



# Temple Anshe Amunim

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Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch

From the Rabbi

## Chanukah is Here: Let's Add to the Light

I understand Daylight Savings Time on an intellectual basis, but from a practical standpoint, I've never been a fan. Sure, I know that the days will grow shorter regardless of what time we say it is on the clock. And I know that we wouldn't appreciate long summer nights on the Tanglewood lawn, a sunset hike, or a lawn chair in our backyards without the contrast to the dark and chill of December. Even if you're a snowbird, the temperature might not have dropped as much in Florida or wherever your travels take you, but it is still dark much earlier in the evening than in the middle of July!

Enter **Chanukah, the Festival of Light**. I always feel on a visceral level why we choose to add to the light on these dark nights of winter as soon as Daylight Savings Time kicks in. The glow of the menorah, gradually increasing in brightness over the course of the holiday, helps us feel warm and connected during this darker season.

While Chanukah has expanded in its associations and celebrations in our modern era, it is, at its core, a holiday of community, family, and light. We are instructed to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *pirsum ha-nes*, "publicizing the miracle," of oil lasting eight days instead of one. How do we do this? We light our menorah in a window, on a street corner, somewhere prominent in our homes and synagogues. We add to light not just to our own homes, but to our community and our world.

We add to the light. On **Friday, December 7, we'll celebrate Chanukah and Shabbat** as a Temple family. At 4:45pm, we'll begin with a **Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat gathering** - singing, blessings, and snacks for families with kids ages 0-6. At 5:30, our youth group, **PFTY, and our Religious School will lead us in a fun and musical Shabbat service**. We're thrilled that we'll be joined by our own TAA music director, **Dr. Alan Gold** and **TAA Choir**, who will share some Chanukah favorites with us. Of course, we'll light the menorah and share in singing the Chanukah blessings. With our song and our spirits, we will certainly add to the light that evening! I encourage you to join us, and bring a friend!

We add to the light, sometimes from within. Thanks to your interest and dedication, we'll be continuing our **Shabbat Mindfulness group**

*Continued on page 2*



## Schedule of Services

### Friday, November 30

5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 1

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

### Friday, December 7

5:30 p.m. - Chanukah Service led by Religious School and Youth Group

### Saturday, December 8

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

### Friday, December 14

5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 15

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

### Friday, December 21

5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 22

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

### Friday, December 28

No Erev Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 29

No Torah Plus and Shabbat Morning Service.

*Rabbi's Message Continued from front page*

**every Saturday morning at 9am** in the sanctuary. No meditation or yoga experience is required, and all are welcome to join.

We add to the light through the righteous deeds we do in the world, through *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* - repair of the world. This is a community committed to creating a better Pittsfield and a better world. We are thrilled that we had incredible participation from our Temple family in the **Thanksgiving Angels Food drive**. And we're eager to do more. If you're interested in getting involved in a **new social justice team at TAA**, please contact Larry and Janie Pellish or reach out to me. *Or zarua la'tzadik*, light is sown for the righteous, we sing. Through each righteous act, we add to the light.

I look forward to celebrating Chanukah with you and our Temple family. Thank you for the light that you bring, that spark of God that lives within each of us, that shines so brightly through your dedication and commitment to this community. *Chag Urim Sameach* - Happy Chanukah - Happy Festival of Light!

## Shabbat Mindfulness With Rabbi Liz Will Continue to Be Offered on Saturday Mornings



Due to the interest in Shabbat Mindfulness—Connecting Torah, Guided Meditations and Light Yoga experience on Saturday mornings Rabbi Liz is going to continue to offer these sessions. The sessions will be held on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and will be inspired by each week's Torah portion. All are welcome and no prior experience or athletic clothing is necessary. Participants are invited to stay and join the ever-popular Torah Plus study group that immediately follows the session.



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>



# Taking Stock of Our Future

To My Temple Family,

On Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, over 45 Temple members with tenures in the congregation as long as seven decades and as short as seven weeks gathered together for brunch and a Town Hall meeting, a guided conversation as we worked to begin to plan the next 150 years of the existence of Temple Anshe Amunim. In the few weeks prior to the meeting, Rabbi Liz worked in collaboration with members of the Management Team to design an experience which focused on emphasizing “why” we are here first. The intent of the event was to gather as much congregational input as possible and to leave with people feeling positive about their contributions and our direction. Following our 90 minutes together, I feel strongly that this mission was accomplished

In pairs, we worked together to learn of shared experiences at Temple and what stands out in our years of experiences at TAA. For many of you, these experiences revolved around happy life-cycle events – a bar or bat mitzvah, a wedding, a bris, or even for sad occasions like a funeral. Some revolved around experiences in our religious school, and some were from participating in services, social action initiatives, or summer programming. At the same time, we asked for each person’s three wishes for the congregation going forward.

