



## Member Spotlight: *Arza Goldstein*



Arza Goldstein

Arza Goldstein has always enjoyed working with people and their transitions. She experienced her own transition as a young child, when she came to the United States from Israel with her family. She grew up in a secular Israeli home, but participated in USY, affiliated with the Conservative Movement (and met her husband, Brian, on USY Pilgrimage in 1978).

That connection, and her closest friends who were temple members, and her children's friends who were temple members, brought her to Temple Emanuel, which she joined with her family in 1997. They were impressed by the community and it felt like a natural fit.

Arza began her career as a birth doula twenty-five years ago. As a trained professional, she provided emotional, physical and informational support to expectant and new parents before, during and after birth, and in the early postpartum period.

In 2001, Arza returned to school to earn her nursing degree and subsequently worked in the hospice field for twelve years, caring for patients at the end of their lives, their final transition. As she worked with the dying, she recognized that Judaism has wonderful rituals for "after death", but was missing opportunities to discuss end-of-life issues.

In December 2019, with the assistance of Terri Swartz Russell, Arza brought the "Death Café" concept to Temple Emanuel. Started in the UK in the late 1990's, death cafés are simply scheduled get-togethers to talk about death in an informal, café-like setting, with food and drink. The purpose is to educate, raise awareness and provide a safe space to discuss death and dying. To normalize the conversation and death itself as a part of life. The death cafés at Temple Emanuel have a Jewish theme or speaker. Even with the pandemic, turnout has been enthusiastic, with death cafés continuing to meet over Zoom.

During her years as a hospice nurse, many of Arza's patients expressed regret at missed opportunities, not having the confidence to try new endeavors or not following through on a personal or professional goal. Arza felt inspired to be more impactful. She recognized that as we live longer, we have more years and avenues to live purposeful lives. In addition to her death education and consultancy work throughout the community, Arza works as a reinvention coach with women 40+, helping them to create purpose and meaning in their third act.

## An Extra Passport

Over the past few years, some TE members have taken advantage of the opportunity to reclaim citizenship for themselves and family members in European countries that deprived their parents and grandparents of their citizenship in the late 1930's and 1940's. Some countries explicitly permit anyone who lost their citizenship due to "persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds" during the Nazi regime to have it restored, including descendants. Why would one want a passport from a country that killed or kicked out relatives? The answers differ for each person.

Rob Leikind explained, "My mother's wish for her 70th birthday was to return to Germany where she and my father were raised before they were forced to flee. So in May 1995, we packed our bags and flew to Leipzig to discover, well, we were not sure what! My grandfather's factory was still standing as was the downtown storefront of my other grandfather's store. There was the ice cream shop where my mother loved to get treats. And, of course, there were the homes where they were once surrounded by family.

Standing in front of my mother's home that housed several apartments, my mother recounted the story of entering her friend's apartment where she was surprised to see her friend's father sitting with men in brown uniforms. The friend's mother took her aside and with tears in her eyes told her she could never again come to their home. My mother sobbed after seeing that the rose bushes in the backyard had been replaced with piles of bricks. The hurt lingered for my parents- the visit did not help them reconcile themselves with the past. It brought them closer to the feelings of loss and betrayal that had been there all those years.

The experience was different for my brother and me. We understood what had happened to our family, but we were excited to come closer to our history. By exploring the cemeteries where ancestors were buried, seeing the parks where our parents played and entering buildings where family lived was like lifting a veil that had covered our past. Since then my work has brought me in close contact with German diplomats, many of whom have become trusted friends and colleagues. They've never shied away from owning their nation's history and have been dedicated supporters of the survivor community.

My family's past is my constant companion. But I appreciate that today's Germany is a liberal democracy and Israel's strongest ally. So I did not hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity for my sons and me to become German citizens. Like many Jews, I carry with me the thought that "you never know if one day we might have to flee." Hopefully this fear will never be realized and German citizenship will primarily be a vehicle enabling my sons to live and work in the EU if they choose to. At times I feel a twinge of discomfort and guilt at the thought, but on balance, I am grateful that modern Germany has reached out in this small way to help heal the horror of its and our past."

