

# LIVING LEARNING LEADING JUDAISM

## NEWSLETTER Social Action Update

### *Reflecting on our Community*

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### Adult B'Nei Mitzvah Course

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

It's not too late to sign up! 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. 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.](#)

##### January's Team Sandwich Collection

Tuesday, January 16th at 1:00 PM

Join us to address food insecurity in the Pittsburgh region by making and donating sandwiches every third Tuesday of the month.

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

##### 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!

##### Abraham's Table: Community

Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm at The Turkish Cultural Center

Abraham's Table seeks to promote communication, understanding, and peace among people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Each month, a fresh thought-provoking subject will be featured, followed by engaging table conversations in which participants may share their views and viewpoints. The subject for January is Community.

Dinner is served at 6:00 pm, followed by the presentation at 6:30 pm, and then a Q&A portion from 7:30 to 8:00 pm.

[Register here!](#)

#### This Time Last Year

At nearly this time last year, the first Social Action Newsletter went out to the congregation. In it, I reflected on all of the *mitzvot* we had accomplished together in just my first five months serving this community as your Program and Volunteer Coordinator. As I reflect on the past year and five months, I notice two main causes this congregation holds dear: addressing food insecurity and working to improve our environment.

These primary causes will guide many of our upcoming social action projects this season and into the spring.

We will continue to collect much-needed food items for SHIM and FreeStore 15106. We will give back through Team Sandwich and come together to make sandwiches, thanks to our Caring Community! Please save the date to make sandwiches together on Sunday, February 18th.

We will improve our Holocaust Memorial Garden through a generous grant from the Frances and David Levin Foundation, not only beautifying that space but ensuring that it remains a pollinator-friendly garden throughout the year. This grant will also allow for educational signs to be placed through the garden, encouraging community, reflection, and learning. If you'd like to learn more about what this grant will allow us to do, please [email](#) me!

#### Team Sandwich

Thank you to our volunteers who helped to make our December Team Sandwich drive successful, including Susie Hommel, Cheryl Fischler, Moe and Laryn Finder, Ruth Novice, Paul and Linda Richardson, Irene Luchinsky and Allen Beitman, Joann Goldberg, Leslie Hoffman, Judy and Allen Press, Heidi Russman, Marty Weisberg, Marge Abrams, and Salley Lebowitz!



Longtime community members and newcomers joined Cantor Kalix for Shabbat dinner and learned about the many new years of Judaism.

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.