



Temple Anshe Amunim

26 BROAD STREET | PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

(413) 442-5910 | TEMPLEOFFICE@ANSHEAMUNIM.ORG

WWW.ANSHEAMUNIM.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ANSHEAMUNIM

MAY 2021 | 19 IYAR – 20 SIVAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

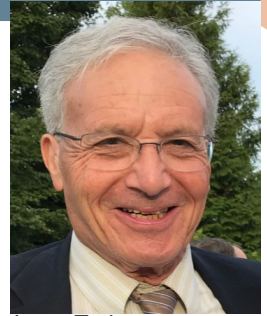
- Page 2**
Schedule of Services
- Page 3**
Mazel Tov
- Page 4**
Young Families Shabbat
- Page 5**
Upcoming May Events
- Page 6**
Caring Committee
- Page 7**
Spotlight:
Rachel Alemany
- Page 8**
Spotlight (continued)
- Page 9**
Super Tzedakah Week
- Page 10**
Social Action Committee
- Page 11**
Board of Directors
Committee Chairs
- Page 12**
Donation Form
- Page 13**
Donations
- Page 14**
May Yahrzeits, Birthdays
and Anniversaries
- Page 15**
May Calendar

MOVING FORWARD

*D*ear Temple Family,

I of course wish to begin this month's message by wishing a hearty Mazel Tov to Rabbi Liz and her husband, Rabbi Neil Hirsch, on the birth of their daughter! I know that their son, Lior, must be excited to be a big brother, and we are excited to have this new addition to our Temple Family.

As you know, Rabbi Liz is on family leave so that she can properly devote her time and energy to her growing family, returning to us in the latter part of July. If you are at all familiar with Rabbi Liz, you would expect that she would have made detailed plans for us to carry on our Temple activities during her leave, and that is certainly the case. We will continue to have our regular Friday night Shabbat services and Saturday morning Torah study, to be led for the most part by Yael Farber, our rabbinic student intern. In addition to Yael, and as we get further into Rabbi Liz's leave, there will be services led by very able lay leadership, and Torah study led by several "guest rabbis" who I know will provide some intriguing perspectives. As a regular Torah study participant, I'm personally very pleased and excited. For pastoral matters and life cycle events, we've arranged for coverage by Rabbi Seth Wax, the chaplain at William College, who I know will provide the necessary support for those in need. We have arranged a full schedule of programs and events throughout the spring and summer that you should find



Lanny Zuckerman

interesting, stimulating and entertaining. Please join us!

While we will certainly miss Rabbi Liz for these few months, a robust and vibrant Temple life will continue. For that, there are special thanks that must be given. I must first of all thank our office manager, Lisa Pincus Hamroff, who worked hand in hand with Rabbi Liz to make sure that all the pieces are in place to keep things running smoothly, and continues to coordinate and assist in virtually every aspect of Temple administration and communication. I must also thank our facilities manager, Dave Wallace, for all the things he does, large and small, that go well beyond building maintenance. I want to thank Vice President Barbara Viniar, Management Team members Mike Duffy, Nancy Gagnon, Robyn Rosen, and Larry Pellish, as well as all the members of the Board of Trustees and our committees, for the continued dedication and hard work that they do to keep TAA functioning and moving forward. Finally, I want to thank all of you, the members of our Temple Family, for your continued participation and commitment to TAA.

L'shalom,

Lanny Zuckerman

Temple President

Schedule of Services



Friday, April 30
5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 1
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study

Friday, May 7
5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 8
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study

Friday, May 14
5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 15
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study

Friday, May 21
5:00 p.m. - Young Families Shabbat
5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 22
NO TORAH STUDY

Friday, May 28
5:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 29
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study

Please note that services will be held virtually via Zoom and other online platforms. To access, please go to the Temple Anshe Amunim website calendar. For technical assistance, please contact: Dave Wallace (413) 822-8259.



Rabbi Liz invites you to check it out.
Were you unable to attend a service or
Torah study?

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

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





A Mazel Tov to Rabbi Liz and family
on the birth of their daughter!

