



CongregationShalom

HIGHLIGHTS JULY, 2024 - JUNE, 2025

GENERAL COMMUNITY-WIDE

- 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 8 **TOT SHABBAT SERVICES**.
- 6 **B'NAI MITZVAH** services.
- **SUKKOT**, Simchat Torah, Purim, **PASSOVER SEDER**, and Shavuot celebrations.
- 3 Yizkor services.
- Havdalah and **TOT HAVDALAH** services.
- Consecration at the beginning of the school year.
- Replaced two of the kitchen's 40-year-old refrigerators with two new energy efficient ones.
- Participated in Westford's cultural fair and Chelmsford's July 4th celebration
- Partnered with PJ Library to co-sponsor the **HANUKKAH LANTERN WALK**
- Community-wide education/art program, culminating with creation of a **COLLABORATIVE ART INSTALLATION** for our memorial garden.
- Reinvigoration of our **INCLUSION** committee.
- Rabbi Perry joined with snowbirds in Florida for a Congregation Shalom reunion.

ADULT EDUCATION

- **HISTORY OF ISRAEL** series.
- History of Judaism in Argentina series.
- Music of **LEONARD COHEN** series.
- Skills training on managing difficult conversations.
- **COMMUNITY READ** - Land of Hope and Fear.
- Conducted monthly Torah Study sessions.
- Conducted monthly sessions of **CAFE WISDOM**:

SCHOOL

- Religious School on Sundays was successful as we continue to have **MULTI-AGE CLASSES**. Students in Hebrew School made great progress this year, mastering many prayers and blessings and forming a wonderful community across grades.
- Implemented a four-week session of **JEWISH YOGA** for our older students.
- Formed Kol Kolot, a **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**. They practiced and sang at two different Shabbat services throughout the year.
- Put on a **TEMPLE WIDE BROWNIE CHALLENGE**, pitting the school versus the rest of the community to see who could donate the most batches of brownies. Thirty-six batches of brownies were then donated to the

Lowell Transitional Living Center.

- 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, we were able to hold 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.
- Our tzedakah efforts this year went towards the **ISRAEL GUIDE DOG CENTER**, which helps to train dogs in Israel to become seeing-eye guide dogs and service dogs. We adopted Tasha (guide dog to be) and watched her grow and learn to become a guide dog as we went over our collection goal.
- Fun and meaningful **HANUKKAH PARTY** and **PURIM CELEBRATION**, in which we partnered with the Shalomites.
- Held the 6th annual Hanukkiah (Hanukkah menorah) contest.
- Strong **MADRICHIM PROGRAM**, having young adults work with teachers and students to support learning in Religious School and Hebrew School
- Chai Schoolers spent time **LEARNING THE UKULELE**, exploring ideas of God, learning about the Holocaust, learning about and creating Stop Motion videos with the theme of community and preparing for Confirmation.
- We offered **FREE MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNERS** for the school community before a Family Shabbat service.
- 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.
- We partnered with Adult Education and the Beautification Committee to have Tova Speter, an artist, join our community for a wonderful morning of learning and creation around the themes of Tree of Life, Community and doing our part in the world.

SHALOMITES

- Thanksgiving **COOKIE FUNDRAISER**.
- Led a thought-provoking **CREATIVE SERVICE**.
- Annual **SKI TRIP**.
- **PURIM CARNIVAL** fundraiser.
- Several other social events and Shul-Ins.

FUNDRAISING

- Yard Sale **RAISED \$3800**.
- Good and Welfare cards **RAISED OVER \$2000** after purchasing new supplies.
- Grocery cards **RAISED \$1000**.
- Helpsy raised nearly **\$400 THIS YEAR**.
- Online Auction **RAISED \$2000**.
- Newsletter advertising **RAISED \$750**.
- Westford Academy Fair **RAISED \$500**.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

- Sent a dozen **CARE PACKAGES** for Hanukkah and Purim.

BROTHERHOOD

- Service to the Temple
 - Set up the **TEMPLE SUKKAH** for Sukkot and made **POTATO LATKES** for the Religious School during Chanukah.
 - Installed the basketball hoop in the parking lot.
- Annual fall **KICK-OFF BRISKET DINNER.**
- Annual meeting with cookout and election of officers in spring.
- Many social activities throughout the year:
 - Monthly **GUYS NIGHT OUT** get together at interesting restaurants.
 - Breakfasts at the Owl Diner.
 - Several well-attended local **HIKES/BIKING** events throughout the seasons.
- Co-ed/Family events
 - Freedom Trail walk
 - Brotherhood/Sisterhood night out
 - Special night honoring Mel Starr as he turned 90 this year

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.
 - Museum visits.
 - HIGH TEA** in Lexington.
- Havdalah **CONCERT** with Ari.
- Ended the year with annual meeting /**LUNCH WITH THE RABBI.**

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Organized and led a Social Justice Shabbat Service on **FOOD INSECURITY** with guest speaker.
- Conducted a successful **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE.**
- **LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY PROGRAM** put on by the Inclusion committee and SASJ committee.
- 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 by delivering countless bags of groceries to families.
- Conducted multiple **FOOD COLLECTIONS:**
 - Collected several 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.
 - Cooked and served Christmas dinner for Chelmsford Senior Housing, including live music.

- Held several **VOLUNTEER DAYS** at The Wish Project and also collected 10 bags for Mother's Day.
- Engaged our membership in acts of tikkun olam:
 - 35 MITZVAH BAGS** were made after Shabbat service and delivered to The Homeless Reform Project for distribution to those in need.
 - Religious School **CHILDREN MADE CARDS** for Sunny Acres Assisted Living Center.
 - COLLECTED HUNDREDS OF BOOKS** to be shipped to Ghana for school children.