

## Why Our Tables Are Always Set for Thanksgiving: The Torah's Command to Be Grateful Together



**LAURA GOLDMAN**  
CJCJF President

How many times have you been asked if you celebrate Thanksgiving or heard, "You're Jewish, I didn't think you celebrated Thanksgiving"? I'm chuckling just writing this. With great patience I respond, "It's an American holiday, right? I'm American."

I have always loved Thanksgiving. In my house growing up, the house was full and football was on the TV; there was lots of laughing, and for everyone except the unfortunate cook, it was a generally laid-back day. The only thing missing in my home was where we truly thought about giving thanks. Since Adam and I started our family, I have worked hard to

get rid of the stress and bring back the thanks while keeping every other part of the holiday.

In Israel, while Thanksgiving is not a national holiday, it is celebrated both by Americans and by other English-speaking immigrants, often by combining the holiday meal with Friday night Shabbat dinner. These celebrations feature traditional Thanksgiving foods, with adjustments made to follow kashrut. The festivities are steeped in the original spirit of the holiday.

In truth, we, as Jews, celebrate this spirit of Thanksgiving throughout the year. The Torah and tradition place a strong, continuous emphasis on communal gathering and expressing gratitude.

Even as we prepare for this American holiday, our hearts are filled with a profound and specific gratitude for the Israeli hostages being released. The fear, the anguish, and the communal prayers for their safety and return have been a continuous part of our lives. The sight of even a few of our brothers and sisters

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FROM THE CANTON JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION STAFF



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Phone: Editorial 330-445-2405

Phone: Advertising 330-445-2410

email: [snads@yahoo.com](mailto:snads@yahoo.com) • [www.jewishcanton.org](http://www.jewishcanton.org)

Ori Akrish, *Executive Director*

Chris Lange, *Editor*

Heather Hershey-Tompkins, *Advertising Manager*

Amanda Mason, *Art Director*

Fran Wells, *Proof Reader*

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## RECIPE SUBMISSION

Calling all readers! We want your favorite Hanukkah dish recipe (meat, side, or dessert)! Please submit your recipes to [Christine@Jewishcanton.org](mailto:Christine@Jewishcanton.org) by Nov. 5, 2025 to be included in our Dec./Jan issue of the Stark Jewish News. Thank you!



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# Knowing Our Origins, Living With Purpose



RABBI DAVID  
KOMEROFSKY

In November our thoughts toward Thanksgiving, a holiday rooted in gratitude, in pausing to recognize the blessings of our lives and the communities that sustain us. For Jews, gratitude is not limited to one day, it is woven into our prayers, our rituals, and our way of life. Every morning we wake with the words Modeh Ani, "I give thanks." Every meal begins and concludes with a blessing. Thanksgiving resonates deeply with our tradition because it echoes a rhythm we already know.

This month, as we read the Torah portions that introduce the Jewish people to the world, we also return to our beginnings. The Book of Genesis moves us from the universal stories of Adam and Eve and Noah and the Tower of Babel into the particular narratives of our ancestors: Abraham and Sarah setting forth into the unknown, Isaac and Rebecca building a family, Jacob wrestling with God and with himself, Rachel and Leah shaping the generations. These stories are not only about them, they are about us. They remind us where we come from, and they invite us to consider how our lives continue their legacy.

To know our origins is to live with meaning and purpose. Abraham and Sarah teach us to walk forward with faith even when the destination is unclear. Isaac and Rebecca teach us the complexity of love, family, and continuity. Jacob teaches us that struggle itself can be holy, and that a life of blessing is often born from a night of wrestling. Each of these ancestors faced hardship, yet each left us a path forward. In their journeys, we find a mirror for our own.

At Thanksgiving, many of us gather around tables with family and friends, sharing food and memory. Our American story and our Jewish story intersect: both call us to gratitude, both ask us to remember where we come from, and both challenge us to live not only for ourselves but for generations yet to come. Just as our ancestors planted seeds of faith and identity that we inherit, so too must we sow seeds of justice, compassion, and community for those who will follow us.

This November, as we read again the stories of our first generations and give thanks for the blessings of our lives, may we find strength in knowing who we are and courage in choosing who we will become. Gratitude and memory are not ends in and of themselves, they are foundations. From them we can build lives of purpose, meaning, and hope.