Online Simchat Bat Baby Naming
Thursday, April 29 @ 11 AM



To Aileen Bliss on the B'Nai Mitzvah of her twin grandsons, Max and Benjamin, sons of Jason and Jennifer Bliss. The boys will be chanting the same Torah portion as their father and his father before him, the late Dr. Albert Bliss. The ceremony will be held at Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, N.Y. on May 8.



To Rachel Feigenbaum Deyong and Adam Deyong,
on the birth of their daughter, Avery Joy

A Mazel Tov to David and Linda Feigenbaum,
Proud Grandparents



A Mazel Tov to Rachel Alemany
on her Retirement as
PFTY Advisor for the past 15 years



A Mazel Tov to Dave Wallace, our Facilities Manager,
on his 10th Anniversary with Temple Anshe Amunim



YOUNG FAMILIES SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

MAY 21 AT 5:00PM

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IN
PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 5

PLEASE JOIN MIKE DUFFY TO SING AND WELCOME SHABBAT

To register :

tinyurl.com/MayYoungFamiliesShabbat



26 Broad Street - Pittsfield, MA 01201 - Phone: (413) 442-5910

templeoffice@ansheamunim.org www.ansheamunim.org  Anshe Amunim

Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building.

**Shabbat Services and Torah Study
with
Yael Farber, Rabbinic Intern
May through June 2021**



Yael Farber (she/hers) is a first-year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. After serving as the Temple Anshe Amunim High Holy Day 2020/5781 Program Manager, Yael is so excited to be continuing to work with the TAA community this summer as the rabbinic intern!



Panel Discussion hosted by Temple Anshe Amunim



Moderator, Charles Wohl, MD

COVID19: Is Our Future Going Viral?


Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 pm

- Paula Aucoin, MD**, Infectious Disease Specialist
- Gina Armstrong**, Director of Public Health, City of Pittsfield
- Laura Kittross**, Director, Berkshire Public Health Alliance
- Daniel Doyle, MD**, Medical Director, Berkshire Public Health Alliance

All are welcome to register:

tinyurl.com/TAAPanelDiscussion



26 Broad Street - Pittsfield, MA 01201 - Phone: (413) 442-5910
templeoffice@ansheamunim.org www.ansheamunim.org  Anshe Amunim
Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building.

The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's goal is to aid Temple members and their families at times of sorrow, challenge, and joy. We provide meals, telephone calls, and cards. If you are ever in need of our services or know of anyone who is in need of our services, please contact:

Alba Passerini at 413-441-3310 or alba.passerini@yahoo.com

or

Janie Pellish at 413-822-2649 or randeb66@verizon.net

During the month of March, the members of the Caring Committee participated in a calling campaign to members of the congregation. A sincere thank you to Denise Cherry, Cherie Drayman, Lauren Dudley, Michael Duffy, Nancy Fagelman, Laura Feakes, Nancy Gagnon, Nadine Henner, Cookie Lamet, Enrico Lamet, Edie Mulligan, Faith Newmark, Alba Passerini, Janie Pellish, Larry Pellish, and Judy Stolzberg for participating in these important calls. A special thanks to Deb Cole-Duffy for writing the script.

We would also like to welcome our new committee member, Mark Franklin.

Alba Passerini & Janie Pellish
Co-Chairs



Rachel Alemany PFTY advisor for the past 15 years

By Barbara Viniar

Teacher. Leader. Cheerleader. Role model. Advocate. These are the words used to honor Rachel Alemany at Shabbat services on April 9. And they fit perfectly with how she sees herself as a middle and high school teacher and PFTY (Pittsfield Federation of Temple Youth) Director.

Rachel and Jake Alemany first learned about Temple Anshe Amunim when they were planning to get married and were advised by their rabbi in Nyack NY to “find a local Rabbi.” Anshe was the only Reform congregation in the Berkshires at the time, so they went to Rabbi Berg for pre-marital counseling. They joined in 1992, when Caleb was born, but they left when things didn’t “click.” It was not until they were expecting Jonah that they returned – and stayed – for 23 years.

When Caleb started religious school, Rachel was strictly a “drop off/pick up mom,” but as he neared his Bar Mitzvah, she and Jake increased their involvement. Jake was asked to serve on the interview committee for a new Rabbi and Rachel was asked to serve on the board. When Nancy Gagnon “guilted” Rachel into leading PFTY, there were 4 participants, including Caleb.