Steve Ebstein read an article back in 2011 about descendants of German Jews reclaiming citizenship. His father had grown up in Stuttgart and left as a young boy in October, 1939. The immediate family managed to escape, but many relatives perished. Steve's *Roots* fascination included reading *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, studying German in high school and college and living in Germany for a short time after college. "I happened to be in Germany for work when my father returned for his one and only time, for a visit sponsored by the municipal government for their "former residents." We visited his apartment building which was still standing and retraced his steps the morning after *Kristallnacht* where an embarrassed shopkeeper explained there would be no school that day before reaching the smoldering remains of the synagogue and Jewish day school.

I was intrigued by the prospect of reclaiming citizenship so I accessed the forms and with my father's help, filled them out. We went to the consulate in Boston and submitted the paperwork. I felt that I was taking something back that the Nazis had taken away; my father felt that the consulate personnel were encouraging this.

Since becoming a naturalized German citizen, I have been back to Germany several times for work and singing with the Zamir Chorale of Boston and I used my German passport. Entering as a citizen did not feel strange. I noted how much Germany has changed since my first visit in 1979. It has become more diverse and one of the most confident and strongest members of the EU. These changes meant more to me than that I was now a citizen.

I am glad I did it. At one of the chorale festivals I discussed it with some European singers. They felt it was a good thing to do, just in case. One more thing – my grandfather received a small pension from the German government termed *Wiedergutmachung*. I think that restoring citizenship to families driven out is a way for Germans to do *wiedergutmachen*. *Machen* means to make; *machung* is the noun; *gut* is good and *wieder* means again. These words translate to reparations and making amends, something I hope is accomplished by restoring citizenship to those who lost it during WWII."

Gene Pogany wrote, "My family is from Hungary. My parents were deported to Bergen-Belsen and went to Sweden after the war. My paternal grandmother died in Auschwitz, fourteen family members, (twenty-four according to extended family members), were also killed. No one "escaped." The only reason I applied for Hungarian citizenship was to allow my son, Elias, to do the same in order to go to graduate school in England and remain there for work. The process was detailed, involving filling out forms in Hungarian, collecting personal records like birth and marriage certificates all notarized and validated by the Boston consulate.



The Peller Family: Ethan, Jocelyn, Julia, Adam, and Ted with an Austrian Consulate staff member and their Austrian passports

# From the Gates

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**Contact Information**

Temple Office..... 617-558-8100  
 Youth Office..... 617-558-8121  
 Nursery School Office..... 617-558-8130  
 Religious School Office..... 617-558-8120

[www.templemanuel.com](http://www.templemanuel.com)

Please check our online calendar for updates  
[CALENDAR.TEMPLEMANUEL.COM](http://CALENDAR.TEMPLEMANUEL.COM)

## Community Prayer

September (Elul/Tishri) - October (Tishri/Cheshvan)  
 November (Cheshvan /Kislev)  
 5781 - 2021

**DAILY SERVICES**

Sundays at 8:00 am & 7:30 pm  
 Monday – Thursday at 7:00 am & 7:30 pm  
 Fridays at 7:00 am

**SHABBAT SERVICES**

Fridays at 6:30 pm  
 Saturdays at 6:45 am & 9:30 am

- Erev Rosh HaShana – September 6
- Rosh HaShana Day I & II – September 7 & 8
- Fast of Gedaliah – September 9
- Kol Nidre – September 15
- Yom Kippur – September 16
- Erev Sukkot – September 20
- Sukkot I & II – September 21 & 22
- Hoshana Rabbah – September 27
- Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor – September 28
- Simchat Torah – September 29
- Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan – October 6 & 7
- Rosh Chodesh Kislev – November 5

**Saturday, September 4**

*Parshat Nitzavim*  
 Bar Mitzvah: Max Carter Bat Mitzvah: Chloe Carter  
 Children of Adele and Bryan Carter

**Saturday, September 11**

*Parshat Veyelech / Shabbat Shuvah*

**Saturday, September 18**

*Parshat Ha'azinu*

**Saturday, September 25**

*Sukkot Day V CH" M*

**Saturday, October 2**

*Parshat Bereshit*

Bat Mitzvah: Zoey Steinberg, daughter of Sheryl Kalis and Adam Steinberg

**Saturday, October 9**

*Parshat Noach*

**Saturday, October 16**

*Parshat Lech-Lecha*

Bat Mitzvah: Sophiya Vacca, daughter of Melissa Jacobs and Joseph Vacca

**Saturday, October 23**

*Parshat Vayera*

Bar Mitzvah:  
 David Rosemberg, son of Lorena Lerner and Hazzan Elias Rosemberg  
 Mincha Bat Mitzvah:  
 Lillian Welford, daughter of Michelle and Jeremy Welford

