

# KESHER

Our  
Seventy-Eighth  
Year!

FROM RABBI SAM

## Reform Jewish Spirituality Part 18

Jewish tradition is based more on action and life relationship than faith and a mandated and delineated theology. From Biblical sources through Rabbinic writings, God's presence is a given. In Biblical writings, God is "Metzaveh" – the One who commands all ritual and social practice and rules. The vehicle for the transmission of these teachings and laws is the Torah and the recipient of the teachings is Israel. Thus the model on page 2 of the Rabbi Study for this month links the three through the upward facing triangle of the Star of David.

The line between God and Torah indicates the traditional view that all was transmitted through Moses. For the Rabbis, this direct link was true both in the written Torah (the first five books of the Bible) and the oral Torah (the Mishna and its expanded development in the Talmud and later Codes and Responsum literature). Through Moses and the Biblical prophets the line was dialogic as God spoke and the prophets listened and passed the message on. For the Rabbis, the line was historic with the responsibility for interpretation and teaching without fur-

ther direct personal revelations.

The line between Israel and God follows a similar historic development. In Torah and Prophetic times, Israel relied on the direct revelation between God and a Prophet rather than personal dialogue. In the Temple in Jerusalem, the relationship between God and Israel was mediated by the Cohanim (Priests) with the support of the Levi'im (Levites). In Rabbinic times forward, this line came to be seen as the purpose and role of prayer and worship.

The direct line between Israel and Torah parallels the above as well in its historical development. By Rabbinic times and down to today, the communal process can be seen as: God gave the Torah to Moses and his spiritual descendants; Torah is learned and taught and studied by Israel; Israel shares in worship to God within a "minyan" or communal setting. Prayer can also be a private practice but it is not done as worship in its entirety except in a minyan setting.

Part 19 will examine in detail the roots and definitions of the downward facing triangle which is based on the paragraph that immediately follows the "Shema" in the Torah.

## Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2016-2017

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### KESHER

*Kesher*, Connection,  
is the newsletter  
of Temple Israel  
Dover, NH.

Ideas for submissions and/or letters to the editor may be submitted by members of the Temple Israel family and all others who would like to share news or information with the Temple community.

All communication with the Editor should be by e-mail. Publication of any flyer or any other article or submission is limited by editorial and space considerations.

The deadline for submission is the twentieth (20th) of the month for the following month's issue of *Kesher*.

email to:

Rabbi Sam Seicol  
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

## Shabbat @ Temple Israel

Friday evening services 7:00

Dinners & Adult Ed 6:30

Saturday mornings 10:30

*Please note special programs*

Friday Feb 3 7:00 First Friday Shabbat Service  
Led by Religious School

Saturday Feb 4 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study  
11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

Friday Feb 10 7:00 Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday Feb 11 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study  
11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

Friday Feb 17 6:30 3rd Friday Adult Education

7:30 Shabbat Music & Meditation

Saturday Feb 18 10:30 Full Shabbat Service

Friday Feb 24 7:00 Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday Feb 25 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study  
11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

# From the Board

## Seeking Connection

“You are half Jewish, half Protestant.” This was the explanation I was given by my loving, inter-faith parents as a child. Throughout the duration of a calendar year, the percentage of my faith/ethnic make-up was not typically discussed in our home. During Hanukkah, my brother and I curiously watched on as my father lit the Menorah on our kitchen table and dutifully recited the prayers in a language, and with an accent, that was equal parts off-putting and humorous to my 5-year-old sensibilities. At the same time of year, my mother would delight in decorating our Christmas tree, topped with a Star of David constructed from cardboard and covered with tin foil. I was a passive participant in their traditions, and with no formal Jewish or Christian education, I was blissfully unaware as to the meaning of any of it.

As I grew into adolescence and young adulthood, I began to ask more questions. My dad, who hadn't lit a Menorah since I was a young child, but who identified as a Reform Jew, started to provide me with stories from his personal experiences of what it meant to be Jewish. Through his stories, I started to build an understanding of the cultural, ethnic, and historical implications of Jewishness. I could no longer reason with the percentage break-down of whatever I was anymore; I felt Jewish.

