DEAR FRIENDS,

There is an advantage to having a small parking lot. If you enter Temple Micah directly from the parking lot, you miss the opportunity to walk past the artful facade that projects our identity onto Wisconsin Avenue. These days, I have taken to entering the synagogue by walking from my parking spot behind the building to the front of the building in order to admire our banners before I start my day.

Take a look at them. You will be inspired. You will be proud. Walk by Temple Micah and see the banners hanging out front. I confess: I love them.

One reads:

Love Your Neighbor: Stand Against Hate
And the second declares:
We Welcome
All Races
All Religions
All Countries of Origin
All Sexual Orientations
All Genders
All Ethnicities
All Abilities

Each comes with a story. Jonathan Weisman’s book, (((Semitism))) Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump, is the inspiration for the first banner. As Weisman explores the rising voices of white supremacists and anti-Semites, he urges synagogues to publicly proclaim messages of love. I embraced this idea at Micah.

Equally relentless, however, are the members of the Temple Micah Gun Violence Prevention Working Group.

“I don’t think about giving up,” says Elsie Klumpner, a co-leader of the group. “To look at it (each incident of gun violence) and say there is no way out . . . I just can’t believe that,” she adds.

Meg Van Achterberg, the other co-leader, is equally resolute. “It sounds awful to say, but these mass shootings don’t surprise me anymore. I try to look at the big picture, and know that change may take many years, which, is not good enough for victims and their families.”

Creation of Temple Micah’s Gun Violence Prevention Working Group (often simply called GVP) in 2016, came about, in part because of that list, which was begun a year earlier by stalwart activist Virginia Spatz, who continues to maintain it.

When the name of Carl Day-Baker, 28, of SE DC, was printed in the program of Sept. 7/8 of this year, some 475 names had been recorded on Temple Micah’s list of “Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC,” since June of 2015.

The list is a painful reminder to GVP members but an important part of their work. Achterberg and Klumpner both stressed that one of the goals of the working group is to raise awareness among Micah members of what the violence wreaks on the city and the nation.

GVP member Betsy Broder acknowledges that she is discouraged by every report of a gun fatality, but stresses the “need to redouble our efforts.”

She said she worried that the shocking daily violence that confronts people in Washington and across the nation, violence that seems increasingly to...
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

HOW SUMMER SHABBATS ARE UNLIKE OTHER SHABBATS

By Marcia Fine Silcox

I’m thinking about Shabbat during the summer, although it is autumn when you read this. I’m thinking about summer Shabbat at Temple Micah, because like so many other efforts, Saturday morning Shabbat services are conceived, managed and led by congregants.

Think about that. From early July until late August, members of the congregation share their insight, their voices, and their support to make our Saturday services novel and meaningful. We are grateful to them, so I wanted to highlight who they are, and why they are willing to learn a Torah or Haftorah portion, lead the service, or write a d’var Torah to share. With the able help of Teddy and Meryl on the music side, these folks made our Shabbat mornings deeply meaningful this summer:


Because we often think of summer as the time to rest or escape from the rest of the hectic year, I wondered what motivated people to spend their time this way.

First, our Torah Study program goes on all year long. It meets before services on Saturday, is open to all, and often provides the dedicated leaders and readers. Many folks who participate in summer Shabbat programming have considered it a natural extension to the Torah Study. One participant called the summer services “a more intimate opportunity to engage.” These services also have great variety, owing to the styles of the leaders, chanters, and d’var Torah interpreters.

Ed Grossman, a longtime participant, said he consults the text itself, and sometimes Google, when working on his portion. Shelley Grossman uses the portion as a jumping off point, also consulting the Jewish Study Bible and other resources in her research. When she leads the service, she says, “I go over the prayers before hand and choose poems and other readings to supplement the prayers. That job has been made dramatically easier with Mishkan T’filah and its great left page of supplemental readings.”

Service leader Virginia Spatz says she can’t even recall when she first began. She has some lovely thoughts about her inspiration.

“I try to make the service I lead speak in a particular way — maybe focus on really awakening, or on comfort at a difficult time, or on what Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called the ‘soul’ of a prayer word like ‘bless’ or ‘just,’” for example.

The casual nature of the Saturday service allows for some level of creativity. In August, a service led by Sarah Swatzburg contained some simple/complex haiku tied to a difficult Torah section.