**Saturday, October 30**

*Parshat Chayei Sara*

Mincha Bar Mitzvah: Moise Raphael, son of Ariel and Bram Raphael

**Saturday, November 6**

*Parshat Toldot*

Bat Mitzvah: Amalya Silbert daughter of April and Ariel Silbert

**Saturday, November 13**

*Parshat Vayetzei*

Bar Mitzvah: Zach Schwarzberg, son of Lisa and Joshua Schwarzberg

**Saturday, November 20**

*Parshat Vayishlach*

Bat Mitzvah: Mali Dotan, daughter of Jaime and Udi Dotan  
 Mincha Bar Mitzvah: Ayden Ascher, son of Lee and Frederico Ascher

**Saturday, November 27**

*Parshat Vayeshev*

Bar Mitzvah: Lior Beloborodov,  
 son of Julia Khodor- Beloborodov and Mark Beloborodov

**FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING**

September 3.....	6:56
September 10.....	6:44
September 17.....	6:32
September 24.....	6:20
October 1.....	6:07
October 8.....	5:55
October 15.....	5:44
October 22.....	5:33
October 29.....	5:23
November 5.....	5:14
November 12.....	4:07
November 19.....	4:01
November 26.....	3:57

**SHABBAT MINCHA TIMES**

September 4.....	7:00
September 11.....	6:45
September 18.....	6:30
September 25.....	6:15
October 2.....	6:10
October 9.....	6:00
October 16.....	5:45
October 23.....	5:30
October 30.....	5:20
November 6.....	5:15
November 13.....	4:10
November 20.....	4:00
November 27.....	4:00

\* Times may change, please check our website for service times.

## High School Seniors look back and ahead



Brad Chavin

Brad Chavin, a graduate of Newton South High School, wrote, “Since school in the spring of 2020 was all online, I was hopeful that senior year would be in person. To my disappointment, it was just more Zoom. More time in my room alone with my eyes glued to the screen. My teachers and classes were great, but it was a failure in the social department. In breakout rooms, cameras and microphones were turned off – no collaboration and no socialization.

But there were some positive aspects! I spent a lot of time with my dad who was working from home and I became a medical assistant in my mother’s dermatology practice. My dog, an aloof Scottish terrier, became friendlier and I got to spend endless hours playing video games with my best friend, Eyal. A highlight of the year was getting accepted early decision to Boston University where I will be a third generation legacy studying biology in the pre-med track. I was TE’s USY Co-President which was lots of fun with Zoom Shabbat onegs, dinners and outdoor lounges. School finally opened in the spring-it was wonderful to see teachers and friends and, for once, I was happy to be in school! We seniors were able to pull through a difficult year. For me the senior prom signaled an end to COVID. With graduation, I took my final bow at NSHS and am

excited for what the future holds at BU.”

Ian Kaplan, a graduate of Buckingham Browne & Nichols, explained, “This was the strangest year of my high school career. I went to school twice a week and was on Zoom for three. Every time I came to campus, something was different. My class was moved to a different space or COVID mask policies had changed. I eventually found my rhythm and was able to do schoolwork and extracurricular activities like writing political columns for the school newspaper and creating films. At times I felt overwhelmed with the college application process overshadowing everything. Applying to college had its challenges. Would test scores be optional? Attending virtual school tours and info sessions did not exactly give me a sense of the schools. Having conversations with friends attending schools I was interested in was the most helpful. It ended up working out okay. I’ll be attending Tufts University next year and I am so excited!”



Ian Kaplan



Danielle Golden

Danielle Golden recognized that COVID caused immense loss and hardship for so many. She felt disconnected from many of her communities. She wrote that “despite the negatives of remote learning and social distancing I had more time with my family and volunteered at the Brookline Food Pantry. Helping others gave me a sense of purpose when I felt powerless. My school, Milton Academy, where we usually learned around a table, switched to remote learning.