Although a wide variety of wishes were shared, the core expressed by many include – a desire for more young members/families, more opportunities for new members to TAA, a feeling of greater inclusivity, stability at the spiritual leader position, strong financial security, safety of our building, more interfaith programming, increased creativity with ritual/services, and more community involvement/engagement with other neighboring congregations.

We also spent a great deal of time looking at some of the core areas which we wish to see the greatest growth. Using the concept of “open space”, we had table leaders at the four core areas which Rabbi Liz and the Management Team together identified as the areas of most immediate attention. Attendees could go to a constituency they were most interested in and remain there for the entirety of the session or could go from group to group and share their remarks on each. Below are the four key areas and some of the suggestions offered to direct this potential growth:

**Attracting More Young Families** – More direct outreach to unaffiliated prospective households; a stronger connection to the PJ Library organization;

establishing a standard monthly Friday night family-oriented experience; encouraging young families to become more involved in adult activities at Temple; doing more broad community-based experiences (i.e. Berkshire Museum, Bousquet movie nights, paint and sips, etc.); focusing some programming on non-religious themes to attract a broader audience;

**Membership Growth** – More attention towards attracting interfaith households; more investment in advertising in local magazines and periodicals; growth of a Membership Committee to welcome new and prospective members; establishment of a “buddy system”; doing an annual picnic off-site during the summer; utilizing name tags so that visitors will put names and faces together; hospitality at the front door;

**Leadership Development** – Focus on recruiting new people to participate; getting people involved in a short-term project to get their feet wet in leadership; reviewing the membership applications to learn of interests indicated by people; seeking the input of older/longer-tenured members;

**Programming** – More programming on Shabbat afternoons; doing more onegs and coffee hours for more social experiences; increasing the offerings of adult education programming; evening programming for those who work during the day; specific suggestions of a women’s Rosh Chodesh Group, more Tanglewood events, a humor night, a Las Vegas night.

We have taken all of these suggestions to heart, some of which we have already taken steps to integrate immediately after the meeting. Plans are in the works for the establishment of a Rosh Chodesh group following the new year (watch for more information soon), and there is broad excitement about the potential of exploring a trip abroad partnering with one or more of our neighboring congregations. We will be planning a follow-up meeting shortly after the start of the new year so that we can take the next step in rolling out these initiatives as part of our congregational plan.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM as we celebrate Chanukah with a musical Shabbat service, a delicious dinner, and a special evening together with our Temple family.

Jessica joins me in wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season and a terrific 2019!

L’Shalom,

Josh Cutler  
Temple President



# **YOUNG FAMILIES**

## **KABBALAT SHABBAT**

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

**December 7th at 4:45 p.m.**

**Temple Anshe Amunim**

**SINGING, BLESSINGS AND SNACKS!**

This gathering makes it easy for families with young children to celebrate Shabbat together.

Following the event, all are welcome to stay for the 5:30 p.m. Chanukah Shabbat Service led by the Religious School and Youth Group.



# COMMUNITY CRIB CHANUKAH SHABBAT

**Friday, December 7, 2018 at 5:30 pm**

Bring your donation for the Community Crib: New toys and/or clothing  
for children ages 6 months to 18 years.



Seating for dinner is limited: **RSVP no later than  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 to (413) 442-5910  
or [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org)**

**Adults \$18    Children 12 and under \$8  
Family Maximum \$40**

**Major funding for this event is provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.**

# Save the Dates



Join Us For a Family Friendly  
Tu B'Shevat Service  
& Seder With Dinner  
January 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

*Celebrate the Birthday of Trees  
with songs and stories about trees and nature.*

*A dairy dinner will be served.*

*\$5 per person    \$20 per family maximum*

*RSVP to the Temple office by January 4, 2018 at (413) 442-5910 or*

**Major funding for this event is provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.**

## YOUNG FAMILIES KABBALAT SHABBAT

For children ages 0 - 6  
and their parents and siblings



February 1st at 4:45 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim  
**SINGING, BLESSINGS AND SNACKS!**

This gathering makes it easy for families with young children to  
celebrate Shabbat together.

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

# Celebrate Chanukah at winterlights

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and Naumkeag invite you to  
**A Joyous Celebration of the Festival of Lights**  
Sunday, December 9 from 5-8 pm  
Naumkeag, 5 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA

## Chanukah Menorah Lighting

Join us at 5:30 pm as we kindle the lights of the menorah and celebrate with songs, latkes, dreidels and chocolate gelt.