Before ever having any contact with Temple Israel, I would peruse the website and think to myself about how much I would love to be a member of a community of other Jewish people. Although I longed for a connection, the words from my childhood would echo through my psyche: “You are half Jewish, half Protestant”. I felt insecure, unjustified even, in my claim to the identity I had possessed. In the aftermath of my father's unexpected death in 2014, my sense of longing for connection to the roots I inherited from him became too strong to ignore any longer. In hindsight I was not only searching for a connection with my Jewish identity, I think I was also in search of connection to my Dad and the values, experiences, and history that influenced his character. I nervously sent an e-mail to Rabbi Sam explaining myself. He quickly responded back, inviting me to Shabbat service one Friday night. Upon arrival, with my husband in tow, Rabbi Sam greeted me and provided me some of the most comforting and affirming information I'd ever received; In the eyes of the Reform Temple, I was Jewish. I belonged.

In the months that followed my initial immersion into the Temple Israel community, I had the opportunity to look through some old boxes filled with relics that my Grandmother held onto, likely in preparation for their future discovery. In these boxes, I found letters to relatives in Israel, photographs of my distant ancestors in Russia, and a challah cover that I think my Grandmother must have knitted. In these boxes, I also found a naming certificate, indicating that my grandmother had arranged a secret naming ceremony for me in a Boca Raton Temple, apparently without my mother's awareness or consent. Suddenly, I was Miriam, daughter of Tevye.

Since that first Shabbat service in 2015, my husband and I have been active members of Temple Israel. I feel as though I finally belong to a community that represents a major piece of who I am. I am grateful for the learning, guidance, celebrations, numerous analytical conversations, and sense of togetherness that I experience when I am within the Temple. My sincere hope is that this community will continue to grow, prosper, and represent the connection that many others like me may be seeking.

Thank you for welcoming me,

Melissa

## THANK YOU TO OUR

### February

- 3 Religious School Families
- 10 Glicka & Michael Kaplan
- 17 Julie Low & Jim Weiner
- 24 Pot Luck - February Vacation

### March

- 3 Shabbat Across America Dinner
- 10 Karen Mott  
Bridget Jameson
- 17 Lois & Robert Costa
- 24 Bolker-Bixby Family iho Eleanor
- 31 Melissa Brahms & Mark Manganiello  
Julie Serrano

### ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS

If you are unable to host the Oneg Shabbat on the night assigned to you, please find a substitute by trading with another family from the membership directory. If you need to change your assigned date, please notify **Cathi Cherry-Liston**  
603-312-0152, 603-269-4888,  
ccherryliston@yahoo.com



Please consider marking special occasions and milestones along the path of life for you or your family by purchasing a leaf, stone, or acorn on the Tree of Life.

Plaques in the Sanctuary honor the memory of a loved one.

For more information, contact: the Temple office.

[templeoffice@dovertemple.org](mailto:templeoffice@dovertemple.org)



# Mazal Tov

to our members who are celebrating birthdays in February

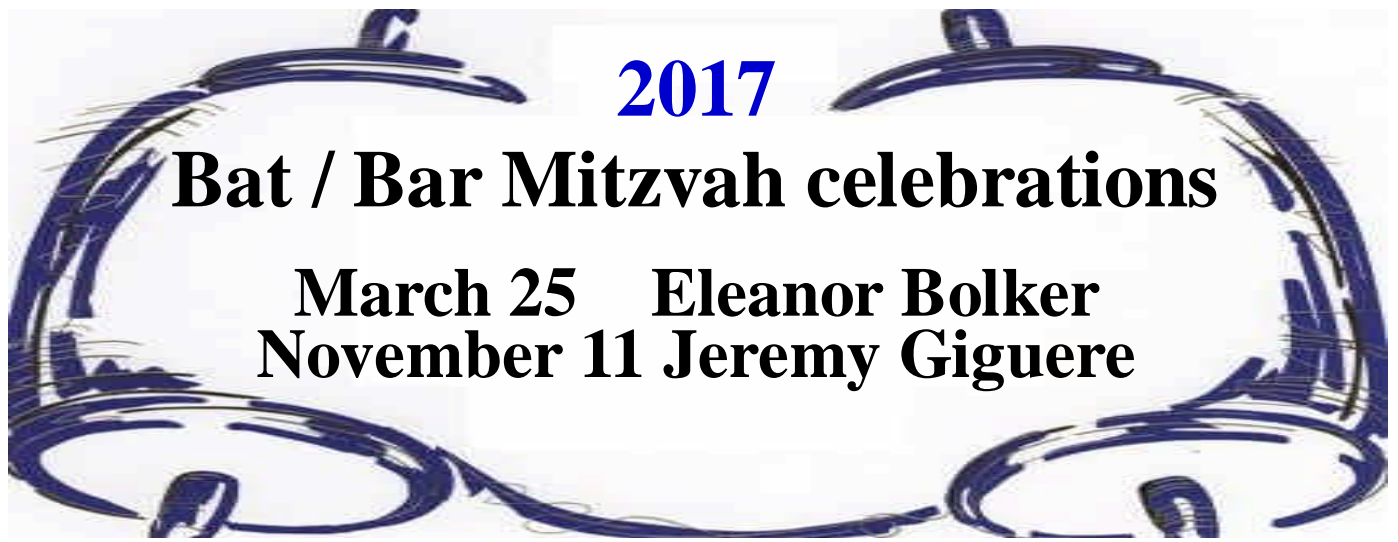
**Join us at Friday Services  
February 3 at 7:00 PM  
In honor of your special day.**