Gone was the closeness of sitting next to and across from classmates. When we returned to in-person learning, the tables were gone, lunch was moved to the gym and tables were spread out to limit socializing. I also felt disconnected from my USY community. I missed hugging friends at conventions. As Co-President of TE’s USY, hosting virtual events was a challenge, but we were creative and kept the sense of community that makes USY so special. Applying to college was another challenge. Last summer my parents and I toured many mostly empty campuses. I will be going to Vassar College where we will be on campus. I just can’t imagine trying to adjust to college and making new friends virtually! I stayed connected with family through weekly Shabbat Zoom calls. They were a highlight, especially for my grandparents. We caught up on the week’s activities and did Shabbat together. I looked forward to speaking with my sisters and cousins in the US, Costa Rica and Israel! COVID made me appreciate life and freedoms I took for granted. I adapted and found ways to connect with others. I know that I will take what I learned from this experience and work hard to build meaningful connections as I enter college and beyond.”

## Fringe Benefits

by Rabbi Aliza Berger

Anita Diamant once asked, “what’s the difference between a tablecloth and a tallis?” Her answer—just the fringes. The tzitzit.

This year, we spent a lot of time turning tablecloths into tallitot. We learned how to transform our kitchens into sanctuaries, our bedrooms into offices, and our living rooms into conference centers. And even though we found that we could—that those rooms in our home could become so much more than what they were before—we also discovered the limits of that transformation.

Just as a tallis is created by four small bits of knotted thread, we discovered that our spiritual community is made in large part by the small, seemingly incidental moments. We discovered the joy of eating in public and giving and receiving hugs. We discovered the bliss of singing together and laughing together at jokes. We discovered that shul doesn’t feel the same when you don’t walk through the doors; that even though you can watch the same service from anywhere in the world, it feels so much better to be in the same space and in the same seats.

What we once saw as fringe benefits, now feel so clearly to be core needs of our human hearts. The tzitzit are what turn a tablecloth into a tallis. Community, togetherness, and love transform a synagogue into a community.

As we enter into this new year, filled with health and new opportunity, let’s not forget the lessons of the past year. We’ve got fringe benefits. We know how to transform any space into a sanctuary. We know how to work in any environment. We know that the world as we know it has the capacity to change overnight. And more than anything, we know that the moments we once took for granted are the holiest spark of light in our lives.





# From the Gates

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### SEPTEMBER

- Monday, September 6 . . . . . Labor Day/Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Tuesday, September 7 . . . . . Rosh Hashanah Day 1
- Wednesday, September 8 . . . . . Rosh Hashanah Day 2
- Wednesday, September 15 . . . . . Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre
- Thursday, September 16. . . . . Yom Kippur
- Monday, September 20 . . . . . Erev Sukkot
- Tuesday, September 21 . . . . . Sukkot Day 1
- Wednesday, September 22 . . . . . Sukkot Day 2
- Thursday, September 23 –
- Sunday, September 26 . . . . . Chol Ha'Moed Sukkot
- Saturday, September 25 . . . . . Shabbat Chol Ha'Moed Sukkot
- Monday, September 27 . . . . . Hoshanah Rabbah and Erev Shemini Atzeret
- Tuesday, September 28 . . . . . Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor and Erev Simchat Torah
- Wednesday, September 29 . . . . . Simchat Torah

### OCTOBER

- Monday, October 11. . . . . Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day

### NOVEMBER

- Thursday, November 11 . . . . . Veterans Day
- Wednesday, September 22 . . . . . 2nd day Sukkot
- Thursday, November 25 . . . . . Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, November 28 . . . . . Hanukkah 1st Candle /  
Annual Post-Thanksgiving Concert
- Monday, Nov. 29 – Monday, Dec. 6 . . . . . Hanukkah

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Temple Emanuel will offer activities for seniors on Zoom and in person this fall. All evening talks will be on Zoom.

**Adult Support Group** begins Tues., Sept. 14 at 6:15 pm

**Memory Café** begins Thurs., Sept. 30 at 1:00 pm **In Person**

**Caregiver Support Group** – Time TBD

**L'CHAIM** returns on Tues., Oct. 5 at 1:00 pm with lectures on Zoom

**Zumba and Artful Afternoons** begin Thurs., Oct. 7 at 1:00 pm on Zoom

More activities and lecture series are coming! Email Tracy at Tracys120@yahoo.com for more information and to be added to the email announcement list.

## TE ADULT LEARNING KICK-OFF with Judy Bolton-Fasman

Sunday, Sept. 12th at 10:00 am

Join us to kick off a new year of adult learning with Judy Bolton-Fasman, TE member and author of *Asylum: A Memoir of Family Secrets*. Judy's debut memoir investigates the complicated knot of familial love, loss and longing.

