



## After Pittsburgh

by Toby Hunter

On November 2, the first Shabbat after the massacre of 11 Jewish people in Pittsburgh, I had the honor of helping to lead our Friday night services, along with a wonderful team of our congregants. I will admit to some anxiety during the week leading to the service, with many emails back and forth about what we might expect when we arrived at Temple.

People began to arrive at 6:15 pm. The first was a non-Jewish woman who said she felt driven to be with us. The second was someone from the Quaker Meeting House adjacent to our property. She said that a group had organized to come and hold signs in solidarity, reading "Love Thy Neighbor." They stationed themselves on the sidewalk outside our building. By the time the service started, there were approximately 80 people in attendance, many of them families with young children. This is more than double a typical Shabbat.

Throughout the service, the mood of the congregation was subdued. Many words from the prayerbook resonated much more powerfully than usual. Afterwards, there were lots of hugs, tears and handshakes, a sign of the resilience of our community in the face of tragedy. It was a heartwarming, albeit melancholy, mood as people ate, talked, and cried.

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**Contact the rabbi:** Rabbi Joseph is always available by appointment. He can be reached at the Temple office, or by cell phone (352-562-9723), or by e-mail (rabbi@shirshalom.net). He is usually at Temple on Tuesday mornings, and Tuesday through Thursday afternoons. It is a good idea to call before stopping by!

## Temple Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am–4:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am–1:00 pm
Wednesday	by appointment
Thursday	10:00 am–4:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am–1:00 pm

Hours listed are approximate; it is best to call ahead.  
Appointments at other times can often be accommodated.



The congregation is invited to celebrate with Wes Melker and his family as he becomes a bar mitzvah on Saturday, December 8 in a service beginning at 10:30 am. Wes is the son of Jeremy and Amy Melker, and he is Jacob Melker's little brother.

In honor of becoming a bar mitzvah, Wes is asking that you support an organization called Arts for Africa. Wes describes it this way: "For my bar mitzvah project, I am raising money for Arts for Africa, a non-profit charity. They want to help children in communities affected by poverty let their creativity flow. Unfortunately, many poor

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## Chanukah is coming soon!

**1st candle: Dec. 2**

**Shabbat Chanukah: Dec. 7**

**Sisterhood Chanukah party: Dec. 9**



# Temple Shir Shalom thanks you for your support

**Thanks to these members and friends of Temple Shir Shalom for their October 2018 donations** (please note that acknowledgements may lag up to two months behind donations)

## General Fund

Gabriel & Nancy Bitton:

in honor of Jonathan Sair's bar mitzvah  
in memory of Ann-Marie Magne's mother  
in memory of Butch Meyers

Andrew & Sharon Hirshik:

in honor of HH parking crew - Marc, Jack, Howie  
in honor of Steven & Randy Kraft  
in honor of Lee, Craig, Ed, and Jamie  
in memory of Phillip Hirshik

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## Full Time Rabbi Fund

Eddie & Beverly Gilbert:

in memory of Bessie & Philip Hodes

Irene Kellner:

in honor of Jonathan Sair's Bar Mitzvah

in memory of Jack Wilson

Vera Rabino, in honor of Irene Kellner's birthday

## Tree of Life

Eddie & Beverly Gilbert:

in honor of DeeDee Hendeles' birthday

## Oneg Sponsorship

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in memory of Louis Weiss & Leo Davis

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## October Oneg Hosts

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Amy & Josh Carson

Marcia & Henry Storch

Randy & Steve Kraft

Margaret & Phil Efron

Laura & Paul Richards

## Wes Melker bar mitzvah, continued from page 1

classrooms are short on classroom and art supplies. But your support can make a difference. You can know in your heart that you helped a child draw something they are proud of. I am an artist, and art soothes me. It lets me show all my creative ideas at once, and get everything out. I feel bad that children in Africa are deprived of that wondrous feeling. Here is how to donate: go to <https://sites.google.com/gm.sbac.edu/arts-for-africa/home> and click on "Donate" in the side menu. Choose your items, and, during checkout, there will be an option to ship to Books for Africa warehouse.

## Sisterhood event(s)

Sisterhood held a very enjoyable and creative event at Corks and Colors on Thursday, November 8. Many people came out to find a project, paint it, and share the evening with old and new friends. Plans are underway to schedule an event in March that would be a Passover theme. Stay tuned!

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## Temple Board meetings and minutes

Temple Board meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm; all Temple members are welcome. Board minutes are available upon request to all members from the Temple Office.



## After Pittsburgh, continued from page 1

Throughout the evening and the next few days, I thought about what made this Shabbat feel so special to me. First and foremost was the outpouring of support, both from our own community and from the larger Gainesville community. It was truly special to feel the love of people who we might not have met otherwise. My second wave of reflections centered on the larger-than-average attendance of our congregants, many of them with their children.

Shabbat services are the lifeline of every Jewish congregation. It is the time when people gather to pray, visit and eat together. It is a time of coming together in solidarity, regardless of what is happening in the world. I completely understand why so many people decided to come on this night, and now that they did, I hope they will continue. Please come back and participate with us again. Please know that every one of the children behaved appropriately—some slept, but most participated in the prayers. All of them were embraced in the arms of their parents for most of the service.

Our services at Temple Shir Shalom are for everyone. Combined with the experiences the children receive in Religious School, the two weekly events are what has kept us alive for so many years. They are two sides of the same coin—Religious School is the opportunity to learn, Shabbat is the occasion to practice and be a part of the larger temple community.

Please know that you are always welcome at our services, and we hope that, like me, you will find love, solace, understanding, community and acceptance with us.

