With the assistance of **Dave Wallace, Linda Halpern and Alex Reczkowski, Executive Director of the Berkshire Athenaeum**, and with the blessing of **Rob Proskin, Alba Passerini and the members of the House Committee**, we have recently begun a project to sort through the thousands of materials that we have accumulated over the decades. Many of the materials we will keep, as they have some historical significance to the congregation or provide information on topics that remain relevant and of interest to those who use the library; a number of the books over the years have become moldy and will be properly and safely disposed of.

This project has already begun – you may have noticed the empty shelves in the library – and will be ongoing throughout the year. The books are currently being sorted in a vacant classroom upstairs. If you wish to provide assistance with this project, please contact either myself, Dave Wallace, or Linda Halpern – volunteers are needed and are most welcome.

- Speaking of this same downstairs space, we have found in recent months that we have been utilizing the sanctuary more often for Shabbat services and the downstairs chapel less and less. At the recommendation of the House Committee, and with the approval of the Board of Trustees in December, the chapel space has been moved to a vacant upstairs classroom on the eastern portion of the building facing Wendell Avenue. The tables and chairs used for Torah Study on Saturdays and for board meetings have been moved to the rear of the room, and in the front of the room we have added some lounge furniture and a Keurig Machine. Over the years, we have heard requests from congregants to have a warm and welcoming place to relax and read in the Temple, and this change will provide for just that.

With this change, for the first time in our building's

55 year history, we now have a true worship space which faces east! The Chapel has been set up, and in the coming months will receive some physical upgrades to make the space more warm and charming for a worship setting. We also feel that this space provides for a quiet place for those congregants who wish for a quiet and private worship experience. The Chapel remains to be dedicated to the memory of Mervin Wineberg, whose family endowed this specific space several decades ago.

- The Worship Committee has taken a deep look at the structure of High Holy Day services and the growing wish to make the worship experience more modern and accessible to all whom wish to participate. With the leadership of Worship Chair **Phil Halpern**, in the fall we began to look at the possibility of upgrading our Machzors from the antiquated Gates of Repentance to the more modern *Mishkan HaNefesh*. This winter, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to purchase 250 copies of *Mishkan HaNefesh*. The machzors arrived in late February, and Rabbi Liz and Dr. Alan Gold have already begun working together to map out the new services. *Mishkan HaNefesh* is laid out very similarly to *Mishkan T'Filah*, our weekly Shabbat siddur, providing more English passages to select from as well as phonetic translations of the Hebrew. We find that this layout will provide for a more accessible High Holy Day experience for attendees and will allow for more participation and honors for congregants.

**If you wish to dedicate a nameplate in the machzors, the cost is \$36 for one book and \$54 for the two book-set. Please contact Diane in the Temple office if you wish to do so.**

In addition, I am pleased to share that **Cantorial Intern Rachel Slusky** will be returning to Temple Anshe Amunim to help us ring in 5780! Rachel will be entering her third and final year of Cantorial School at Hebrew College in Newton, and she will be once again joining us for several Shabbatot this summer as she rehearses with Alan and the members of the Temple Choir. As we get closer to her visits, I will be reaching out to you seeking hospitality arrangements for Rachel, as she very much enjoyed her experiences with congregants this past summer and fall.

As always, I remain available for any questions, comments, concerns about any or all of the changes listed above. Please feel free to call or e-mail me at your convenience.

I look forward to seeing you at services, at the congregational meeting addressing our future rabbinic leadership planning on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and at our annual 2<sup>nd</sup> Night Passover Seder on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

L'Shalom,  
Josh Cutler  
Temple President

**PFTY SHABBAT**  
**April 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Followed by a**  
**Lasagna Dinner**



Come join the Youth Community of Temple Anshe Amunim as they welcome Shabbat with a Service followed by our famous Lasagna Dinner!

Dinner: \$15 adult; \$6 child; No more than \$35 per family

RSVP by **April 2, 2018**,  
to [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org) or (413) 442-5910

All proceeds benefit the PFTY Scholarship Fund

Major Funding Provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

**YOUNG FAMILIES**  
**KABBALAT SHABBAT**

**For children ages 0 - 6 and their parents and siblings**



**April 5th at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Temple Anshe Amunim**  
**SINGING, BLESSINGS AND SNACKS!**

Following the event, all are welcome to stay for the  
5:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service.



# Rosh Chodesh

April 6th

3:30 p.m.— 5:30 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh, the new month, has traditionally been a time for women to gather and celebrate through prayer, study, and enjoying meals together.

All women are invited to join the Rosh Chodesh group for a get-together as we usher in the new month.

If you aren't able to join us this month don't worry, we will be meeting on a monthly basis so please join us next month.