## A Yiddish Connection

During the pandemic, the TE community was able to learn about various aspects of Yiddish culture, thanks to temple member Stan Steinberg and Terri Swartz Russell. And thanks to Zoom, members and friends tuned in to the Sunday night programs from all over.

As a child, Yiddish was the language spoken by Stan's mother and grandmother to keep things from his sister and him. He, like so many of us, remembers many of the phrases and expressions they used. When his son was in the Religious School, Stan spent time in the Lifson Library where he gravitated to the Holocaust books. He traveled with the TE group on the *March for the Living* in 2019 and learned about the lives of the people who spoke Yiddish. And he received a gift of the book titled *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish* by Ilan Stavans and Josh Lambert. The book was a window into the assimilation of those who came to America before WWII. At an Adult Education Committee meeting Stan mentioned the book and everyone began to share their memories of relatives speaking Yiddish and using it as their secret language. And the program was born.

The fall line-up featured the author Ilan Stavans, and Christa Whitney, director of the Wexler Oral History Project at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. Cantor Ken Richmond and Rav Shira Shazeer of Natick came to talk about their children being raised with only Yiddish spoken in the home. Cantor Rosemberg explored Yiddish music with the participants.

In the spring, Hankus Netsky, founder/director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band spoke about the near demise of and then resurgence of Yiddish music. The next lecture featured Sharon Pucker Rivo, co-founder and executive director of the National Center for the Jewish Film at Brandeis University, the second largest source of Yiddish film.

On June 18th, many of the participants reminisced about vacations and jobs in the resorts of upstate New York as author Marisa Scheinfeld, author of "The Borscht Belt", shared the history of the Catskill hotels and bungalow colonies and photos of the once glorious resorts and bungalow colonies to their current state of disrepair.

*"Vider, danken ir tsu, Terri aun Stan, far breytaning aundzer zuntik ivningz."*

Dear Friends,

As I completed my third year as president, people were still asking me, "So how has it been? Is it what you expected?" I can honestly answer, "It was sometimes challenging, not always what I expected, but always an amazing and gratifying experience, working with wonderful people."

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president and I hope I have served you well. I want to thank all of you, my Temple Emanuel family, for all your love and support, and especially during the last fifteen months. Thank you to our talented staff, Officers, Board of Directors, Trustees and our extraordinary clergy. Whether in person or virtually, I hope you will continue to participate in services and activities, and stay connected with new and old synagogue friends. Without you, we're just a building; with you, we are a vibrant community!

With love and gratitude,  
Mady Donoff  
President, 2018-2021



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Because I knew my parents' and grandparents' background, filling out forms was not too difficult. We also worked with a Hungarian translator and it helped that I retained some of my childhood Hungarian. Elias and I went to the Hungarian Embassy in Washington where we added and pulled together all documentation that was then sent on to Hungary. Fourteen months later our passports arrived. I don't think there is a good reason to apply for EU citizenship unless a family member wants to study or work there. I take no pleasure in being considered a citizen of the country of such painful memories for my family. I have been to Hungary since receiving citizenship to visit relatives there. However, I travel on my US passport."

Adam Peller and family members including his father, Theodore, and three children received their EU passports in June. Adam explained, "My paternal grandparents were born in the Galicia province on the eastern edge of the Austro-Hungarian empire. My great-grandfather was an officer in the Austrian army. As residents of Galicia my grandparents lost their Austrian citizenship after WWI and were designated Polish citizens, even though they had moved and lived in Vienna for over two decades! At the onset of WWII they became refugees again, escaping to England and then to the US in 1940. At that time they were considered "stateless." My family was not eligible for citizenship until the passage of the new Austrian Citizenship Act last year which for the first time recognized the eastern provinces. The legislation backed by the right-wing Freedom Party is of some concern to me. A benefit is that my daughters, 20-year-old Julia and 16-year-old Jocelyn and I, will be able to cast absentee ballots in future elections. As a 3G and with anti-Semitism on the rise, I have mixed feelings about Austria and Europe. Still I felt that reclaiming citizenship was an opportunity we should take advantage of at this point. On June 28th, we went on our first family trip post-COVID to NYC which included a ceremony at the consulate. We are looking forward to a trip to Austria with the whole family in the near future – it was where I proposed to my wife, Jodie."



Shabbat Alive! returns to the Sanctuary on Friday, September 3