



Congregation **Shalom**

HIGHLIGHTS 2021 - 2022

GENERAL COMMUNITY-WIDE

- Outdoor menorah lighting.
- Parking lot **OUTDOOR PARTY** with 180 members attending.
- Many religious services were held. Many were in person, with some reverting to Zoom as conditions required:
 - » 56 **SHABBAT SERVICES**.
 - » **HIGH HOLIDAYS** were well attended, with a mix of hybrid, in-person, and outdoor experiences.
 - » 11 **B'NAI MITZVAH** services.
 - » Consecration, Simchat Torah, Passover Seder and Sukkot celebration in the Sukkah.
 - » 3 Yizkor services.
 - » 2 Havdallah services.
 - » Siyyum Hasefer and Passing of the Torah rituals at end of the school year.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Rabbinical Student Aron Wander led two discussions: **A BROKEN WORLD AND THE POLITICS OF THE MESSIAH** and a Talmudic/**TORAH TEXT STUDY** relating to Exodus.
- Islamic Scholar Dr. Abdelkader spoke to our interfaith community on **ISLAM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**.
- Caving enthusiast and investigator Chris Niccola presented **THE SECRET OF PRIESTS GROTTO**, which captured the personal stories of Ukrainian Jews who hid in the caves to escape the Holocaust.
- Lois Roman gave a presentation on the history of Congregation Shalom's Torah Scroll (Memorial Scrolls Trust). Program with **TORAH SCRIBE**/Soferet Rachel Jackson for adults.
- Monthly **TORAH STUDY** and regular **ADULT HEBREW CLASSES** were held.
- Café Wisdom met monthly with a focus on Jewish views of **CLIMATE CHANGE** and **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS** issues.

SCHOOL

- Hybrid, remote, and in-person **CLASSES** were successfully held.
- **SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES** being settled locally by the International Institute of New England (IINE):
 - » Exceeded their **TZEDAKAH GOAL** of \$1000 to help these refugees.
 - » Additionally collected over \$1600 in **GIFT CARDS** for the refugees.
 - » Hosted a speaker from the IINE to help our students **UNDERSTAND** the plight of the Afghanistan refugees and how to help.
- Created and sold buttons to earn money to donate to help **UKRAINIANS**.
- Hosted Rachel Jackson, a **TORAH SCRIBE**, for a hands-on program teaching our students about scribing a Torah.
- **HANUKKAH PARTY** and **PURIM CELEBRATION** were very successful, fun outdoor events.
- 20 **MADRICHIM** in our school program helped with Religious School and Hebrew School.

- Implemented Sunday morning **SHACHARIT SERVICES** for the Religious School.
- 6th grade **KALLAH** program returned in-person.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Worked since October with two other Chelmsford faith groups to **HELP SETTLE AFGHAN FAMILIES** in our community through the IINE:
 - » Sorting furnishings.
 - » Cleaning and setting up apartments.
 - » Delivering meals to new arrivals.
 - » Grocery shopping.
 - » ESL tutoring.
 - » Providing transportation to essential appointments.
- Conducted multiple **FOOD COLLECTIONS**:
 - » Collected food and grocery gift cards for our annual High Holiday food drive, including distribution to food shelters and pantries.
 - » Continued monthly food collections for the Lowell Transitional Living Center.
 - » Annual Halloween candy collection for US troops.
- Provided Christmas Holiday Gift Bags for residents at **CHELMSFORD SENIOR HOUSING**.
- Created **UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS** and presented the program over Zoom to temple members and the larger community. Committee members presented a live simulation of information gathered from climate scientists around the world. State Senator Mike Barrett joined in to share his view from the MA State House.
- Began planning to participate in the RAC's **VOTER ENGAGEMENT** effort for the second time. Our goal is to, once again, engage our members and the greater community to send thousands of postcards and make phone calls encouraging people to register and to vote.

SHALOMITES

- Thanksgiving Pie **FUNDRAISER**.
- Outside **PURIM "CAR" NIVAL**.
- **CREATIVE SERVICE** with amazing program.
- **SKI** trip.
- Marvel Avengers **MOVIE NIGHTS**.

FUNDRAISING

- **50/50 RAFFLE**: the winner very kindly donated the winnings back to our temple.
- Ran a very **SUCCESSFUL NEW FUNDRAISER** – a Scratch Ticket winner take all program.
- Have begun collecting items for our annual **AUCTION** that runs in the fall. Volunteers solicit and collect donations to be used in the auction.
- Had passive fundraisers like Amazon Smile and the Helpsy bin. This year we also had a **YARN SALE**.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

- Sent packages to college-age members for Purim 2022.

BROTHERHOOD

- Set up the **TEMPLE SUKKAH** for Sukkot and make **POTATO LATKES** for the Religious School during Chanukah.
- Kicked off the year with an **ANNUAL SMOKED BAR-B-Q**.
- Many social activities throughout the year:
 - » Monthly **GUYS NIGHT OUT** get together at interesting restaurants with an ethnic flare.
 - » Monthly **POKER** with pizza and beer.
 - » Several well-attended local **HIKES** throughout the seasons.
 - » Other monthly programming included **MOVIE NIGHT** and **KAYAKING**.
- Ended the year with the 20th successful **ESCAPE TO THE CAPE** retreat emphasizing biking, kayaking, beaching, music, poker, and of course craft beers and great food prepared by members of the Brotherhood.
- Annual meeting included a successful breakfast event and election of officers.

SISTERHOOD

- Kept Sisterhood members connected through the year with many Zoom events:
 - » Non-fiction **BOOK CLUB** read many books including Michelle Obama's Becoming, Gloria Steinem's My Life On the Road, and Trevor Noah's Born a Crime.
 - » Girls Night In with **GAMES** and **SCAVENGER HUNTS**.
 - » Sisterhood **COOKING LESSONS**: challah, biscotti, rugalach, and many more sweets.
- Outdoor Kick-off **LUNCHEON** in the fall.
- Alcohol ink **ART CLASS** led by an artist member.
- Annual **CHANUKAH PARTY**.
- Monthly **MAH JONG** lessons and games.
- **HIKING** all over Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
- **DINNER WITH THE RABBI**, the first event inside the Temple with food. The Rabbi spoke on the topic of 50 years of women in the Rabbinate.
- Sponsored the music and Havdallah for our temple's June outdoor party.