## Chanukah & Holiday Light Displays

Don your coat and stroll through the garden paths where more than a hundred thousand lights will illuminate special Chanukah and Holiday light displays.

FREE ADMISSION WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION  
or \$17 per person at the door. Children under 6 are always free.

Register by December 7<sup>th</sup> by calling the Jewish Federation at  
(413) 442-4360, ext 10 or [federation@jewishberkshires.org](mailto:federation@jewishberkshires.org)



Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
OF THE BERKSHIRES



## Seasonal Address Change Reminder



Planning to leave the Berkshires soon? Please let the Temple office know by phone, mail, or email so that we can forward the bulletin, and other mail to you while you are away.

Thank you.



Mazel Tov to:

Sandi and Alan Rubin on the occasion of their daughter, Jennifer Rubin, having her first book, "We Are Staying," published.



### **David and Linda Feigenbaum**

Linda and David Feigenbaum are both retired from their careers in the IT industry. David worked for UPS and Linda was employed by the Bank of New York. Currently, they split their time between Fairlawn, New Jersey and Jiminy Peak. They like to ski and enjoy attending the cultural events in the area and going to dinner with friends. Linda also enjoys spending her time knitting and baking. David and Linda have a daughter Rachael and son-in-law Adam. Their family also includes two rescue dogs, Cash and Carry.

### **Neil and Dorothy Koreman**

Neil and Dorothy live in Aventura, Florida and during the summer months they reside in Dalton, MA. They are both retired physicians (ophthalmology and dermatology). Neil spends time golfing and playing tennis as well as further developing his photorealistic painting skills. Dorothy still teaches dermatology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine where she helps supervise the pediatric dermatology clinic. She serves on the Board of Citizens Interested in Arts, an organization which gives grants to help support art organizations in South Florida. They have two children, Elizabeth (David) Landau and Robert (Lynne) Koreman and five grandchildren.

### **Jonathan Lieber and Deborah Gallant**

Deborah Gallant and Jonathan Lieber have been weekenders in the Berkshires for many years. They moved up full-time last year when Jonathan got a position with the investment team at the New York State Comptroller's office in Albany. Deborah is a business coach with her own firm, Bold Business Works. Empty-nesters, they live in the Richmond Hill neighborhood in Canaan, New York with their two cats, Chester and Shayna.

### **Joel and Nina Lentzner**

Joel and Nina reside in Bennington, VT and are the owners of Fiddlehead at Four Corners. Besides running a gallery, Joel and Nina have three children, Addison, Sadie and Maisie who are all enrolled in our religious school program.

### **Roberta Waller**

Roberta lives in Bal Harbor, Florida. An avid hiker, Roberta comes to the Berkshires as soon as the trails are free of snow. Roberta is a real estate investor and has a strong interest in social action. She does a lot of volunteer work helping our four-legged friends.

### **Barbara Viniar**

Barbara has moved back to Pittsfield after a 15 year hiatus. She is self-employed as a leadership consultant. Barbara was the former President of Berkshire Community College. Her interests lie in adult education and social action, particularly women's issues.

## Social Action Committee



Thanks to everyone who contributed cans of cranberry sauce to the Thanksgiving Angels food distribution. We collected over 1,000 cans! Thanks to everyone who volunteered to work during the event. Thanks to Diane Koch and Dave Wallace for their ongoing assistance.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the following team of TAA volunteers and friends prepared and served a community dinner, open to the public, at the First Baptist Church in Pittsfield. Helping were Marlene Chautin, Sue & Joel Colker, Nancy & Fred Fagelman, Laura Feakes, Janie & Larry Pellish, Helen Radin, and Lanny Zuckerman.

As of November 9<sup>th</sup>, we have raised over \$1,000 for the Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations (PACC) Winter Fuel Assistance Fund. Thank you to Nancy and

Fred Fagelman for their very generous contribution to PACC Winter Fuel Assistance Fund.

Recently bath towels, hand towels, dish towels, and washcloths were brought to the First United Methodist Church in Pittsfield. This Church provides free showers to the public which are mainly used by homeless individuals. Thanks to Faith Newmark for her contribution to this effort.

Our annual Winter Clothing Drive has started. A receptacle is in the lobby for your donations. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

If you are interested in learning more about social justice locally and nationally, we encourage you to take advantage of the Religious Action Center (RAC), specifically their action alert on gun control at <https://rac.org/gun-violence-prevention>.