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### JFS Staff

**Heather Hershey-Tompkins**, *Executive Director*  
330-445-2402 | [Hhtompkins@jewishcanton.org](mailto:Hhtompkins@jewishcanton.org)

**Peggy Stabholz**, *Case Manager*  
330-445-2859 | [Pstabholz@jewishcanton.org](mailto:Pstabholz@jewishcanton.org)

**Leanne Lehn**, *Administrative Assistant*  
330-445-2850 | [Llehn@jewishcanton.org](mailto:Llehn@jewishcanton.org)



We are creating programs for you that provide education, entertainment and overall bring our community together. If you have any suggestions or would like to present a topic, please let us know. We look forward to having you join us! All are welcomed. Email Leanne at [llehn@jewishcanton.org](mailto:llehn@jewishcanton.org) or call (330) 445-2850.


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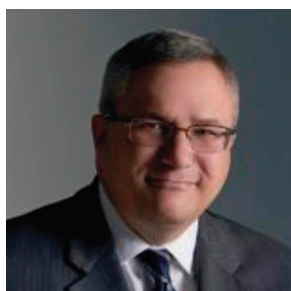
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## The Gift of Advance Planning



PAUL HERVEY

People often come to a lawyer's office thinking that the most important part of their estate plan is their will. Instead, many practitioners believe that it is another set of documents that help your loved ones care for you while you are still alive.

Many of us have experienced needing to care for our elders in their final years to some extent. Some parents need no such help, but for those that need such assistance, a financial power of attorney, a healthcare power of attorney, and a living will are essential documents in the estate planning arsenal.

If you want to give your children and other loved ones a real gift, make sure these matters are taken care of a long time before you or your spouse are of an age where your health and your mental acuity is in question. Make sure that these documents are ready in case of emergency. Keep them in a place where

the kids know where to find them. Talk to your family about your wishes (burial, prearrangements, where to find your financial information) so that they can work together to care for you – and each other – when the time comes.

I am sure that many of you are like Jan and I, who have had to deal with these issues in the past few years. Our fathers each gave us the “gift” of advance planning many years before it was needed so that we could deal with their health issues. We were under enough stress watching our loved ones age; the advanced planning made it more bearable. Please consider doing the same for your loved ones by contacting your attorney for help.



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### NOVEMBER

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This program is designed to educate people about how they can help and protect their family during a very difficult time in their lives. We are addressing the process people go through when there is a loss in the family. They need to answer questions and make decisions in a short period of time, which is stressful when people are grieving. We can provide information, and a free planning guide called the Final Wishes Organizer so people can put their wishes in writing "Ahead of Time" to make this process easier for their loved ones. The information is Universal, No Cost, and can be used with any Funeral Home or Faith.

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**ORI AKRISH**  
Executive Director

## Looking in the Right Places

There's an old story about a man who loses his keys late at night and starts searching under a streetlight. A friend walks by and asks, "Is this where you dropped them?" The man replies, "No, but the light is better here."

It's a funny story, but a familiar one. We all tend to look for answers in the most obvious places. We gravitate toward what's visible, familiar, and easy to explain. But often, the most meaningful things are found elsewhere in quieter corners, in the work that happens behind the scenes, and in the efforts that don't always get noticed right away.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about what it means to appreciate not only the milestones but also the everyday moments that make our community strong. These are the things that don't always get recognized: the late-night planning calls, the thoughtful conversations over coffee, the volunteers who step in quietly and consistently. This is the steady heartbeat of Jewish communal life.

This year, much like the one before it, has been marked by hardship. We have carried grief, fatigue, and uncertainty, yet through it all, we have stood together with strength and unity in the face of mounting challenges. We have supported Israel during one of the most painful chapters in recent memory and

brought people together across generations. Now, after more than two long and anguishing years, we have witnessed something truly remarkable: the living hostages have come home, families have been reunited, and a long-held breath has finally been released. For the first time in a long while, we see a path forward filled with hope.

Their return does not erase the pain or bring back those we've lost. But it offers renewed hope, a sense of possibility, and a reminder that healing, while never easy, is still within reach.

In Jewish tradition, we speak of Hakarat HaTov, the act of recognizing the good. It is not about turning away from hardship, it's about noticing what has helped us through it. In our work as a Federation, we see that good every day. We see it in the programs that help a child attend Jewish camp, in the resources that make our institutions safer, in the gatherings that create space for meaning and memory, and in the people who show up for each other again and again.