For more information and to RSVP please contact the Temple office by phone at (413) 442-5910 or email [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org)

## Women of Reform Judaism

Invites all Temple women to

find good fortune at the

## WRJ MEMBERSHIP DINNER

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

**Panda House Restaurant**

**506 Pittsfield Road, Lenox, MA**



Please RSVP by Thursday, April 4, 2019 to Temple Office at (413) 442-5910 or by email to [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org).

Please make your check payable to  
Women of Reform Judaism

**\$20 if you have already paid your dues; or \$56 to include your WRJ dues. Your WRJ membership supports our Religious School and Temple Projects.**

**Celebrate the second night  
Passover Seder  
with Temple Anshe Amunim  
Saturday, April 20, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.  
All are welcome!**



**Seder Menu**

**Homemade Charoset  
Chicken soup & matzoh balls  
Gefilte fish  
Turkey  
Beef brisket with gravy  
Vegetarian entrée  
Sweet potato tzimmes  
Carrot tzimmes  
Salad  
Wine & assorted desserts**

**\$36 TAA Adult  
\$10 TAA Children**

**\$54 Non-member Adult  
\$15 Children (10-18)**

**Please RSVP to the Temple Office by April 12, 2019 at  
(413)442-5910 or [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org)**

**Highlights of the Seder include:**

- Reading of the Haggadah
- Songs and music
- Stories and friendship
- Hunting for the Afikomen & prizes

# Save These DATES

## Young Families Kabbalat



Join other young families for a Kabbalat Shabbat on **May 10, at 5:00 p.m.** To celebrate Israel's 71st birthday. Afterwards, families are invited to stay for the 5:30 p.m., service.

There is no charge to attend the Kabbalat Shabbat or Erev Shabbat services.

## Yom Ha'atzmauet



On **May 10, at 5:30 p.m.**, join in celebration of Israel's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday with a special Yom Haatzmaut (Israel Independence Day) Shabbat service followed by a festive dinner. The dinner will feature traditional Israeli foods, and music.

The cost for the dinner is \$10 per person for members (\$30 maximum for families) and \$15 per person for non-yet-members (\$45 maximum for families). There is no charge to attend the Kabbalat Shabbat or Erev Shabbat services.

## Yom Ha'Shoah

On Friday, **May 3rd, at 5:30 p.m.**, join your Temple family in a service commemorating Yom Ha-Sho'ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).



## Rosh Chodesh



On **Saturday, May 11, at 3:30 p.m.**, all women are invited to join the Rosh Chodesh group for another get-together as we usher in the new month.

For more information or to RSVP please phone (413) 442-5910 or email [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org).

## Social Action Committee

At its Wednesday, April 10th meeting, the Social Action Committee will discuss potential spring and summer charitable projects. If you have any suggestions, please come to the 7:00 pm meeting at TAA or contact Janie and Larry Pellish at [randeb66@verizon.net](mailto:randeb66@verizon.net) or 413-822-2649.

You can meet with the mentors' group before making a commitment. Please consider making a friend while making a difference.

If you would like to suggest a volunteer opportunity that could be highlighted in this space, please contact Janie or Larry Pellish.

Jane and Larry Pellish

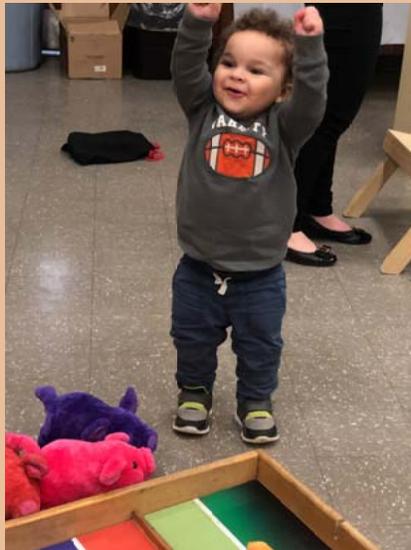
## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Pittsfield Community Connection, a Berkshire Children & Families Program, needs mentors to become positive adult role models for young people in Pittsfield who are at risk of being involved in or affected by violence or gangs. With your friendship, you can help these teenagers find the opportunities to build a life of possibility and hope. Mentees are carefully screened to determine that they are ready to enter the mentoring program. Mentors promise to be available weekly for 1 1/2 hours for one year, though it is understood that absences will occur. Mentor training is provided. Tutoring the mentee is optional. If interested, please contact Gail Krumpholz, Mentor Coordinator, Pittsfield Community Connection at 413-448-8281, ext. 267 or [gkrumpholz@berkshirechildren.org](mailto:gkrumpholz@berkshirechildren.org).

You can meet with the mentors' group before making a commitment. Please consider making a friend while making a difference.

