

KESHER

Our
Seventy-Eighth
Year!

FROM RABBI SAM

Reform Jewish Spirituality Part 17

The three “dimensions” of spirituality, as discussed previously in part 3 (October 2015) and forward were meaning, value, and purpose. In Judaism, traditionally, spirituality was not directly discussed but was, certainly, an intrinsic part of Rabbinic thought. Strains of mystical Judaism dealt with issues of the spirit and have been used as a path to understanding and creating what can be termed spirituality. It is also apparent that issues of spirituality as currently defined were a part of the Biblical mindset. Spiritual concerns can be found, therefore, in core elements of Judaism from Biblical times to the present. For the purpose of this series, specific areas and applications will be discussed. The full range of Jewish spirituality throughout all of Jewish history and writings is beyond the scope of these articles.

The “Star of David”, a traditional symbol of Judaism, especially lends itself to a graphic depiction of the subset of human spirituality called “Judaism”. In future articles, this will be further

subdivided to focus on the modern aspects of Judaism termed “Reform”.

The star is formed by combining an upward pointing equilateral (generally) triangle with a downward pointing one. Each set of three points of the star can be used to represent the 3 “dimensions” of human spirituality from two separate vantages.

The upward star can be seen as the communal or external aspect while the downward one is the internal or personal. Each star contains both the personal and the relational but the essential focus is as listed above. The upward star embodies the basic elements of external spirituality as it relates specifically to the thought and practice of Judaism. The downward star represents the basic aspects of internal directed Judaism. The model can be found on page 2 of the Rabbi Article for this month on the website.

As in the “Wheel of the Human Spirit”, where pathways overlap and blend, the points of the “Star of Jewish Spirituality” have a similar process of blending. This will be discussed in the article for next month.

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 consid-
erations.

The deadline for submis-
sion is the twentieth (20th)
of the month for the fol-
lowing 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 Jan 6 7:00 First Friday Shabbat Service

Saturday Jan 7 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

Friday Jan 13 7:00 Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday Jan 14 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

Friday Jan 20 6:30 3rd Friday Adult Education

7:30 Shabbat Music & Meditation

Saturday Jan 21 10:30 Full Shabbat Service

Friday Jan 27 7:00 Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday Jan 28 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

11:30 Adult Ed — Hebrew I

From the Board

I'd like to share the story of how I found my way to Judaism and to this Temple, and what they both mean to me. I am a born Jew, but the only lifecycle ceremony I ever took part in was my bris. Thankfully, I don't remember it, but I do know it happened. I've seen my Hebrew name somewhere, and I thought I had a copy of my naming certificate, but I must have lost it somewhere along the way. I am in the weird position of knowing I have a Hebrew name, but not knowing what it is. My aunt, my oldest living relative, is 99% certain that my Hebrew first name is Moshe, and the Torah portion when I was born was one of the times that Moses brought the ten commandments down from Mt. Sinai, so it makes sense. But I have no idea what the rest of my name is, and I'm taking the Moshe part on faith. That is actually a good example of my relationship with my own Jewishness. I know I'm a Jew, but my family history is one of assimilation with casual neglect/acknowledgment of our Jewishness. A lot of the details are missing.

Interestingly, I'm writing this on Christmas day and the first day of Hanukkah. I was at a friend's house last night, with his Christian family, for Christmas Eve. They happen to be members of a highly philo-semitic religion, and it's obvious to me that they hold Jews in high esteem, even wayward ones such as myself. We talked a lot about Judaism, about Hanukkah, and to their surprise, about how Hanukkah is actually a very minor Jewish holiday. Most people I run into conflate Hanukkah with Christmas and assume it's a very important Jewish holiday.

As a child, I grew up in a non-Jewish neighborhood, and we celebrated Christmas and all of the other secular or Christian holidays, and no Jewish ones. That said, Christmas involved having bagels, lox, and cream cheese for breakfast, and my grandma would come over and make chopped liver every year. We ate Chinese food for dinner. So, even though I didn't realize it at the time, some Jewishness crept into my life, but only coincidentally. Like I said earlier, I always knew I was a Jew, but didn't have any idea what that meant. If you had asked me several years ago if Hanukkah was a major Jewish holiday, I would have said yes.