These are not always dramatic acts. More often, they are quiet and consistent, rooted in a shared belief that Jewish life matters and that we are stronger when we build together.

This Thanksgiving, I find myself especially grateful for those steady efforts. For the professionals and lay leaders who devote time and energy not for recognition but because they care deeply. For the partnerships that deepen our impact.

Cont'd / See **RIGHT PLACES** Page 12

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# Nurturing Cultural and Religious Identity Key to Happiness Among Jews



CHRIS LANGE

Jews have endured countless tribulations throughout history: Enslavement, displacement, war, and genocide have significantly impacted every facet of Jewish life. Yet, remarkably, in the face of persistent prejudice and suffering, studies consistently rank Jews as being among the happiest people on the planet.

## Israel among the world's top 10 happiest nations

Israel was ranked as the world's eighth happiest country in the World Happiness Report 2025, an annual study conducted by the Wellbeing Research Center at the University of Oxford, in partnership with

Gallup, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and an independent editorial board.

The eighth-place ranking itself, though three points lower than in 2024, is noteworthy, particularly since the survey was conducted after the unprecedented Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas terror attack on the Jewish State and amid the second year of Israel's conflict with Hamas and other Iranian proxies.

By comparison, the U.S. came in at 24th place. Interestingly, however, Jewish Americans report higher levels of happiness and satisfaction with life than their non-Jewish counterparts.

According to a recent Pew Research study ("Economics and well-being among U.S. Jews"), 85% of Jews in the U.S. are happy with the way things are going in their lives, compared to 79% of non-Jews.

Moreover, 90% of Jewish survey participants expressed satisfaction with their communities, compared to 81% of non-Jewish Americans.

## Religion

Independent blogger Ethan Dunwill sought to discover the unique aspects of Jewish life that lend themselves to resilience and life satisfaction in an article published by The Times of Israel titled "What Makes Jewish People So Happy?"

He found that religion plays a significant role in fostering emotional well-being and contentment. According to Dunwill, Jews experience higher levels of happiness when they "understand and remain steadfast in their beliefs," acknowledging that they are "chosen people of God, [and] precious people for whom God has always had a purpose. In that strong belief, there is a higher happiness that is pervasive and eternal."

"This faith offers a sense of meaning and purpose to life, pointing to a Divine Creator, individual purpose, and the answer to the age-old question of 'why am I here?'" The belief that one is part of God's plan "is a source of joy," Dunwill writes.

## Belonging

Renowned American Psychologist Abraham Maslow cited "belonging" as third among five categories of human needs that must be satisfied in order to achieve optimal well-being in his famous "Hierarchy of Needs" diagram.

Pew researchers found that more than eight in 10 Jews living in the U.S. said that they feel at least some sense of belonging to the Jewish people, while 7.5 in 10 agreed that "being Jewish" is either very or somewhat important to them.

Among religious Jews, worship, rituals, and holidays foster a strong sense of belonging rooted in familial and social connectivity.

"The human closeness that is regularly fostered is yet another source of happiness and joy," Dunwill writes. "No secular written guide to happiness can replace the spiritual connections that come from worship and celebration together.

A 2025 study conducted by the National Library of Medicine found that "Measures of Jewish religious observance, including religious service attendance, prayer, scripture reading, belief in God, and importance of Judaism," are "statistically significant predictors" of positive mental health and psychological well-being.

According to the findings, higher religious observance was directly associated with self-ratings of positive overall mental health, less anxiety and depression, and "greater happiness and life satisfaction."

Notably, this source of happiness "withstood adjusting" amid multiple sociodemographic factors.

## Jewish Identity

Embracing one's Jewish identity is another major contributor to happiness.

Amid the aftermath of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, which triggered a rise in anti-semitism in the U.S. and abroad, Jewish people sought deeper connections with their heritage and Jewish identities - so much so that the phenomenon was referred to as "the Surge" in a 2025 report from the Jewish Databank.

Researchers reported a 43% increase in Jewish communities "seeking to or engaging more across all engagement levels" to reaffirm their Jewish identities. The study found that remembering the Holocaust was most essential to this pursuit (76%), followed closely by leading an ethical and moral life (72%). Nearly six in 10 respondents said that working for justice and equality in society was critical to preserving their Jewish identity, while more than half said the same about maintaining intellectual curiosity and continuing family traditions.