Virginia Spatz notes that she has tried out a variety of novel teaching methods, replacing large parts of the service with psalms attributed to Korach’s family, or trying to incorporate Grateful Dead lyrics into every service she has lead since 2011.

Spatz also says that it falls to the lay leader to walk us through the sometimes treacherous path between say, a community simcha, and larger-world tragedies such as the shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. She says, “I will always remember how much love and support I received from the congregation at such a dreadful time.”

Sonia White didn’t want to lose the chanting skills she learned in Meryl Weiner’s 2009 Adult B’nai Torah class, so summer chanting was a natural extension. She even taught herself to chant haftorah, and has now done so 12 times. White notes, “…by chanting and reading we are breathing life and soul into the words.” Like many other summer participants, she noted our supportive community.
The Feast

THE QUESADILLA, CREAMY LOX PASTA, AND ICE CREAM EDITION

By Alexandra Wisotsky

Summer – that relaxing time when everything slows down. Evening gatherings with friends. Fireflies. Ice cream trucks.

Except, apparently, that everyone is really busy. In searching for someone to interview for this article, I spoke to several people who wanted to share a recipe, but were particularly busy over the summer. I started thinking about how busy everyone is and decided that this month I would give you some quick and easy recipes courtesy of an anonymous senior writer at The Feast (aka me).

These recipes are some of the things that I like to make when I don’t have the time to make anything, but I still have to feed my children. (Dinner just happened yesterday, why am I making it again today?) I figure that we can all use some quick go-to recipes in our back pockets for those kinds of days.

The first two recipes take advantage of those still hot days of late summer/early fall that we have here in DC. They are both favorites in our house, especially with the younger members of the family. The dessert, Ms. Marsha’s Ice Cream Pie, came to me from my children’s preschool teacher, and one of my favorite people in the world. The pie is refreshingly tart yet creamy, and surprisingly elegant given its simplicity.

The third recipe, another popular quick dish in our house, works well for any time of the year, as it does not rely on any seasonal foods. The peas are optional but add nice texture and make me feel better about feeding the kids when there are no other vegetables in the house.

**ZUCCHINI QUESADILLAS**

- 8 large (burrito size) flour tortillas
- 1 large or 2 medium zucchini
- 1 package shredded cheese (cheddar, Monterey jack, or Mexican blend), approximately 2 cups, divided into 4 portions
- 1 can black beans
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Salsa, as spicy as you like it (optional)
- Sour cream (optional)
- Guacamole (optional)

Serves 4 (easily multiplied)

**Step 1:** Grate zucchini on the large side of a box grater. Place grated zucchini in a colander with a little salt. Mix. Let zucchini drain, about 5 minutes, over a bowl or in a clean sink.

**Step 2:** Drain and rinse the black beans. Squeeze out any excess water in the zucchini until it is as dry as possible. Mix the zucchini and beans in a bowl.

**Step 3:** Heat a frying pan over a medium heat. With a pastry brush, lightly coat one side of a tortilla with olive oil. Place the tortilla into the pan, oil side down. Generously spread some of the zucchini/bean mixture over the tortilla. Top with 1/4 of the cheese. Place another tortilla over the cheese and lightly brush the top with olive oil.

**Step 4:** When the bottom tortilla starts to lightly brown (about 1 to 2 minutes), carefully turn it over in the pan. Cook the other side until it starts to brown. Remove from pan and serve with salsa, and/or guacamole and/or sour cream. Repeat with remaining tortillas and filling.

**CREAMY PASTA WITH LOX**

- 12-16 oz of pasta such as fettuccini, spaghetti, linguini, or fusilli
- 8 oz smoked salmon
- 8 oz frozen peas (optional)
- Black pepper

Serves 6 or more

**Step 1:** Bring a pot of water to boil. Cook the pasta until al dente or to the texture you prefer.

**Step 2:** Boil the peas in a separate pot for 1 to 2 minutes.

**Step 3:** Chop or shred the smoked salmon into small pieces.

**Step 4:** Drain cooked pasta. Mix pasta, salmon, and peas in large bowl. Stir in your choice of crème fraîche, sour cream, or cream cheese, softened.

