



Congregation **Shalom**

HIGHLIGHTS JULY, 2022 - JUNE, 2023

GENERAL COMMUNITY-WIDE

- 44 **SHABBAT SERVICES** and 4 **TOT SHABBAT SERVICES**.
- High Holidays were well attended, with a mix of hybrid, in-person, and outdoor experiences.
- 8 **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

- A one session **FERMENTATION CLASS** led by Emily Makres.
- Torah Study led by Rabbi Perry was scheduled throughout the year.
- Caving enthusiast and investigator Chris Nicola presented No Place on Earth, his **DOCUMENTARY OF UKRAINIAN JEWS** who hid in caves to escape the Holocaust. The documentary was viewed, and Chris Nicola answered questions about the events.
- Ilana Goldberg taught a six session **YIDDISH CLASS** in the fall of 2022.
- Café Wisdom led by Rabbi Perry met monthly, apart from her sabbatical.
- Tamar Wexler and Ron Michaud led a 3-session exploration of the book Getting Good at Getting Older, an informative and humorous study of the **PROCESS OF HEALTHFUL AGING** from a Jewish perspective.
- Aaron Wander led a three-session study of Pirkei Avot.
- Rabbi Dennis Ross led a study and discussion of his book, A Year with Martin Buber.
- Rabbi Barbara Symons led a Havdalah service and discussion of her book, **PROPHETIC VOICES: RENEWING AND REIMAGINING THE HAFTORAH**.

SCHOOL

- **SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR** - Sunday school met fully in-person. We were able to meet the needs of all the Hebrew School students through a variety of learning options - in-person learning, Zoom learning and some 1:1 learning.
- We implemented two elements of the OnWard Hebrew Program, **JEWISH LIFE VOCABULARY** through the weekly word of the week and Hebrew Through Movement, which is an opportunity to hear and respond to Hebrew words. Both of these elements brought more Hebrew into the building on a daily basis, allowing students and grownups to use more Hebrew words in everyday language and to hear more Hebrew, all important parts of the learning of Hebrew.
- Exceeded our **TZEDAKAH GOAL OF \$1000** to help the Mayan Hands organization.
- Held a very fun and successful **FRIENDSHIP BRACELET SALE** to support Mayan Hands.
- Hosted two speakers from Mayan Hands to help our students understand the **MAYAN HANDS** organization and the work of the women in Guatemala.

- **HANUKKAH PARTY** and **PURIM CELEBRATION** - both back inside the building this year and both fun and successful.
- Held the 4th annual Hanukkiah (Hanukkah menorah) contest.
- Held a fun, informative and interactive whole school **TU B'SHEVAT SEDER**.
- Had 15 madrichim in our school program helping with Religious School and Hebrew School.
- Continued with monthly **SHACHARIT SERVICES**.
- Our Chai Schoolers spent six weeks exploring four different Jewish values through Torah texts that connect directly to ideas of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). They explored the texts and did four different **PROJECTS TO HELP BETTER THE WORLD** (made fleece blankets, made food for the shelter, connected with an alumni in Israel, shared information about protecting the environment).
- We offered free **MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNERS** for the school community before a Family Shabbat service.
- 6th grade **KALLAH** program returned in-person.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Worked the entire year with other Chelmsford faith groups to **HELP SETTLE REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT FAMILIES** in our community through the International Institute of New England (IINE):
 - » Sorting furnishings.
 - » Cleaning and setting up apartments.
 - » Grocery shopping and food delivery.
 - » ESL tutoring.
 - » Providing transportation to essential appointments and activities.
 - » Collect and deliver donations
- Sponsored a presentation by IINE, in cooperation with other faith groups, **REFUGEES...THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, AND WHY** to an interfaith audience at our synagogue.
- 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**.
 - » Monthly serving of meals at the Table of Plenty at the Chelmsford Senior Center.
 - » Cooked and served Christmas dinner for Chelmsford Senior Housing, including live music.
- Participated in the Religious Action Center's **VOTER ENGAGEMENT** effort by once again organizing over 35 of our members and the greater community to write and send nearly 1700 postcards encouraging people to vote in the November General election. In December, we again informed our volunteers about writing postcards, encouraging participation in the Georgia Senate run-off election.

SHALOMITES

- Successful annual **THANKSGIVING PIE FUNDRAISER**.
- First indoor Purim Carnival and Shul-in since pandemic.
- **CREATIVE SERVICE** with fun and educational program.
- Ski trip.
- **ICE SKATING** trip.
- Shul-ins and Movie Nights.

FUNDRAISING

- Enormous community **YARD SALE** – donations filled much of our building and we **RAISED \$3900** for our temple. Leftover items were donated.
- **HELPSY** is a good money-maker with no work for anyone. We have **MADE OVER \$500** this year and are expecting another check soon.
- Online Auction – we were very successful this year, **RAISED \$3500**.
- Another **SCRATCH TICKET** fundraiser is in the works.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

- Sent 9 packages for Purim 2023.

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.
 - » Breakfast with a speaker on the **MUSIC OF THE BEATLES**.
 - » Several well-attended local **HIKES/SNOWSHOE/BIKING** events throughout the seasons.
 - » Other monthly programming included **MOVIE NIGHT** and **KAYAKING**.
- Ended the year with the 21st successful **RETREAT TO THE CAPE** 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 **BBQ EVENT** and election of officers.

SISTERHOOD

- Sisterhood is one woman joining with another and another to make a group that is friendly and warm and welcoming.
- This past year has still been challenging with Covid outbreaks, so we continued to have both Zoom and in person events.
- We had **NON- FICTION BOOK CLUB** on Zoom and **MAH JONG** in the temple library.
- We had **SCAVENGER HUNTS** on Zoom and we found it is amazing what you can find in your house if you look hard enough.
- We continued to learn how to cook on Zoom, but we also went out to eat on **LADIES NIGHT OUT**.
- Let's not forget wine tasting and Lunch and a Museum.
- After all the eating and drinking, we have Sisterhood walks to keep us from gaining weight.
- We ended the year with **LUNCH WITH THE RABBI** at Andiamo Restaurant in Chelmsford. That is Sisterhood's gift to its members.