According to a study published by The Shimon Ben Joseph Foundation, teens who place importance on their Jewish identities experience a greater sense of well-being than those who do not.

Moreover, the study, titled "Personal identity Closely linked to a sense of belonging Strength, Stress, and Support: A Portrait of American Jewish Teen Well-Being," revealed that the correlation between Jewish identity and happiness



# Through The Years

## *Looking back at the year 2000*

### Shabbat Shuttle

For the festival of Chanukah, the Shabbat Shuttle will be scheduled as follows:

**Sunday, December 5, 12:00 noon**

Shaaray Torah Men's Club Chanukah Luncheon  
Concert: Cleveland folksinger, Chuck Fink  
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### WITH OUR TEMPLE FAMILY NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2000

#### BIRTHS



Darlene and Dr. Irwin Lilenfield on the birth of their grandchildren. Granddaughters Samantha Philips, born on November 6. Parents are Amy and Frank Phillips of Canton.

### CJCC HONORS ATHLETES, APRIL 2, 2000

The Canton Jewish Community Center's Annual Hall of Fame Awards acknowledges the Jewish Center's athletes and supporters of the Center athletic programs. The 2000 awards will be presented on Sunday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Center. The program includes dinner at \$16 per person. Seating is limited. The reservation deadline is March 30. Barry J. Adelman and Jay Meiselman are the recipients of the Sanford and Jacob Furman Award. The Furman Award is given annually to an athlete 40 years of age or older who has contributed to the CJCC athletic program.



Barry J. Adelman



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Jay Meiselman



Jonathan Wilkof





# On The Road Again: J-Shuttle Finds New Home with Old Friends.

CHRIS LANGE

We bid a fond farewell to the J-Shuttle in our last issue of Stark Jewish News. The van served the Canton Jewish community for many years, having logged mile after mile of fun excursions and cherished memories.

We are pleased to share with our readers that the van has found a new home and purpose, one that serves as a testament of the generosity and goodwill of the Jewish community.

The J-Shuttle had been on the market for several weeks when Rabbis John Spitzer and David Komerofsky approached Federation CEO Ori Akrish with a proposal. They wanted to purchase the van and donate it to a local church that is doing some remarkable work to minister to the surrounding, underserved neighborhood.

The rabbis offered to buy the van at a reduced price, which the Federation warmly accepted as a means supporting their vision.

"I was drawn to this project by Rabbi Spitzer's interest in making it possible for the church to purchase the shuttle," said Rabbi Komerofsky. "I knew that the auction had not yet succeeded and thought that a combination of gifts from me and Rabbi Spitzer and the Federation's willingness to accept less than might have been made through an outside sale could work out well for everyone. Knowing that Rabbi Spitzer, and Rabbi Gorin before him, have a track record of partnering for civic good with area churches, the timing and conditions were perfect for this arrangement."

On a sunny Thursday in September, the keys to the J-Shuttle were presented to George Lancaster, Pastor of the Zion's Temple Church of God located on 7th Street in Canton.

The van will be put to good use, bringing local children to day camp and a new youth center that offers a safe and fun space for kids to hang out. It will also be used to provide vital transportation to elderly church members and bring individuals coping with diabetes to the church's new diabetes support and information center.

"They are doing marvelous things to redeem that challenged neighborhood,"

said Rabbi Spitzer, who has enjoyed a longstanding friendship with the church and its pastors dating back to the 1990s. The building is being transformed into a warm and welcoming environment to serve the entire neighborhood, he said, adding that "members of the congregation have done all of the renovations themselves."

Prior to gifting the van to the church, a small but significant alteration was made to the vehicle. A decal was affixed to its side, which reads: "A gift from the Canton Jewish Federation and the Rabbis of Temple Israel."

"It is a reminder and strengthening of the historic partnership between Temple Israel and the Church and between the Jewish community and the African-American community," Rabbi Spitzer said.

"The Federation represents the entire Canton Jewish Community, so this is a gift from all of us, regardless of affiliation or participation," said Akrish, adding that Pastor Lancaster and his community "were humbled and touched" by the gift, calling it "a true act of friendship and kindness between neighbors."

A few days after the momentous occasion, a letter from the church arrived at Beit Ha'am. The missive - addressed to Rabbi Spitzer, Rabbi Komerofsky, Temple Israel, and the Canton Federation - expressed heartfelt gratitude for the "generous support of the church and the transportation ministry."