**MS. MARSHA’S ICE CREAM PIE**

- 1 Graham Cracker piecrust
- 1-quart vanilla ice cream
- 1 large can frozen lemonade

Serves 6 or so, depending on how you slice it.

**Step 1:** Thaw lemonade. Soften ice cream slightly, until it can be stirred, but has not completely melted.

**Step 2:** Mix ½ can of the lemonade into the ice cream. Pour mixture into the piecrust. Freeze until firm.
SPEAKING AT MICAH

Temple Micah features two monthly lecture series—on Sundays and Wednesdays. For more details, go to templemicah.org.

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Oct. 14 at 4:00 p.m. – David Gregory and Jeffrey Goldberg on “A Jewish Conversation” about American Judaism today. Gregory is a CNN political analyst, former host of Meet the Press and author of How’s Your Faith? Before joining The Atlantic, where he is now editor in chief, Goldberg was a Middle East correspondent and is a recipient of the National Magazine Award for Reporting.

Nov. 4 at 10:15 a.m. – Steve Weisman on his new book, The Chosen Wars: How Judaism Became an American Religion. The book tells the story of how Judaism enhanced America and how America inspired Judaism. Weisman is a veteran correspondent, editor, and editorial board member at The New York Times, and a vice president of Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Dec. 2 at 10:15 a.m. – Rachel Laser on “Church-State: The Challenges of Today.” Laser is president and CEO of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. She is the first woman and the first non-Christian to lead the organization. Formerly she was deputy director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC).

LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm

A monthly program sponsored by the Aging Together Team. Reserve online at templemicah.org. For details, contact Robin Stein at lunchandlearn@templemicah.org or the temple office at 202-342-9175.

Oct. 10 – Stan Shulman on “Team Alaska in Vietnam.” Shulman’s service as a dentist at a U.S Public Health Service hospital in a remote Alaskan town in the 70s launched his circuitous route to dental care in rural Vietnam. His colleague at the hospital, Dr. Fritz Craft, later established a free dental clinic and outreach program for the children of Da Nang, Vietnam, and the surrounding villages. He will discuss the impact of the clinic on the local community in Vietnam.

Nov. 14 – Myra Sklarew on “Through the Archives of the Feet: Holocaust Memory in Lithuania.” Sklarew, recipient of the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and the National Jewish Book Council Award in Poetry, was president of the Yaddo artist community. She is professor emerita in the Department of Literature at American University. She trod the path of her ancestors in Lithuania making sense of it through her poetry and the testimony of rescuers and survivors.

Watch for these upcoming Lunch & Learn and Sunday Speaker Series:

Dec. 12 – Stacy Cloyd on “Social Security: Past, Present, and Future”
Jan. 9 – Alan Kraut on “Anti Immigrant Sentiment throughout American History”
Jan. 27 – Diana Butler Bass on her new book, Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks
An Authoritative Presence at Our Front Door

By Fran Dauth

Metropolitan Police Officer
Andrea Latson grew up Catholic in El Paso, Texas. Later when she married, she began worshipping at a Baptist church. Judaism was not a part of her background.

But soon after she began also working security at Temple Micah 13 years ago, she found a connection.

Officer Latson, who has been with the Metropolitan Police Department for 24 years, is Hispanic. So the first thing she noticed was that a bar mitzvah reminded her of her culture’s quinceañera party to celebrate a girl’s 15th birthday, a coming-of-age rite observed in many Spanish-speaking areas of the United States.

Over the years, Latson has come to admire the respect for family and the generosity that she has seen at Temple Micah. Members, she said, are “very respectful of everyone, regardless of race, gender or preference for partners.”

Respect, and gaining it, is something Latson knows quite a bit about. She was hired on the police force nearly a quarter of a century ago as part of a campaign to hire Hispanics. Her first assignment in the 2nd District was in Georgetown where she was the only female officer and the only Hispanic.

As a firefighter, she had worked as a volunteer firefighter. She wanted a job “where I could help, something that was exciting, yet still help others.” She tried to get hired on a Prince Georges County police force but was turned down because she had not lived in the area long enough. Then the District of Columbia announced its campaign to hire Hispanics, and she got a job that has indeed been exciting.