## Trivia Night features fierce competition



Eric and Sharon Ascher were the “callers” at a hotly contested Trivia Night Fundraiser on Sunday, November 11—including a question about the Passover Haggadah that Rabbi Joseph got wrong! As shown at right, the evening featured great minds coming together. Many thanks to event organizer Kim Feigenbaum



**Mazal Tov!** to Eddie Beck, son of Linda Mussillo and Alan Beck, who has been named to the 2018 All-National Honors Ensembles by the National Association for Music Education. He and just 550 other top young musicians from around the country will be performing with the ensembles later this month at the Coronado

Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Eddie, a junior at Buchholz High School, plays percussion with the school’s jazz band, wind symphony, and marching band. Like all serious musicians, he says practice is key to his success. “I’ve always wanted to excel at what I do,” said Beck. “So I’ve learned to practice a lot because I know that leads to improvement.”



**Mazal Tov!** to Ben Joseph, son of Debbie and Michael Joseph, who ran and completed the New York City Marathon on November 4. Ben ran to support the ALS Foundation, for whom he raised nearly \$11,000. This was Ben’s first marathon, and as of this moment, he plans for it to be his last!

## Help our Pineridge kids celebrate!

Temple Shir Shalom will host a holiday party at the Pineridge After School Center on Monday, December 17 at 3:00 pm. Anyone who would like to help these children celebrate, please contact Marcia Storch or Randy Kraft. Please watch for a Sign Up Genius to sponsor a child for the holidays.



## Honorable Menschen

A series of profiles of distinguished Temple members and friends. "Menschen" is the plural form of the Yiddish word "Mensch," meaning "a real human being" in the very best sense of the words. This month: Andrew and Mercedes Rosalsky...



Andrew and Mercedes Rosalsky have been members of Temple Shir Shalom for 19 years, initially joining when their daughter, Rachel, was six years old. Rachel continued her involvement in Temple life through high school, volunteering for things like face painting at the Shir Shalom Purim Carnival. Rachel is currently a speech therapist in private practice in Ithaca, New York.

Her husband is from Gainesville and is currently working on a PhD in physics at Cornell University in Ithaca.

Andrew Rosalsky recently retired after 40 years of teaching at the University of Florida as a member of Department of Statistics, and was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus. He is continuing to conduct research as well as pursue his interest in astronomy.

Dr. Rosalsky's area of research has been probability theory. During his tenure at UF he twice received a University of Florida Teaching Improvement Program Award and was an Anderson/CLAS Scholar Faculty Honoree five times. He also served as chair and member of University search committees and as a member of ad hoc and standing committees. Andrew began his teaching career at the University of Florida in 1978.

Andrew met his wife, Mercedes, when she was his graduate assistant at UF. She received a master's degree in statistics at UF after obtaining an undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Puerto Rico and a PhD in physics at Cornell University in Ithaca.

## Many thanks to Grounds Crew

Many thanks to our Temple Grounds Crew for their cleanup work on Sunday, November 11: Vera Rabino, Jack Hurov, Lee Schwartz, Chuck Egan, and Kevin Siegel. Thanks also to Bill Little and Shifra Armon for their donation of a much needed wheel barrow, and for blowing clean our back parking lot, and to Keith Spencer for patching the roof.



Temple's 2018 High Holiday Food Drive recently delivered 1,726 pounds of food to the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, which will provide 1,438 meals for those in need. Once again, Stuart Bilsky provided his trailer to collect and transport your donations to the Bread of The Mighty warehouse, along with the help of Sharon and Andy Hirshik.

This year, Sharon and Andy met with Marcia Conwell, President/CEO of Bread of the Mighty, to get a better understanding of the scope of its operations. This year, Bread of the Mighty estimates they have distributed about 8 million pounds of food in Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, and Lafayette counties. That's an increase in half a million pounds from last year.

How is the food actually distributed? Bread of the Mighty delivers to mobile pantries in all five counties. Volunteers, many from faith-based organizations, staff those mobile pantries and distribute bags of food to waiting lines of people. Bread of the Mighty has also established nine food pantries in schools, six of them in Alachua County. The school pantries alone cost Bread of the Mighty \$250,000 a year and there are more schools on their waiting list. The homeless receive food from Bread of the Mighty through Grace Market Place. Seniors in need are given free food through agency partners of Bread of the Mighty.

Marcia described to Sharon and Andy some of the secret heroes in our community, like the wife of a former Eastside High School football coach who was spending almost his whole paycheck to feed his players, some of whom were so hungry they would pass out on the field. This couple arranged to pick up food every day from Bread of the Mighty to feed the hungriest players to keep them healthy.

While food distribution is of utmost importance to Bread of the Mighty, the organization is in a position to identify other needs as well. When Marcia noticed that the coach selected detergent from the Bread of the Mighty shelves, she investigated further. It turned out that homeless students were washing clothes in the sinks at the school. Going beyond food distribution, Marcia found a way to donate a washer and dryer.

Whatever food you may have donated, you have helped Marcia Conwell and Bread of the Mighty in their mission of "changing lives, one meal at a time."

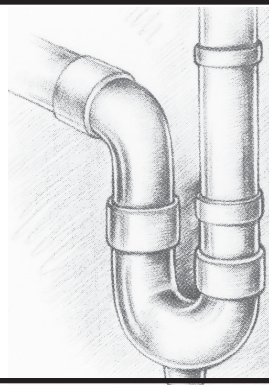


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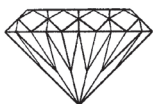
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