The letter noted that the Jewish community "has been a consistent supporter" of its community-minded mission.

"We are located in the heart of the city where there is a great need for support," it read. "You are truly making an impact in our community and definitely making a difference in the world."

**Renovating a building, building a community, and building bridges of understanding.**

It was some 40 years ago that Rabbi Paul Gorin introduced Rabbi Spitzer to Rev. W.C. Henderson, Pastor of what was then known as Antioch Baptist Church

*"It is a reminder and strengthening of the historic partnership between Temple Israel and the Church and between the Jewish community and the African-American community,"*  
– Rabbi Spitzer

Cont'd / See J SHUTTLE Page 12



(L to R) Rabbi John Spitzer, Pastor George Lancaster, Rabbi David Komerofsky, and Federation CEO Ori Akrish present the former J-Shuttle to Lancaster. A special decal on the van reads: "A gift from the Canton Jewish Federation and the Rabbis of Temple Israel."



Rabbis Komerofsky and Spitzer present Lancaster with the keys to the van.

### THANKSGIVING continued from Front Page

returning home, out of the darkness of captivity and back into the arms of their loved ones and their community, is a modern miracle and an answer to our most fervent prayers. This relief is a deep, overwhelming wellspring of thanksgiving that we must acknowledge together. It reminds us of the fragility of life, the power of communal prayer, and the immense blessing of freedom and safe return. Our tables are set not just for the past, but for this moment of present blessing.

Perhaps the most prominent example of a communal gathering of gratitude from the Torah is the festival of Sukkot.

- Communal Dwelling (*Sukkah*): The temporary nature of the Sukkah commemorates the fragile shelters the Israelites lived in during their 40-year journey in the desert, reminding them of God's constant protection.
- The Harvest Festival: Sukkot is also called *Chag Ha'Asif*, the Festival of the Ingathering of the harvest. This makes it a communal harvest festival for rejoicing and giving thanks for the bounty of the land. It is also one of the *Shalosh Regalim* (Three Pilgrimage Festivals), where historically, all Israelite men were commanded to gather communally in Jerusalem at the Temple.

We also find this focus on gratitude in our regular rituals:

- *Birkat HaMazon* (Grace After Meals): The Torah explicitly mandates giving thanks for physical sustenance, which forms the basis for this central communal practice: "When you have eaten your fill, give thanks to God for the good land given to you." (Deuteronomy 8:10). This shared prayer transforms a

simple meal into a collective expression of appreciation.

- *Korban Todah* (The Thanksgiving Offering): Described in the book of Leviticus, the Torah outlines specific offerings that were brought to the Temple as an expression of thanks. An individual who survived danger (like sickness, imprisonment, or a desert journey) would bring the Todah offering—a huge sacrifice accompanied by bread that required a large communal feast with friends and family within a short time. This act effectively turned the individual's gratitude into a communal celebration of thanks.

Even today, someone who survives such a danger recites a public blessing of thanks called *Birkat HaGomel* in the presence of a *minyan*, ensuring their thanks is affirmed by the community.

I guess I never realized that Thanksgiving was my favorite holiday because its core values are truly part of all things Jewish. When we live our lives as the Torah suggests, we continually have communal meals and "Thanksgiving offerings."

Knowing this, the next time somebody asks if I celebrate Thanksgiving, I think I'll need to respond... "Of course, we've been celebrating it for 3,000 years."

After all, thankfulness and gratitude are not just about one day, but an ongoing Jewish way of life. While we are grateful for a special day to focus on this mitzvah,

I want to share how truly thankful I am for each of you in the Canton Jewish community, and for the safe return of the hostages. Please reach out, and let's discuss what you are thankful for this year!

Wishing all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.





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# Students Celebrate the High Holy Days with Joy and Reflection



**BOBI BERRINGER**  
Temple Israel  
Chadash Coordinator

As the Jewish New Year began, our students immersed themselves in the spirit of the High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot, through hands-on learning, meaningful discussions, and joyful celebration!