(Today about 70 percent of the sworn members of the Metropolitan Police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ▶

Rabbi’s Message FROM PAGE 1 ▶

in my neighborhood, I noticed the “We Welcome” sign hanging in front. I took a picture and we made the banner that we now display. This sign extends our message of love and inclusion to the world. It is our contemporary restatement of Isaiah’s message, “My house shall be a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)

Torah’s message is for everyone and, in the American spirit, we strive to open our doors to all who wish to partake of the gifts and wisdom that Judaism offers the world.

These banners are outside our door, but I am equally taken and committed to the banner that has proudly stood in our lobby for a decade: Israel’s Declaration of Independence of May 14, 1948. This banner has been with us so long, it is easy to overlook. This historic document connects modern Israel to our historic past. It begins, “In the land of Israel, the Jewish people was born. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.”

Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, is, to this day, one of my favorite places to bring first-time visitors to Israel. The hall radiates with the historical significance, recalling the moment when the survivors of Europe came to know that they would have a home. The Declaration does more than promise a safe gathering place for Jewish refugees. It commits Israel to the historic ambitions of Judaism since the days of Abraham and Moses.

The Declaration clearly asserts the “universal significance” of the “cultural values” our people forged in our homeland thousands of years ago. The Declaration extends those values to all who reside in Israel as it states, “The State of Israel...will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture...”

These are the very values that are under siege in Israel today. The Declaration, in explicitly using such phrases as “all of its inhabitants”, “complete equality”, and “freedom of...culture” casts a Zionism of ethical commitments for the non-Jewish minority. In guaranteeing freedom of religion, it also, I might add, gives license to various forms of Jewish interpretation – not only Orthodox.

We take these words seriously to this day. This is the Zionism of Reform Judaism. The banners on the outside and the banner inside Temple Micah are rooted in the same prophetic texts that guide us in our own time. This is who we strive to be. This is the bond we share as committed Reform Jews.

As I said on the High Holy Days, we live in days of trial on all our shores, Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean. Now is not the time to be shy about our tasks, the urgency of our message or the strength of our commitment.

We live by all our banners. This is Temple Micah in 5779. Shalom, Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel
Nidre service and gave the sermon in one of the Yom Kippur morning services. Her 12-year-old self might have quaked a bit at speaking to more than 1,000 congregants at Yom Kippur, but 30-year-old Rabbi Crawley appeared as comfortable as she was eloquent.

Temple Micah will celebrate her appointment with a Rabbi Stephanie Crawley Welcome Service November 30. She joined the staff of Temple Micah July 1. She replaces Rabbi Susan Landau who has moved to Connecticut.

Rabbi Crawley, of course, is already known to many here. After graduating from Case Western Reserve University eight years ago, she was a Machon Micah Fellow for two years and spent a third year as outreach coordinator at Temple Micah.

“Why I was here (during those post-undergraduate years), Rabbi Zemel and Rabbi (Esther) Lederman were people I looked up to as role models,” she says now. “What I saw and heard from them, what they represented were people I looked up to and respected, particularly as role models,” she says now. “What I saw and heard from them, what they represented were people I looked up to as role models,” she says now.

At Case Western, Rabbi Crawley chose a major in international relations and political science with a minor in Jewish studies, because, she said, she believed a rabbi needed to understand the world. As she continued her studies she found she was much more drawn to sociology, in part because of a summer spent in Copenhagen where she studied migration and identity.

Following those three years at Temple Micah, Rabbi Crawley began her studies to become a rabbi at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. There Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman “was a tremendous mentor...the kind of faculty member who takes the time to get to know” a student, she said. He understood, she stressed, “my sense of my self...how I felt like a square peg.” He encouraged her “square peggedness,” she said with a laugh, and argued against being a “cookie-cutter” rabbi.

While at HUC-JIR Rabbi Crawley was one of five “exceptional” students who are chosen each year for a Bonnie and Daniel Tisch Rabbinical Fellowship. The fellowship includes a full-tuition scholarship and intensive seminars in leadership.

For her thesis at HUC-JIR Rabbi Crawley examined the elevated voice of female biblical characters in Sefer Ha-Yashar, a late medieval midrash. The text, she wrote in explaining the goal of her thesis “is unique in its narrative style, and its attention to women. On its own, the text is a privilege to be invited into people’s lives” as a rabbi, she said.