Anyway, fast forward about four decades, and many questions from friends asking me about Judaism with me not knowing the answers, and I began to become more interested in Judaism and my own Jewishness, whatever that was. I spent some time watching videos on the Internet, reading about Judaism, etc., but couldn't shake the desire not only to know, but to experience it for myself. I kept trying to come to services, but didn't have the nerve because I didn't know what to expect. So, I called the office, left a message, and ended up talking to Tammy. She scheduled an appointment for me to meet with Rabbi Sam, not-so-coincidentally for like 6:30 on a Friday. So, I showed up, met with Rabbi Sam, and learned that my family's story was a typical story for American Jews. My great grandparents came from The Pale and spoke only Yiddish. My grandparents were born here, spoke both Yiddish and English and lived and fought through World War II. My parents only spoke English, except maybe a few Yiddish words and were basically indistinguishable from other Americans, except perhaps by name. By the time my generation was born, we were so integrated into American society, that I had no understanding of Jewish identity. I was a Jew, I knew that, but had no idea what it meant. That brought me some comfort, because I never understood the driving need my parents' and grandparents' generation had to assimilate; how important it was for them to become a part of the society they lived in. It was nice to know that my story was shared by many other Jews; that my family wasn't so different from other Jewish families. I stayed for service that night, and for the next couple of years, showed up religiously (pun fully intended) for services and Torah study.

As I came to more services here at the Temple, more Torah studies, and met more Jews, I began to realize that in some ways, I had somehow been living my life as a Jew without even knowing it. I don't know where my thoughts, patterns of behavior, and beliefs came from, but the more I learned about Judaism, the more I realized that Judaism somehow came naturally to me. That there was some connection between Judaism and me that existed even before I became aware of it. It was an amazing feeling.

Another amazing feeling I remember was when I attended my first Seder here at the Temple. Again, I didn't know what to expect, and I was a little nervous that I wouldn't do it right, but I had to experience it. As I sat there waiting for the Seder to begin, I watched the room fill up with something like 80 or 100 Jews. I was deeply moved because I had never in my life been in a room like that full of so many Jews. I felt among my people in a way I never had before, and I will never forget that feeling. That was what I was looking for when I came here to Temple Israel, but didn't realize it until I felt it. I thought I was here for knowledge, for practice, maybe to meet a nice Jewish girl (my grandma would be so happy). But, what I really wanted, what I really needed, and what I've come to love is the feeling of community I get here at the Temple, with my people. So, on this weird day where two holidays and worldviews collide and mirror my own life experience, I would like to thank you all for accepting me into the fold, for letting me reclaim my Jewish soul, and for making the journey of incorporating Jewishness into my life so rewarding.

G-d bless you all,

Marc Sklar, Treasurer

THANK YOU TO OUR

January

- 6 Patty and Andy Diengott
Stacey and Jeff Segil
- 13 Pot Luck Style - MLK weekend
- 20 Carolyn Anderson & Phil Ginsburg
- 27 Holly and Ken Grossman

February

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

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



Mazal Tov

to our members who are celebrating birthdays in January

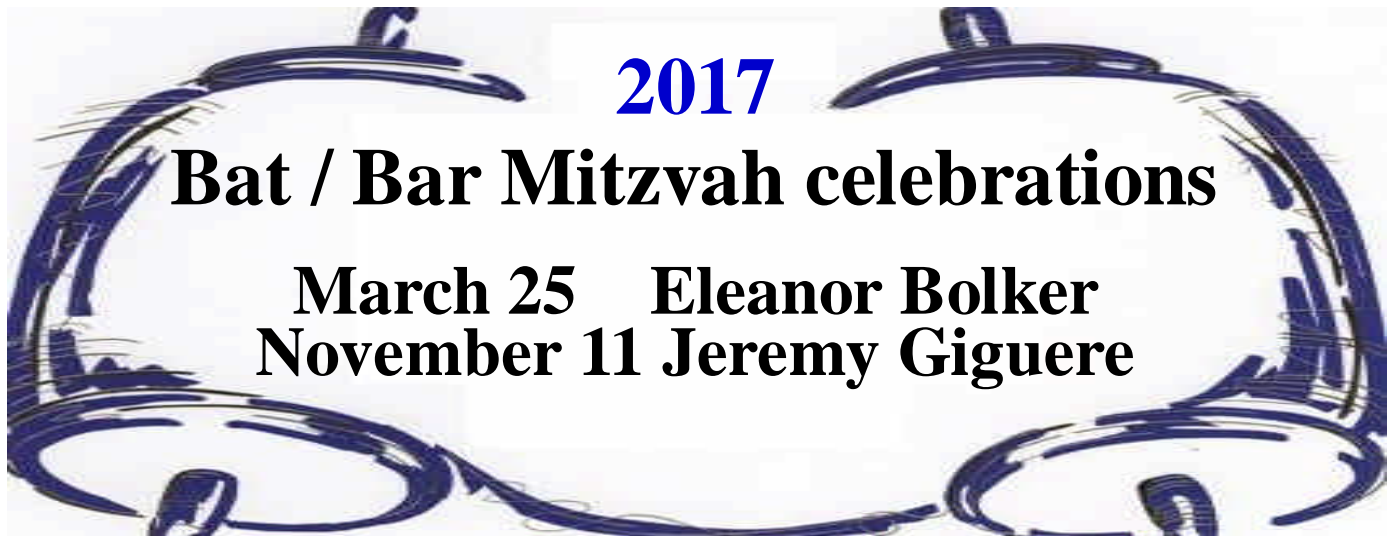
**Join us at Friday Services
 January 6 at 7:00 PM
 In honor of your special day.**