We began our Rosh Hashanah lessons by exploring the idea of beginnings and how this sacred holiday reminds us of the sweetness of life. During Havdalah, Rabbi Spitzer joined us to sound the shofar, filling the room with its powerful call to reflection and renewal. We dipped apples in honey for a special treat and discussed ways to

bring kindness and positivity into the new year. To add extra sweetness, Morah Poole's class made homemade applesauce—a delicious way to celebrate the season's spirit of togetherness!

During Yom Kippur, our classes focused on teshuvah, the process of returning to our best selves. Through stories, art, and meaningful discussions, students explored the importance of saying sorry, forgiving others, and making thoughtful choices for the future. Our Torah Tots created beautiful Teshuvah Trees, adding heart-shaped leaves that represented the ways they hope to grow and improve in the new year.

Our learning continued with Sukkot, the harvest festival of gratitude and togetherness. Students built and decorated model sukkahs, and our Chadash families joined Rabbi Komerofsky in the sukkah to shake the Lulav and Etrog and enjoy our annual Bagels in the Sukkah lunch.

From the sound of the shofar to the rustle of the lulav, our students experienced the meaning behind these holidays in a way that brought learning to life. We are so proud of our students for bringing such heart and thoughtfulness to this special time of year and look forward to carrying these lessons into the year ahead.



A special Mazel Tov to our 2025-5786 Consecration Students: Brit Berringer, Micah Budge, Zane Fayyaz, Aila Gamble, Abigail Henry, and Adrain Luntz!



Morah Poole's students each took home delicious homemade applesauce to share with their families and add sweetness to the new year!



Rabbi Spitzer joined the Chadash Students to blow the shofar and teach them about its meaning.



Rabbi Komerofsky led the Chadash students and families in the shaking of the Lulav and Etrog during our Bagels in the Sukkah program.



# Temple Israel Programming

## ADVANCED INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Are you already familiar with Judaism and ready to go deeper? Join Rabbi David Komerofsky for a six-week exploration of Jewish thought, faith, and practice that goes beyond the basics. Each session will dive into classic and contemporary questions at the heart of Jewish life — belief and doubt, ritual and meaning, identity and community. Through discussion and reflection, participants will wrestle with the enduring questions that make Judaism both timeless and alive. This class is ideal for those who have completed a basic Introduction to Judaism, are considering conversion, or simply want to enrich their understanding of Jewish life and learning. All are welcome — Jewish or not, by birth or by choice, seeker or skeptic.

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 PM in the Beit Ha'am Library and online beginning January 14, 2026. Register now at: [www.templeisraelcanton.org/advanced-intro](http://www.templeisraelcanton.org/advanced-intro).

## TEMPLE ISRAEL PLANNING TRIP TO ISRAEL IN 2026

"Israel Through the Eyes of Klal Yisrael" will be led by Rabbi David Komerofsky from February 23 - March 3, 2026. A Few highlights of the trip will include: Jerusalem, The Old City and Western Wall, Yad Vashem, a Shabbat experience at Hebrew Union College, Tel Aviv, ANU Museum of the Jewish People, Jaffa, Masada, The Dead Sea, Tsfat, Galilee, Western Galilee, and more.

The educational focus of this trip is global Jewish peoplehood through a Reform lens. If you are interested to learn more and get updates when registration is live, contact Rabbi Komerofsky at [rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org](mailto:rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org) or 330-445-2406.

## RIGHT PLACES continued from Page 6

For the donors who trust in our mission and for the community members who remind us why it matters. And for the simple truth that we are never doing this work alone.

As we gather with friends and family, I hope we can all take a moment to reflect on what has carried us forward, not just the visible successes, but the quiet strength, shared purpose, and deep connections that form the foundation of our community.

To all who give, build, organize, advocate, and support: thank you. What we create together is not only meaningful but also lasting. And it reflects the best of who we are and who we hope to become.

For all of it, for life, for community, and for the future we continue to shape together here in Canton, I am truly thankful to be part of this story.

## HAPPINESS continued from Page 7

was consistent across each dimension of well-being analyzed in the research: engagement, perseverance, optimism, connectedness, and happiness.

Survey respondents said that "the relationships they experienced with their peers in Jewish teen programs" were highly influential in "helping them feel like they could be their full, authentic selves."

### Investing in One Another

The word "resilient" is frequently used to describe the Jewish people. Generations have borne witness to the remarkable tenacity of Jews in the face of unimaginable tribulations.

The referenced studies offer unique insight into this phenomenon, indicating that Jewish identity and connectivity are far greater predictors of happiness among Jews than circumstance.