These translations, she wrote of her thesis, “represent an effort to preserve the original Hebrew text, while retaining their folk-quality in English, with a strong preference towards readability and colloquialism in the translation.

She plans to continue working on her translation in hopes of seeing it published. Her goal remains to use the midrash “as an example of how we can see unheard voices in the Torah elevated, and give modern readers tools to see ourselves reflected back in the narrative and stories of the Torah.”

She also continues to work with Rabbi Hoffman on the development of a worship center.

Now, however, Rabbi Crawley is excited to renew old friendships at Temple Micah and to meet many more new friends. “It is a privilege to be invited into people’s lives” as a rabbi, she said.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THESE NOTICES

• “New-ish” members of Temple Micah are invited to lunch Nov. 4 at 12:15 p.m. Join others who have joined in the past year or so to meet people, get more involved, or just find out more about Temple Micah. Those interested are asked to register by Oct. 24 by checking the Temple website or calling the office.

• Friday, Oct. 26 Shabbat services will feature a former resident of Micah House describe her struggles with addiction and her continuing recovery process. Additionally several former and current Micah House residents as well as the case manager will be present.
“I love Israel every time I am there. I love thinking about being there. Israel today remains a place I love as well as a cause of great worry and concern. You can ask Louise, I find myself saying too regularly about Israel: ‘They have a great thing going if they just don’t blow it for themselves.’”

“The primary issue is that the current government of Israel has turned its back on Zionism. This is it in a nutshell. If the very heart of Zionism is Jewish peoplehood—the idea that we are a far-flung people with a spiritual center in Israel, the current government has cast that idea and that commitment asunder. This is, to my way of thinking, Israel’s first anti-Zionist government.

“There is much here to account. First the record itself:

The ongoing growth in a vehement ultra and ugly nationalism. The growth in an ultra-ultra-ultra-Orthodox brand of Judaism which is alien to the historical Jewish experience....

The efforts to control the Supreme Court. The harassment and detainment of those with divergent views when they seek to enter Israel. Government sponsored confiscation of Arab lands and villages. The harassment of non-profit organizations that work on behalf of pluralism and civil society...

The current government in Jerusalem has made common cause with the leaders of other countries including those who are Holocaust deniers, stir anti-Semitic sentiments in their own countries and made public statements in admiration of Adolf Hitler....

“All of the above has combined to make Israel among the most uncomfortable topics to discuss in much of what counts as polite conversation within American Jewish circles....

“And yet, I say this evening—I love Israel even through the pain of disappointment. I love Israel because of the sense of the Jewish past and opportunity for the future that it gives me. And today I love Israel because of the heroes that are there every single day devoting their lives to making Israel a better place....

“We have been here before. We know the perils of immoral leadership. Does our very own liturgy not read: ‘Because of our sins we were exiled from our land.’....

“Yet I implore us to remain Zionists—Zionists standing on the principles of the great Zionist past. We are at one with the Bratzlaver who taught us that the world can be a narrow bridge. We stand on that bridge. We stand on the narrow bridge of ethical Zionism forged by Herzl, Bialik, Ben Gurion, Jabotinsky, Begin, and Rabin....

“We cannot abandon the struggle for Israel any more than we can abandon the struggle for America. It is not in our theological DNA. We cannot abandon that which we love. We are Jews—a people who measure time in the thousands of years. We are at the dawn of year 5779 on our calendar. Israel is 70. We are a people who know better than anyone else in human history that the past is not the blueprint for the future. If we walk away from Israel now, we abandon the field to those whose vision for Israel is a dark one.”

Authoritative FROM PAGE 5

Department are black, Hispanic or Asian, according to the department’s website.)

Latson, who had been working at one job or another since she was 14, found the first “five or six years” at the Metropolitan Police Department hard. But she lasted.

Over the ensuing 24 years, in her words, she was “stabbed, shot at, spit at more times than I can count, soaked in blood, kicked.” And colleagues have been killed.

Latson said she really wished people could see what police officers endure. Certainly, she said there are problems that must be dealt with, but being on the street is a difficult, trying job.

The reward, she said, comes when someone thanks her, even on occasion, someone she has arrested. Recently she had occasion to see letters in her department file from people who had written her bosses about her help. “It kind of made me emotional,” she said.