## Birthdays

- Heidi Kotlus (5)
- Jonathan Harris (11)
- David Richman (11)
- Ruth Saunders (15)
- Sonia Ginsburg (21)
- Rabbi Sam Seicol (23)
- Jonathan Flagg (25)
- Bruce Samuels (26)
- Carol Birch (28)

## Anniversaries

- Lessa Brill & John Wallace(7)
- Marc & Lisa Weinstein(16)
- Colin & Eve Edelstein Williams(21)



**2017**

**Bat / Bar Mitzvah celebrations**

**March 25 Eleanor Bolker**  
**November 11 Jeremy Giguere**

**Religious School Sponsored Events**

**Religious School Classes**

All are **WELCOME** at all events

**February**

<b>03</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Friday Evening Shabbat led by Religious School</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>2:00</b>	<b>Tu Bishevat at Community Church of Durham</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>
<b>26</b>		<b>No Religious School Classes - February Vacation</b>

**March**

<b>05</b>		<b>No Religious School Classes - February Vacation</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Purim Shpiel and Party</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Religious School classes</b>



# 2 NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Saturdays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday)

11:30-12:30AM

Adult Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Feb 4 – Feb 25 Basic Hebrew reading skills

Mar 4 – May 6 Myths & Monsters in Judaism

Check the Temple Calendar at [www.dovertemple.org](http://www.dovertemple.org) for all services and events

All are **WELCOME** at no charge

to all Adult Education Classes at Temple Israel Dover  
or more information email: [rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org)



Join us for

# Tu BiShevat

at Community Church Durham

Sunday February 12 2:00 PM

All are **WELCOME** to attend



# MONTHLY MEDITATION



## For Tu BiShevat

**Soaring above the trees, a sign in the heavens;  
A bridge to earth, shimmering and transient.  
A lessening of the rains; a time of hope for the future.  
At the Full Moon of the mid-Winter month;  
The earth is moistened and nourished, now ready.**

**Planted securely in the earth; alone but not lonely -  
Surrounded by the nourishing past.  
Gazing upward with promise and purpose;  
To bring beauty to the earth and sustenance of spirit.**

# Temple Israel in the Community

## The Dover Food Pantry

Items can be donated to the Food Pantry any time.

Drop off may done at the Temple.

The Food Pantry is open

Tuesdays 3-5PM and Thursdays 9-11AM

**In addition to donations of food and/or personal items**

**volunteers are always welcome**

**to help work at the Dover Food Pantry.**

**Please contact Karen Robichaud**

**at (603) 749-4235 or [blrklr2@aol.com](mailto:blrklr2@aol.com)**

## The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents with needs that are not met through other

helping agencies,

providing them with shelter

and support for utilities and medical care.

Your support is appreciated!

**[www.dovershare.org](http://www.dovershare.org)**

## Dover Friendly Kitchen

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**PLEASE JOIN THE COMMUNITY!!!**

Temple Members help serve dinner at the Dover Friendly Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church Parish Hall on Locust Street. Temple Israel's time slot needs people to help cook, serve, and clean.

We are there from 3:45 until around 6:15.

Volunteers do not need to come for the whole time.

For more information or to let me know if you plan to attend, please contact me.

We welcome everyone's help!

Thank you!