Birthdays

- Cathi Cherry-Liston (3),
- Heather Wechsler (10),
- Maschia Kaplan (12),
- Julie Serrano (13),
- Bertha Litvack (13),
- Zachariah Nobel (19),
- Zachary Venne (21),
- Anna Lieberman (23),
- Stacey Samuels (29),
- Jacob Kaplan (30),
- Glicka Kaplan (31)

Anniversaries

- Bill & Jill Schoonmaker (13),
- DeeDee & David Goldstein (31)



Religious School Sponsored Events

Religious School Classes

All are **WELCOME at all events**

January

- 01** **No Religious School Classes - Winter Vacation**
- 08** 9:30 **Religious School classes**
- 15** 9:30 **Religious School classes**
- 22** 9:30 **Religious School classes**
- 29** 9:30 **Religious School classes**

February

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

2 NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES
Saturdays (except 3rd Saturday) 11:30-
12:30AM

Adult Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Jan 7 – Feb 25 Basic Hebrew reading skills

Mar 4 – May 6 Myths & Monsters in Judaism

Check the Temple Calendar at www.dovertemple.org for all services and events

All are **WELCOME at no charge**
to all Adult Education Classes at Temple Israel Dover
For more information email: rabbisam@dovertemple.org

Join us at the Annual DARLA
MLK Interfaith Service
Sunday January 15 7:00 PM
Wentworth Douglass Hospital

All are **WELCOME to attend**

MONTHLY MEDITATION



**Quiet gentle blankets of snow;
Beneath lies rest and respite.
Stark white Winter replaces the colors of Fall,
Promise and hope slumber serenely;
Sheltered in secret silent softness preparing for Spring.
New life waiting; waiting to refresh and renew.**

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

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

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 or 534-4142

DECEMBER DONATIONS

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

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 & Andy Diengott - Latke Groceries
Nathan Schwandron
John Terninko
UHR Books

High Holy Days

Jason Goldstein
Martie Gooze
Carole Krassner for her High Holiday Honor and in honor of Cathi Cherry-Liston, Ritual Committee Chair
Susan Silver in honor of her cousin, Joel Lafargue, for his participation in High Holiday Services

In Memory of

Ethlyne "Effie" Golub

Gail and Monte Altman
Cathi Cherry-Liston and Mel Liston
Jerry and Ursula Cherry
Carole Krassner
Francine Murphy
Rita Novak
Lisa Paisner
Stan and Rita Robbins
Karin Sabin
Linda and Sol Roehenmacher
Laurie Smith and Robert Golub
Maury and Merrily Sterns

Rabbi's Fund

Carole Krassner

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 January 7: Floretta Osman (2), Gloria Adler (3), Julius Nasberg (4), Sayde Harris (4), Charlotte Brody (6), Samuel N. Cook (6), Beatrice Book (7), Louis J. Magerer (7), Abraham Issokson (7), Adolph Baer (7)

Week of January 14: Benjamin Radner (8), Bernard Luloff (8), Herman Cherim (10), Roman A. Rubinstein (11), Daniel Fisher (11), Isadore Osman (11), Warren H. Overstreet Sr. (14)

Week of January 21: Gloria Adelman (15), Antoine Walker (15), Eugene Kleinhandl (15), Robert Liston Sr. (16), Suzan Irene Horn (18), Arnold S. Katz (18), Matthew Krassner (19), Hyman Katz (20), Allen Sibley (20), Sheila M. Kaplan (20), Harold Dinaburg(20), Arthur Housman(21), Philip Singer(21)

Week of January 28: Pauline Cohen (22), Louis Stocklan (22), Leon Brill (22), Libby Ginsberg (22), Beatrice Saltman Dulberg (23) Garrett Aviles (23), Ruth Talisman (23), Rose Silverman Cohen (24), Rabbi Sidney Rothstein (24), Segil Harold J. Potter (27)

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)

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

January 2017

01		No Religious School – Winter Vacation
06	7:00	First Friday Shabbat
07	10:30	Shabbat Torah Study
	11:30	Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet 1
08	9:30	Religious School Classes
13	7:00	Shabbat Service
14	10:30	Shabbat Torah Study
	11:30	Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet 2
15	9:30	Religious School Classes
	7:00	Community MLK service at Wentworth Douglass Hospital Garrison Auditorium
20	6:30	3 rd Friday Adult Education
	7:30	3 rd Shabbat Music & Meditation
21	10:30	Shabbat Morning Service
22	9:30	Religious School Classes
27	7:00	Shabbat Service
28	10:30	Shabbat Morning Torah Study
	11:30	Adult Hebrew I – AlephBet 3
29	9:30	Religious School Classes