Rachel’s personal mission for working with temple youth has been “to facilitate their Jewish journey.” Recognizing that each young person starts from a different place and has different aspirations, she wants each of them to have a foundation to build on. According to Rachel, these are kids who live in a secular, Christian world, a community that schedules track meets on Yom Kippur. They don’t have a lot of people with whom to have the conversation about what it means to be Jewish in 2021.

Rachel talks about “being Jewish” and “doing Jewish.” Through shared youth group activities, her goal is to have each young person develop a sense of who they are and where they come from, pride in their heritage, and connection to other Jewish teens. Rather than sitting passively in pews, they actively engage in their Judaism through science, theater, and art. They watch movies together, cook and eat together (pizza, lasagna and apple pie were mentioned by several former youth group members as one of their favorite memories), and visit museums together. She teaches them to be part of a community and helps them connect through Tikkun Olam projects. She wants them to be able to make choices about their own Jewish practices as they mature.

(continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Rachels's success in achieving these goals was evident in what the youth group participants had to say about her.

She was kind, caring and compassionate.

A Jewish role model.

She helped me think about my impact on the world.

She helped me become a better person.

The greatest advisor anyone could ever ask for.

As Rabbi Liz said about these speakers and others whose lives Rachel has touched, *"They have learned both to think critically and to embrace our traditions, and they have grown into engaged, confident, and self-aware Jewish young adults."*

This success is perhaps even more special when considering the challenges of working with teenagers.

Rachel said that she has always gravitated toward working with pre-teens and teens. She taught middle school for 18 years, and now high school for 3. She likes kids at that "snarky, smelly age," which is "all made worth it when you can see the spark, when they grasp the concept, or when they overcome a fear."

Middle school kids have "*ruach*," or spirit, she says, and she kvells when any of her kids lead a service or speak about their experiences. They certainly gave her a lot to be proud of that night!

A dedicated teacher, Rachel is also a lifelong learner. Over the last two years she has studied Hebrew with Rabbi Liz and a small group of women at Anshe and recently chanted one of the prayers at a Shabbat service. Rachel's mother converted to Judaism, but the family celebrated Christian holidays for her grandmother and Rachel never went to Hebrew school. Instead, she learned by ear, "mispronouncing at the top of her lungs." When Jonah went to college it seemed like the right time for her to learn to read and understand. She is following in the footsteps of her mother, who became an adult Bat Mitzvah 6 years ago and now chants Torah regularly.

Rachel is not at all worried about how to fill her time as she retires from the Anshe board and from temple youth activities. Another way her mother influenced her, she said, was to make her appreciate free time. The Zoom meetings she attended with the beach in the background made it clear how much she loves being near the water. She loves to read fiction, garden, and play with her dog. She loves being with a small group of close friends and with her family. Both her sons spoke eloquently about her as their teacher and mother and her husband Jake is "her partner in her Jewish journey." She couldn't do what she does with kids, she said, without free time and interests of her own.

While officially retiring as the PFTY Director, Rachel anticipates "guest appearances." She is optimistic about the future of Anshe Amunim. She believes that Rabbi Liz is the right person at the right time for us, and that as a community we have drawn even closer during COVID. We need to keep growing, she said, and not be afraid to change.

As her own life has changed, Rachel's passion for guiding young people and serving the Jewish community has been unwavering. Anshe Amunim is grateful for all that she has given.

SUPER TZEDAKAH WEEK

2021 Community Campaign Kickoff - May 23-28

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

Your gift to the Jewish Federation's 2021 Community Campaign – whatever it is you can give – will help bring dignity and care to the vulnerable and elderly, build and strengthen the Jewish identity of our children and young adults, support vital community programs, and create meaningful Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond.



Three easy ways to make a gift:

- Respond to the solicitation sent to your home.
- Pledge or donate online at jewishberkshires.org.
- Call Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10 or email federation@jewishberkshires.org and they will record your pledge and send you a confirmation.

Thank you for making a difference!