Janie & Larry Pellish

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## PFTY

PFTY had a very busy November! We baked for Thanksgiving Angels using apples donated by Bartlett's Orchard, made Edible Wells with the Religious School and started taking a look at the PFTY Lounge. We are pleased that we will be moving to a new space and are thrilled to announce we have a couch for the room, donated by David and Nadine Henner. We are looking for a variety of items for our lounge, from chairs (must be flame retardant if cushioned) to bean bag chairs, etc. We are also looking for old game systems and games that are not being used! We have a Wii so any Wii games are also appreciated! See you all at Chanukah! Can't wait to spend the holidays with our temple family!

L'Shalom, Rachel



Done to perfection!



# Comparing Religions in College

## by: Ari Drayman

At American University, about 26% of the student population identifies as being Jewish. Coming from the Berkshires, this is a new experience for me. Through my school years, nearly everyone was a part of the Catholic faith besides me and one other student. After being in the D.C area for the past three months, I have realized that both at American College and throughout the city, there are a wide range of religious perspectives represented here. For instance, there are a fair amount of people who practice Islamic traditions as well as Buddhist, Hindu, and different sects of the Christian faith too. Overall, more religious identities are present within this area of the United States capital, and surprisingly, people are not afraid to show their religious identity. On a regular basis I see students and professors wearing kippot on campus as well as hijabs. In addition to this, many Jewish students in campus are proud of their identity wearing the star of David, consistently attending Hillel/Jewish Student Association (JSA) events, and supporting Israel.

Currently, throughout this semester, I have been taking a class called Religion Without Borders. In this class, we have explored the term religion and learn about how nobody knows the "right" definition of this word. In addition to this, we have studied religions around the world and looked at how they evolved over time as well as how they differ. We also have had seminar discussions asking questions such as, "Is religion an excuse to use violence against other people?" As this class has commenced throughout the semester, it has made me think about how I compare religions and has developed my critical thinking around this subject. In the past, I had compared religions based on physical rituals, holidays, and symbols that they use on a regular basis. However, I had not really thought about how religions can also be compared on location, identity, and even views on modern issues such as climate change that plagues our planet.

Overall, I have become more conscious of how I compare religions after being in the D.C area and taking the Religion Without Borders course this past semester. I have learned that religion is more prevalent in some places as compared to others and the term "religion" will always be a controversial topic no matter where you live or who you discuss it with. I leave you with this as food for thought: How do you identify religion in other people and is there a new way you can define religion from a different perspective?



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## Condolences

The Temple Anshe Amunim community extends condolences to:

Nathan Doctrow on the death of his beloved sister, Gertrude Jean Doctrow.



**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 whether to Rabbi Liz's or Rabbi Salzman's Fund): to be applied for the benefit of the Temple.

**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.**

**Endowment & Restricted Funds Descriptions:**

**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.**

**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)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 23 Kislev 9:00 am Shabbat Mindfulness 9:30 am Torah Plus 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service & Religious School
<b>2</b> 24 Kislev Chanukah - Night 1	<b>3</b> 25 Kislev Chanukah - Night 2	<b>4</b> 26 Kislev Chanukah - Night 3	<b>5</b> 27 Kislev Chanukah - Night 4	<b>6</b> 28 Kislev Chanukah - Night 5 7:00 pm Board Meeting	<b>7</b> 29 Kislev Chanukah - Night 6 4:45 pm Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 pm Chanukah Service, Community Crib and Dinner	<b>8</b> 30 Kislev Chanukah - Night 7 9:00 am Shabbat Mindfulness 9:30 am Torah Plus 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service No Religious School
<b>9</b> 1 Tevet Chanukah - Night 8 5:30 pm Celebrate Chanukah at Winter Lights at Naumkeag	<b>10</b> 2 Tevet	<b>11</b> 3 Tevet	<b>12</b> 4 Tevet	<b>13</b> 5 Tevet	<b>14</b> 6 Tevet 5:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>15</b> 7 Tevet 9:00 am Shabbat Mindfulness 9:30 am Torah Plus 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service & Religious School
<b>16</b> 8 Tevet	<b>17</b> 9 Tevet	<b>18</b> 10 Tevet	<b>19</b> 11 Tevet	<b>20</b> 12 Tevet	<b>21</b> 13 Tevet 5:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>22</b> 14 Tevet 9:00 am Shabbat Mindfulness 9:30 am Torah Plus 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service No Religious School
<b>23</b> 15 Tevet	<b>24</b> 16 Tevet Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> 17 Tevet Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b> 18 Tevet	<b>27</b> 19 Tevet	<b>28</b> 20 Tevet No Erev Shabbat Services	<b>29</b> 21 Tevet No Shabbat Mindfulness No Torah Plus No Shabbat Services No Religious School
<b>30</b> 22 Tevet	<b>31</b> 23 Tevet					