Today, she works at an MPD office in a unit that keeps track of and contact with people on probation because of illegal handgun violations.

Latson, who is 51 and has three adult children, will be eligible for retirement next summer. She says she will probably stay on the police force another couple years, which means a couple more years at Temple Micah.

To Micah Board President Marcia Silcox, Officer Latson is “an elegant but authoritative presence at our front door.”

When she does retire, Latson said, she’d like a job in which she greets people each day with a smile. Not unlike what she does at Temple Micah.
TIZEDAKAH
BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND
IN HONOR OF
Burton Greenstein's 90th birthday, by Susie Blumenthal
IN MEMORY OF
Norman Sablosky, by Helene Granof
ENDOWMENT FUND
IN HONOR OF
Nava Mach becoming bat mitzvah, by Dan Mach and Kim Parker
The marriage of Noah Simmons and David Tochen's granddaughter, by Esther Lederman
The birth of Mary Beth Schiffman and David Tochen's granddaughter, by Bob Dorfman
Bachorik, Jeff Passel, Mary Beth Miller, Gail Povar and Larry Judy Ludwin Miller and Jim Miller, by Myra Roney
IN HONOR OF
The Storefront Project, by Sara Schoen and Ari Appel
IN MEMORY OF
Barbara Landfield, by Susan Landfield
LEARNING FUND
IN HONOR OF
Ed and Bobbie Wendell's 50th anniversary, by Myra Roney
IN MEMORY OF
Norman Sablosky, by Anne and Jeffrey Abend, Kay Hickox, Judy Ludwig Miller and Jim Miller, Gail Povar and Larry
Bachorik, Jeff Passel, Mary Beth Schiffman and David Tochen
Albert Sherwat, by Bev and Harlan Sherwat
MICHAE HOUSE
IN MEMORY OF
Norman Sablosky, by Anne and Jeffrey Abend, Kay Hickox, Judy Ludwig Miller and Jim Miller, Gail Povar and Larry
Bachorik, Jeff Passel, Mary Beth Schiffman and David Tochen
Albert Sherwat, by Bev and Harlan Sherwat
MUSIC AND WORSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF
Cantor Meryl Weiner, by Jeff Passel

MEET THE NEW FACES IN THE MICAH OFFICE

MIRIAM SWARTZ is an administrative associate in charge of communications. She joined the office staff in June.

ROBIN FENDER is an administrative associate who assists with special events. She became a member of the office staff in July.

President's Column FROM PAGE 1

As in all Temple Micah programs, volunteer leadership ensures that roles are filled, and that there is continuity. Richard Lahne has been managing the Summer Shabbat efforts for at least 17 years, and before that, Mort Goren was in charge. I had to ask around to find out about the history, because they do this task so quietly, with grace and efficiency. Richard notes that new participants are encouraged to contact him.

Summer 2018 is in the books, as they say, and so are Temple Micah's summer leaders, readers, chanters, and interpreters ... literally in the books looking for inspiration to share. Summer 2019 seems a long way off, but they hope you will come and spend an inspiring Shabbat morning with them.
CONDOLENCES

The Temple Micah community extends its deepest condolences to:

Evelyn T. Beck, on the passing of her spouse, L. Lee Knefelkamp
Dean Brenner, on the passing of his mother, Marilyn Brenner
Owen Herrnstadt, on the passing of his father, Richard Herrnstadt
Annie Karabell, on the passing of her grandmother, Evelyn Mason Newbery
Sander Lurie, on the passing of his uncle, Robert Lurie
Ann Sablosky, on the passing of her father, Norman Sablosky
Yaël Traum, on the passing of her grandmother, Fannie Aizenberg

May their memories be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV!

Morgan Black and Jeffrey Kramer, on the naming of their daughter, Naomi Jay Black
Matt Cutler and Jessica Katz, on the birth of their son, Caleb Chaim Cutler
Lou Kolodner and Rebecca Perry, on their marriage
Andi and Melissa Mathis, on the birth of their granddaughter and niece, Caroline Thomson
Emma Spaulding and Todd Jasper, on the birth of their daughter, Lyla Spaulding Jasper
be the new normal prompted her to “test the waters of the GVP” group at Temple Micah to “be a voice of outrage but (also) harness our own energy and resources to combat this problem.

