



CongregationShalom

HIGHLIGHTS JULY, 2023 - JUNE, 2024

GENERAL COMMUNITY-WIDE

- Celebration of **RABBI PERRY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY** with Congregation Shalom.
- New shed installed and security bollards/boulders placed around our building.
- The **HIGH HOLIDAYS** were well attended, with a mix of hybrid, in-person, and outdoor experiences.
- Many life cycle ceremonies, our community **SUPPORTING MEMBERS** through the simchas and difficulties of life.
- Lovely liturgical **MUSIC** throughout the year, including Shpiel, Shabbat Shaband, and wonderful soloists for High Holidays and Shabbat.
- 39 **SHABBAT SERVICES** and 6 **TOT SHABBAT SERVICES**.
- 7 **B'NAI MITZVAH** services.
- Simchat Torah, **PASSOVER SEDER**, and Shavuot celebrations.
- 3 Yizkor services.
- Havdalah and **TOT HAVDALAH** services.
- Consecration and Siyyum Hasefer rituals at end of the school year.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Conducted monthly **TORAH STUDY** sessions.
- Conducted monthly sessions of **CAFE WISDOM**.
- Invited Aron Wander to teach a set of interesting classes reviewing scripture in preparation for the High Holidays.
- Conducted **BOOK DISCUSSION** on the risks of online gambling based on the book *Trapped in Pair a Dice*, written by Becky Bronson.
- Hosted a **DOCUMENTARY**, *No One Wants Us*, around **KRISTALLNACHT**, about Jews trying to arrive in the US to escape Nazi persecution.
- Offered **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** classes for 2 groups of participants.
- Hosted a movie, *Levys of Monticello*, about a Jewish family that occupied and cared for Monticello after the death of Thomas Jefferson.

SCHOOL

- A **SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR** - Religious School on Sundays found success in new structure including multigrades and having the whole school attend at the same time. Students in Hebrew School made great progress this year, mastering many prayers and blessings and forming a wonderful community across grades.
- Continued implementing elements of the **ONWARD HEBREW PROGRAM** including 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. In addition, held Shacharit Services once a month and held a few Wednesday Maariv services, allowing the student body to engage in more t'fillah, which supports the development of Hebrew.

- Implemented and carried out a very successful two-part **TZEDAKAH PROJECT** around the value of Shomrei Adama - caring for our earth. The school and the larger community collected well over 200 pounds of re-usable plastics that were donated to help create building materials that help sustain our environment. In addition, we collected enough tzedakah money to purchase a bench made from recycled materials for our temple. The bench proudly sits outside the temple doors and has already been used by many congregants.
- Fun and meaningful Hanukkah Party and **PURIM CELEBRATION**.
- Held the 5th 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.
- Our **CHAI SCHOOLERS** spent time exploring different forms of art influenced by Jewish artists, cooking some new Jewish foods, exploring ideas of God, learning about the Holocaust, and discussing ideas and topics from a Jewish TV show.
- Free monthly Shabbat dinners for the school community before a Family Shabbat service. Continued with monthly **SHACHARIT SERVICES**.
- Offered a monthly Bagels, Blocks and Beyond **PLAYGROUP FOR YOUNG FAMILIES** on Sunday mornings.
- 6th graders spent a full day together during their Kallah - creating community, using teamwork and supporting each other as they approach their B'Mitzvah year.
- In October, Grades Preschool - 7th enjoyed a morning field trip to a farm in **CELEBRATION OF NOAH'S ARK**. A really fun time was had by all!
- The school hosted a delicious fundraising Family Breakfast and sold beautiful school-made tumblers.

SHALOMITES

- Thanksgiving **COOKIE FUNDRAISER**.
- Hosted **NFTY** Northeast Fall Conclavette.
- Annual **SKI TRIP**.
- **PURIM CARNIVAL** fundraiser.
- Several other social events and Shul-Ins.

FUNDRAISING

- Good and Welfare cards **RAISED OVER \$2500**.
- Grocery cards **RAISED OVER \$1200**.
- Helpsy is a good money-maker with no work for anyone. We made **OVER \$500 THIS YEAR**.
- Online Auction **RAISED \$2500**.
- Newsletter advertising **RAISED OVER \$700**.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

- Sent 8 **CARE PACKAGES** for Hanukkah and 6 packages for Purim.

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 SCENE OF LONDON IN THE 1960s**.
 - » Several well-attended local **HIKES/KAYAKING/BIKING/MOVIE NIGHT** events throughout the seasons.
- Annual meeting with **COOKOUT** and election of officers.

SISTERHOOD

- Kickoff in October with a **CATERED BRUNCH** of quiches and pastries.
- Many activities throughout the year:
 - » Sisterhood **WALKS**.
 - » Non-Fiction book club.
 - » **MAH JONG**.
 - » Souper/Salad lunch before the Super Bowl.
 - » Weekday gatherings of **LADIES WHO LUNCH**.
 - » Annual **CHANUKAH PARTY**.
 - » Sisterhood/Brotherhood Dinner.
 - » **POTTERY** class.
- Ended the year with annual meeting /**LUNCH WITH THE RABBI**.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Organized and led a Social Justice Shabbat Service.
- Conducted 2 successful **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES**.
- **LGBTQ+ PRESENTATION** put on for the congregation by Jewish group Keshet.
- Supported the work of the International Institute of New England (IINE) with other Chelmsford faith groups to **HELP SETTLE REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT FAMILIES** in our community:
 - » Used Goods Drive held at temple for IINE.
 - » Cleaning and setting up numerous apartments.
 - » Delivered countless bags of groceries to families.
- Conducted multiple **FOOD COLLECTIONS**:
 - » Collected numerous carloads of food and over \$2,000 in grocery gift cards for our annual High Holiday food drive.
 - » Continued monthly food collections for the Lowell Transitional Living Center.
 - » Temple members baked 200 baked goods for donation to the Lazarus House food pantry.
 - » Team-assisted serving of meals every 8 weeks at the Table of Plenty at the Chelmsford Senior Center.
 - » Cooked and served Christmas dinner for Chelmsford Senior Housing, including live music.
- Launched **EVERY VOICE, EVERY VOTE 2024 CAMPAIGN** with the Religious Action Center in March, which will be ongoing until the November election.

- Held several **VOLUNTEER DAYS** at The Wish Project and also collected 65 pairs of new pajamas.
- Engaged our membership in acts of tikkun olam:
 - » Worked with Westford's First Parish Church for a **UKRAINE DONATION DRIVE**.
 - » 25 mitzvah bags were made after Shabbat service and delivered to those in need.
 - » Holiday cards were written after Shabbat service for senior living.
 - » Religious School children made cards for The Wish Project.

FUN COMMITTEE

- Organized and invited temple members to multiple fun activities throughout the year:
 - » **WOOSOX** baseball game.
 - » Creating fused glass art.
 - » Alpaca farm and Carlson Cider Barn.
 - » **GAME NIGHT**.
 - » Bike trail and bagels.