# PFTY Purim Carnival



**Contribute to Temple Anshe Amunim Funds and make a difference**

**Mitzvah Fund:** Donations to the Mitzvah fund provide support for:

- Commemoration of happy events both large and small; Onegs and Pre-Negs.
- Expenses related to Temple music and the choir.
- Remembrances at services (yahrzeits) and in the Bulletin for loved ones who have passed away.
- Basic religious school expenses.
- Purchasing new books for the library.
- The purchase, repair, and maintenance of Temple art.
- Capital maintenance and repair of the Temple building and memorial boards.

**Dedicated Prayer book, Tanakh (Bible)** minimum donation is \$36, **or Women's Torah Commentary Fund** minimum donation is \$50: Purchases new books with a dedication plate.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** (Please designate to Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch): to be applied for the benefit of the Temple.

**The Roslyn G. (Roz) Citrin Cantorial Endowment Fund:** Donations to this fund will provide annually, for the beauty of Cantorial music and song to enhance our High Holy Days and special worship.

**Rabbi Harold & Audrey Salzman Religious School Endowment:** To support Religious School programming, retreats and trips.

**Lynn Denmark/Faith Newmark Endowment:** To support the Religious School, as determined by Women of Reform Judaism.

**Shaun Beckwith-Chasen Campership Fund:** Scholarships for attendance at Eisner/Crane Lake Camp.

**Elise & Moe England Religious School Scholarship Fund:** Scholarships for religious school attendance.

**Jeff Stolzberg Campership Fund:** Scholarships for attendance at Eisner/Crane Lake Camp.

**Henry & Dorothy Halperin Fund:** For children's Simchat Torah celebration.

**Dan and Edna Miller Building Fund:** For maintenance, renovations and improvements to the Temple.

**Individual Endowments:** Set up by individuals, these funds are part of the main Temple endowment and support ongoing operations and programs as determined by the Board of Trustees. **Minimum donation is \$10,000.**

**Endowment & Restricted Funds Descriptions:**

**Tree-of-Life in honor of, or in memory of:** Inscribed leaf to honor the life or memory of a specified person or people on the Temple's Tree of Life. (\$125)

**Yahrzeit Plaques:** To honor the memory of an ancestor or other family member to be displayed on the memorial board in the lobby. (\$350) *Please complete form from the office for leaf or plaque and submit with your contribution.*

***All donations will be acknowledged in the Bulletin.  
Acknowledgements will also be sent to the honoree or family.***

**TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM CONTRIBUTION FORM**

**Donor Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Method of Payment:** cash \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ credit card \_\_\_\_\_

1. In honor of/ in memory of : \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one) Name Yahrzeit Date

Relationship to Donor To Fund (from above)

2. In honor of/ in memory of : \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one) Name Yahrzeit Date

Relationship to Donor To Fund (from above)

26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413) 442-5910 [www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 25 Adar II 5779	<b>2</b> 26 Adar II 5779	<b>3</b> 27 Adar II 5779	<b>4</b> 28 Adar II 5779  4:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class  7:00 pm Board Meeting	<b>5</b> 29 Adar II 5779  5:00 pm Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat  5:30 pm Erev Shabbat Youth led Service & Italian Dinner	<b>6</b> 1 Nisan 5779  9:30 am Torah Plus  10:30 am Shabbat Services  3:30 pm Rosh Chodesh
<b>7</b> 2 Nisan 5779	<b>8</b> 3 Nisan 5779	<b>9</b> 4 Nisan 5779  5:30 pm WRJ Membership Dinner at Panda House in Lenox	<b>10</b> 5 Nisan 5779	<b>11</b> 6 Nisan 5779  4:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class	<b>12</b> 7 Nisan 5779  5:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>13</b> 8 Nisan 5779  9:30 am Torah Plus  10:30 am Shabbat Services (Special Shabbat TBD)
<b>14</b> 9 Nisan 5779	<b>15</b> 10 Nisan 5779	<b>16</b> 11 Nisan 5779	<b>17</b> 12 Nisan 5779	<b>18</b> 13 Nisan 5779  4:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class	<b>19</b> 14 Nisan 5779 Passover OFFICE CLOSED  5:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>20</b> 15 Nisan 5779 Passover  10:30 am Torah Plus and Festival Service  5:30 pm Passover 2nd Night Seder
<b>21</b> 16 Nisan 5779 Passover	<b>22</b> 17 Nisan 5779 Passover	<b>23</b> 18 Nisan 5779 Passover	<b>24</b> 19 Nisan 5779 Passover	<b>25</b> 20 Nisan 5779 Passover  4:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class	<b>26</b> 21 Nisan 5779 Passover OFFICE CLOSED  6:00 pm Concluding Holiday Shabbat service with Yizkor Memorial	<b>27</b> 22 Nisan 5779  9:30 am Torah Plus  10:30 am Shabbat Services
<b>28</b> 23 Nisan 5779	<b>29</b> 24 Nisan 5779	<b>30</b> 25 Nisan 5779				