*Andra Welch, Coordinator*

*[abbwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:abbwelch@yahoo.com) or 534-4142*



## JANUARY DONATIONS

*All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and/or to offer tributes to friends, relatives and members of the community through a donation Temple funds. We express appreciation to:*

### **General Fund**

Patty and Andy Diengott  
Phil Ginsburg and family  
in memory of  
Libby and Aaron Ginsburg  
Jane Liemer  
Jill and Bill Schoonmaker  
Stephanie Shaines  
for the Abraham Burtman Trust

### **Hospital Visits:**

#### **Please keep us informed!**

If you or someone you know will be or is in the hospital please call the Temple office. You can also ask a nurse to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there. Rabbi Sam and the Temple Israel community would like to be able to offer support and comfort to you and your family if you desire.

rabbisam@dovertemple.org

## FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

**NOTE:** *Yahrzeits are recorded according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish in the Synagogue may be recited on the Shabbat following the date of remembrance.*

*It is traditional to make a donation in memory of the Yahrzeit of a loved one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.*

**Week of February 4:** Nathan Allen (29), Morris Kram (29), Mary C. Feltes (30), Steven Goodstein (2) Marjorie Alberts (3), Irving Pastor (4), Chayim Meyrowitz (4)

**Week of February 11:** Marian Frankel (5), Jason Smith (6), Rebecca Thorner (6), Hyman Miller (7), Mildred Katz (7), Isadore Stack (9), Alfred Anderson (9), Issac C. Kates (10), Harry Goodstein (10), Gertrude Baer (11)

**Week of February 18:** Jacob A. Rosenberg (12), Jane Wise (12), Max Becker (13), Sue Ann Katz (13), Gertrude Berenson (14), Daniel Berman (14), Michelle K. Robbins (14), Marian Ruth Frankel (14), Thomas Weinbaum (15), Vivian Lafargue (15), Frances Davis (16), Elizabeth Schoonmaker (16)

**Week of February 25:** Jacob N. Paisner (19), Abraham Levine (21), Laura Ossoff (21), Lewis J. Fisher (21), Libby Rothstein (22), Ida Siegel (22), Jack Cook (22), Irving Thorner (23), Milton H. Cooper (23), Ellen Silverman (23), Betty Karnefsky (24), Jacob Potter (25), Robert Davis Jr. (25), Anne Gray (25), Ree Becker (25)

**Week of March 4:** Theodore Davis (26), Lillian Miller (27), Norman Torf (27), Moe Rosenblum, Sam Glosserman (27), Golda Zarrow (1), Nancy Medoff (1), Shirley Traven (1), Marjorie Ellen Ryder (2), Beatrice Newton (2), June Singer (2), Robert Fox (2), Phyllis Klave (3), Norman Brill (3), Louis H. Silverman (3), Sheila Kaplan (3), Debbie N. Most (3), Bruce Krassner (4), Micki Pastor (4), Joseph Nicole (4)

## **Memorial Wall**

Members may add the name of a loved one or reserve a space on the Memorial Wall with a minimum contribution of \$300. Please contact the Temple Office for more information.



### Temple Israel of Dover

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P. O. Box 254  
Dover, N. H. 03821  
(603) 742-3976  
templeoffice@  
dovertemple.org  
www.dovertemple.org



*Temple Israel is a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation. We welcome all who wish to participate in Jewish study, worship, and fellowship. Our mission is to be a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday services and programs, sharing of life-cycle events, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and support for all who are in need.*

*Temple Israel is a proud member of the URJ*

*(Union for Reform Judaism)  
We join with more than 800 congregations in the Reform synagogue movement.*

*President:*  
Steve Brody  
president@dovertemple.org  
*Rabbi:*  
Sam Seicol  
rabbisam@dovertemple.org  
*Office manager:*  
Angela Odess  
TempleOffice@  
dovertemple.org

# February 2017

- 03** 7:00 First Friday – Led by Hebrew Classes
- 04** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study
- 11:30 Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet
- 05** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 10** 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 11** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study
- 11:30 Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet
- Tu BiShevat – Celebration of trees**
- 12** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 2:00 Tu Bishevat Seder**  
**at the Community Church of Durham**
- 17** 6:30 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Adult Education
- 7:30 3<sup>rd</sup> Shabbat Music & Meditation
- 18** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service
- 19** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 24** 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 25** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study
- 11:30 Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet
- 26** **No Religious School – February Vacation**