“There is such frustrating inner anger politically after each of these events, but we have to continue to advocate for what we think is appropriate.”

One of Broder’s most meaningful memories from the past year was when Temple Micah’s high schoolers read the names of everyone who had died so far that year from gun violence. “Some of these students knew these people and to hear the students recite these names, I just think it was incredibly moving and motivating.”

Spatz compiles the list from information she gets from the Metropolitan Police Department’s website and posts it weekly at SayThisName.wordpress.com.

“Sometimes I’ve thought about giving it up so I wouldn’t have to focus on the deaths as much. But, in the end, I’m committed to acknowledging these losses, and typing out their names is one of the ways that I do that.”

For Spatz, who lives and works in Southeast Washington, the seemingly daily toll of gun violence in the nation’s capital is personal.

“When Amari Jenkins, age 21, was killed in front of St. Luke’s in 2015, I was waiting for the bus a few hours after his death and still kind of dazed, so it took me awhile to realize that what I was seeing across the street was two men trying to power-wash his blood off the steps; the day after Makiyah Wilson was killed, her blood was still on the courtyard outside her home and I couldn’t help thinking how small the stain in some ways . . .and how huge,” Spatz recounted.

Makiyah Wilson, 10, was killed July 16 as she was heading to an ice cream truck when masked gunmen began firing into a crowd of about 15 to 20 people in Northeast Washington.

Spatz noted that Temple Micah’s efforts to raise gun violence awareness began before the GVP Working Group was formed. She recalled that some of the early discussions centered on that Washington, like “many other urban areas, experiences a steady stream of loss and trauma that is quite different from that of mass shootings, and the experiences of people of color are often under-represented in some of the biggest GVP efforts around the country.”

That is why, she said, the first major event of the organizers was the screening of the documentary “Shell Shocked”, about the toll of regular gun violence on youth in New Orleans. The second event was a staged reading of “The Gospel of Lovingkindness,” about neighborhood violence in Chicago.

Klumpner said seeing “Shell Shocked” led her to get involved in the GVP Working Group.

Van Achterberg, a child psychiatrist, says she has “seen how gun violence affects kids and teens I work with here in D.C.”

“I first realized the hold that the NRA has on our national discourse on guns when I was a pediatric intern and someone representing the top pediatric journal in the country came to our hospital to speak on this issue and told us after they published a scientific paper on gun violence, they gave space in their journal for a rebuttal by the NRA. Frankly, I was disgusted by the influence of the gun industry on our scientific information,” she said.

In addition to the task of raising awareness, the GVP Working Group seeks to support existing programs in the Washington area.

GVP members, for example, collected some 300 books for the Charnice Milton Community Bookstore in SE, named after the 27-year-old community newspaper reporter who was shot to death while at an Anacostia bus stop in 2015. They held two phone bank training sessions for Moms Demand Action, collected toiletries for the Wendt Center’s summer camp for children grieving the loss of a loved one, and joined the March for Our Lives organized by student survivors of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting.

“The most effective tool for our little group is thinking locally,” Van Achterberg said. “We think about the national debate and have taken some political action there, but primarily we have tried to shed light on the tragedy closer to home: the disproportionate effects of gun violence on poor, African American residents of our area.

“A major aim of our group is to help other Micah members keep our neighbors in their consciousness. Next, we have had the chance to meet those in the community directly affected by the violence and have had the privilege of listening to them and asking them what they need.

“We try not to force our agenda on those working on the front lines, but to learn if we can help them out.”
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE HAVING SO MUCH FUN?

One Friday each month, a band of challah bakers gather in the Micah kitchen to bake challot for ailing Micah members. On this particular Friday in August, the bakers were Greer Goldman, Susan Bandler, Robin Stein, Kate Kiggins, and Geri Nielsen, led by challah master David Pansegrouw. It was the irrepressible Pansegrouw who initiated the volunteer project, operated in coordination with Hineni, which identifies challah recipients. Those wishing to join in the baking or are able to deliver challot on Friday or Saturday should contact Greer Goldman. If you just like the aroma of freshly baked challah, drift by the kitchen around 2 p.m. during the next challah bake-off.
Micah Sixth Graders collect underwear items for homeless on Yom Kippur. The drive goes through October.