Dignity Drive – Combat Feminine Hygiene & Incontinence Poverty

Bring dignity to a neighbor in need by dropping off new packaged menstrual and incontinence products at the following locations between May 1-28 to be distributed to local food banks and social service organizations.

- The Co-op Market, Great Barrington
- Concepts of Art, Lenox
- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Pittsfield
- Williams College Bookstore, Williamstown



Get the Scoop... Jewish Community Day

High Lawn Farm, Sunday, May 23 from 1-3 p.m.

Enjoy free homemade ice cream and fun for ages 0-99! Explore the farm, meet the cows, check out the artisanal cheese shop and learn the history of this Berkshire gem all in a socially distanced outdoor setting. PJ Library story time, farm craft, and hula hoop fun for the young and young at heart. Rain Date June 6.

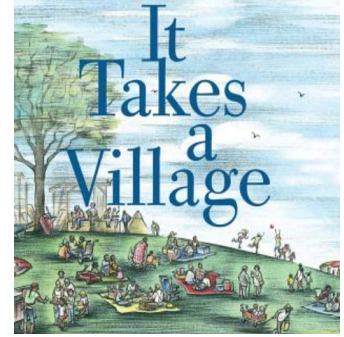
Register for these events at jewishberkshires.org

Mitzvah Madness LIVE! May 23 at 5 p.m.

Grab the kids and grandkids to explore all the ways they can make the world a better place. This virtual but interactive program with *mainstages* theater will stretch their imaginations, and get their bodies moving. PJ Library families will receive an at home mitzvah project as well!



Social Action Committee



Berkshire Community Diaper Drive

The Social Action Committee is sponsoring a drive in support of the Berkshire Community Diaper Project (BCDP). Diaper need can cause significant depression in parents and potential health and mental issues for their children. Low income families frequently struggle to buy diapers, which can cost \$100 per month per child. Diapers are not covered by the WIC Program, the federal program supporting low income earning women and their children up to age 5; nor by SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, otherwise known as Food Stamps. Without a supply of diapers provided by parents, infants and toddlers are not allowed to attend daycare. Without daycare, parents cannot work to provide diapers and other essentials.

BCDP, a 501(c)(3) – not for profit agency, has no paid staff. All funds go directly toward purchasing diapers for babies and toddlers in need. The diapers are distributed throughout Berkshire County to sites including the South Congregational Church, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Pittsfield Fire & Police Departments, the Family Center of North Berkshire County, the Family Resource Center in Gt. Barrington, plus many other sites where the diapers are given away free. In 2020, BCDP distributed 216,331 diapers.

You can either send money or drop off diapers. Please send all checks to the TAA Office. The checks can be made out to TAA indicating on the memo section that the check is for BCDP or the check can be made out to BCDP. BCDP is able to purchase diapers at a marked discount. Diapers, including open packages, can be dropped off at TAA. However, because of the pandemic, you will need to call Dave Wallace at 413-822-8259 and arrange a time that he will be at the Temple. As of April 21st we have collected \$859.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Janie & Larry Pellish, Social Action Committee Co-Chairs

Todah Rabah - Thank you!
Please Contribute to Any Temple Anshe Amunim Fund.

All donations are gratefully appreciated.

To donate now, please visit <https://www.ansheamunim.org/donate>

All donations to Mitzvah funds support immediate Temple needs.

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 cantorial, 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.
- Daily operations.

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.

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 Salzmman 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

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/reason for honor (circle one)

_____ Relationship to Donor To Fund (from above)

2. In honor of/ in memory of : _____
 (circle one) Name Yahrzeit Date/reason for honor (circle one)

_____ Relationship to Donor To Fund (from above)

Birthdays

May 1
Melissa Donohue

May 2
Rhoda Kaminstein
Michael Duffy

May 4
Sheila Gershoff
Mary Yarmosky

May 6
Martin Schwartz

May 8
Steven Yarmosky

May 9
Ava Cherry

May 12
Allen Goldberg
Larry Pellish

May 14
Dr. Richard Greene

May 16
Evan Mintz
Nicholas Hubaker

May 17
Michael Wasserman

May 18
Noah Kramer
David Henner
Gabe Henner
Maddie Henner

May 21
Melvin Cohen
Lauren Dudley
David Dudley

May 22
Lyle Bernard
Peter Weissenstein

May 24
Rachel Fedderly

May 25
Barbara Waldinger

May 27
Enrico Lamet
Maxine Wisbaum

May 28
Matthew Gilbert

May 31
Rachel Alemany
Joel Greenberg

May Yahrzeits

We hold in loving memory:

