

# LIVING LEARNING LEADING JUDAISM

## NEWSLETTER

### Social Action Update

### *Your Impact*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Team Sandwich for December

**Tuesday, December 19th from 1:00 to 1:30 pm**

Join us to combat food insecurity in the Pittsburgh region by making and donating sandwiches. Drop-off is between 1:00 and 1:30 pm, but feel free to drop them off at a time that is convenient for you.

[Email Susie](#) to sign up and learn more!

#### WTE+ Book Club

**Monday, January 8th at 7:00 pm**

Join us on Monday, January 8th at 7:00 pm to discuss *Straddling Black and White* by Kimberly Saltzman. Snacks will be provided! RSVP to [Sarah](#).

#### Adult B'Nei Mitzvah Course

**Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, starting January 14, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**

All Temple members who have not yet participated in the ritual of Bar, Bat, or Bet (an inclusive term for those who prefer non-gendered language) Mitzvah are eligible and encouraged. Perhaps you weren't ready or weren't given the opportunity as a young person? Maybe you joined the Jewish community later in life and are now ready? Perhaps you wish to study along with a child or grandchild preparing to read from Torah for the first time? All are welcome!

Together with Rabbi Aaron and Cantor Kalix, this supportive cohort will study the prayers of Jewish tradition, keep working on their Hebrew, learn some trope (Torah chanting), and prepare a D'var Torah before leading a service in the Fall of 2024. The only prerequisite is the ability to decode Hebrew (readily recognize the letters and vowel sounds and begin stringing them together into syllables).

It's not too late to sign up before the course begins! [Read more and sign up to join this cohort here.](#)

#### Kids of Steel Training

**Sundays starting January 21, 2024**

Students in our Torah Center are invited to stay after class on Sundays starting January 21st to start training for our 1-mile race during the Pittsburgh Marathon weekend. Email [Steph McFerron](#) to sign up and learn more!

### Giving Tuesday's Impact

Thanks to this community's generosity and support, we raised \$80,662 to benefit Temple Emanuel! So many donors came together to make this happen, individually, anonymously, and through group fundraising efforts like our *Mahj for a Cause* event.

Thank you for supporting Temple Emanuel and honoring Leslie Hoffman's dedication to this community by helping us *go the distance!*

### The Mitzvah Mall's Impact

Last weekend, our Torah Center students learned about local volunteer organizations at their annual Mitzvah Mall. For those of you unfamiliar with the Mitzvah Mall, each organization had a table with activities and information about their work and impact in the local community.

This opportunity is so important because then our students are familiar with these organizations when it comes time for them to decide on their B'Nei Mitzvah project or whenever they feel drawn to give back to the community. Thank you to our Torah Center teachers and staff who make events like these possible for their students!

### Team Sandwich's Impact

If you are looking for a way to impact your local community for the better this holiday season, consider making sandwiches or baked goods for our monthly Team Sandwich initiative. Every 3rd Tuesday of the month, we collect sandwiches for those in our local community experiencing food insecurity.

If you'd like to participate in our December drive on Tuesday, December 19th, contact [Susie Hommel](#) or [Sarah Mangan](#) to sign up and learn more!

*Recognizing that the next few weeks are often filled with school events, festivities, and travel, we will take a break from the weekly social action newsletters until the new year.*



Community members of all ages joined us for a community-wide Chanukah dinner and service. Happy Chanukah!

We are always collecting non-perishable food donations for SHIM in the boxes beside the stairwell.

Want to learn more about Temple Emanuel's participation in ADL's Kulanu for Synagogues in Action Against Antisemitism? [Email Sarah!](#)

**Team Sandwich** collects sandwiches every 3rd Tuesday of the month! Contact [shommel46@gmail.com](mailto:shommel46@gmail.com) to sign-up to bring sandwiches!

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR FREESTORE 15106

- Shelf-stable foods like Easy Mac cups and Chef Boyardee
- Nonperishable Food
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Hand Soap
- Laundry Detergent

*Please bring donations to Temple.*