May 2 / 20 Iyar
Ida Wisbaum

May 4 / 22 Iyar
Peter Wong

May 7 / 25 Iyar
Faith Spencer

May 8 / 26 Iyar
Esther Kaufman

May 9 / 27 Iyar
Stewart Gluck

May 10 / 28 Iyar
Norman Small

May 12 / 1 Silvan
Harry Silverstein

May 13 / 2 Silvan
Jill Proskin

May 15 / 4 Silvan
Jules Krater

May 16 / 5 Silvan
Earl Drought

May 17 / 6 Silvan
Helen Perry

May 18 / 7 Silvan
Evelyn Slomin
Helen Weinstein

May 19 / 8 Silvan
Martin Piper
Toby Ann Gershoff
Nathan Mayer Glickman

May 22 / 11 Silvan
Ethel Bergman

May 23 / 12 Silvan
Leonard Stolzberg

May 28 / 17 Silvan
Jacob Franklin

May 29 / 18 Silvan
Henry A. Perry
Rosalie Rose
Harriet Arenswald

May 30 / 19 Silvan
Kenneth Hubacker



Yahrzeit Donations - It is customary to make a donation on the occasion of your loved one's Yahrzeit.

Yahrzeit dates -Yahrzeits are based on the Hebrew or Gregorian (English) date, depending on family reference. If there are any omissions or errors, please call the Temple office (413) 442-5910.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Yahrzeit Plaques honor the memory of an ancestor or other family member. Each plaque is \$350.

For more information or to request an order form, please call the Temple office at (413) 442-5910.



Anniversaries

May 5
Marsha and Melvin Cohen

May 16
Arlene and Michael Shreefter

May 18
Robyn Rosen and Vincent Higuera

May 20
Mary and Steven Yarmosky

May 28
Barbara and Andrew Hochberg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 (19 Iyar) 9:30am Virtual Torah Study 5:30pm Erev Shabbat Service
2 (20 Iyar)	3 (21 Iyar)	4 (22 Iyar)	5 (23 Iyar)	6 (24 Iyar) 7:00pm Board Meeting	7 (25 Iyar) 5:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	8 (26 Iyar) 9:30am Virtual Torah Study
9 (27 Iyar)	10 (28 Iyar)	11 (29 Iyar)	12 (1 Silvan) 7:30 pm COVID19 Panel Discussion	13 (2 Silvan)	14 (3 Silvan) 5:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	15 (4 Silvan) 9:30am Virtual Torah Study 10:45am Shabbat Morning Hike
16 (5 Silvan)	17 (6 Silvan)	18 (7 Silvan)	19 (8 Silvan)	20 (9 Silvan)	21 (10 Silvan) 5pm Young Families Shabbat 5:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	22 (11 Silvan) 9:30am NO TORAH STUDY
23 (12 Silvan)	24 (13 Silvan)	25 (14 Silvan)	26 (15 Silvan)	27 (16 Silvan)	28 (17 Silvan) 5:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	29 (18 Silvan) 9:30am Virtual Torah Study
30 (19 Silvan)	31 (20 Silvan)					



Temple Anshe Amunim
26 Broad Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 7
Pittsfield, MA 01201

★ Thank You! ★

FOR YOUR DONATION

Help Us Acknowledge Donations

Donations are the lifeblood of the Temple and are most appreciated! Please help us acknowledge you properly by completing the Donation Form online or provided in the Bulletin. If you choose to send a check, please include a note to specify your elected donations.

Please be aware that bank-generated checks don't specify the purpose of the payment. If you are sending a donation through the bank, please use the "memo" line, if available, or contact the Office to ensure that your payment is recorded and acknowledged as you intended.



Due Date

The due date for submitting articles for the next bulletin is due on the 10th of the month.

Please submit photos with captions to:
www.templeoffice@ansheamunim.org