"Happiness isn't just about wealth or growth — it's about trust, connection and knowing people have your back," said Gallup CEO Jon Clifton. "If we want stronger communities...we must invest in what truly matters: each other."

## J SHUTTLE continued from Page 9

on Seventh Street NW. The two men discovered that they shared a deep passion for helping and serving the local community. From there, they developed a friendship that lasted until Pastor Henderson's death in 2010.

Through this connection, early on, members of the Temple Israel youth group, then under the leadership of Shelly Schweitzer, volunteered to help with Antioch's community youth camp program called Seventh Street Heaven Day Camp.

"One day, I got a call from Rev. Henderson who said that the church needed a bus," Rabbi Spitzer recalled. In this case, the transportation need was met through the generosity of the Lockshin family and Ohio Bus Co.

Over the years, Antioch Baptist Church moved out of the Seventh Street building, which was then taken over by Zion's Temple Church of God, led by Pastor George Lancaster. Lancaster and his members have a vision for neighborhood development and have been working tirelessly to make it a reality. Temple Israel has supported this mission of community development.

Recently, Ellen Mann and her brothers provided the church with two stairlifts needed to bring individuals to the diabetic center located in the church's basement, many of whom could not access the facility due to foot and leg complications associated with the disease.

The Temple Israel Habitat Trim Team and members of the Temple Sisterhood are considering how they can partner with church members making the renovation projects into real interfaith experiences.



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**CJCF Endowments**  
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In Honor of the Wedding of Alan & Meg Rudick's Son, Steven from Linda & Howard Smuckler  
In Honor of the Baby Naming of Alan & Meg Rudick's Granddaughter, Kelilah Rae Rudick from Paulette Karelitz

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**  
In Honor of the Marriage of Freddie & Taryn Rapport from Jan & Jonathan Miller  
In appreciation for the leadership of John Strauss as Federation President." from Bonnie & Steve Manello

**Life Cycle Events**

**DEATHS**  
**Ronald Wilkof**, passed away on 26, 2025. He is survived by his wife Ruthanne, his children Tyler and Brittany (Chris) Butts, and grandchildren Nora and Nash.

**Larry Schwartz**, father of Eileen Saltarelli, passed away on Wednesday, October 22. In addition to Eileen, he is survived by daughter Carol and son David; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

**HANUKKAH RAFFLE 2025**



Shaaray Torah Synagogue's annual fundraiser is the Hanukkah raffle from December 14 through December 22.

With the rise of antisemitism, it has become more challenging to cover the cost of security for services, life-cycle events, educational forums and other special programs. Purchasing an additional ticket, or even a half ticket, will make a significant impact in our efforts to keep our community safe and our building secure.

The ticket price is \$100. There will be 8 winners. One ticket will be drawn for each day of Hanukkah. The first day will pay \$1000. The second through seventh days will pay \$400. The last day will pay \$1000.

**To allow more winners, we will not re-enter winning tickets in to the raffle.**  
The Board of Directors of Shaaray Torah Synagogue would like to thank you for your continued support of our annual raffle

To purchase tickets, please mail your check made payable to Shaaray Torah Synagogue, 432 Thirtieth Street NW, Canton, OH 44709. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Magill at (330) 805-7726.

NOVEMBER		
Saturday, November 1	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Whitehill Bat Mitzvah
Sunday, November 2	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Intro to Judaism
Tuesday, November 4	9:00 A.M. – Noon	JFS Adult Program
Wednesday, November 5	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Adult Ed: Jewish Dilemmas
Friday, November 7	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, November 8	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Sunday, November 9	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Intro to Judaism
Wednesday, November 12	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Adult Ed: Jewish Dilemmas
Friday, November 14	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, November 15	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Sunday, November 16	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Intro to Judaism
	5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Sisterhood Chadash FUNraiser
Tuesday, November 18	7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	Temple Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 19	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Adult Ed: Jewish Dilemmas
Thursday, November 20	2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Yiddish Club
	7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Federation Board Meeting
Friday, November 21	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, November 22	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Sunday, November 23	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Intro to Judaism
Tuesday, November 25	7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving	Administrative Offices Closed
Friday, November 28	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, November 29	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service

DECEMBER		
Friday, December 5	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 6	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 7	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
Wednesday, December 10	9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	JFS Adult Program
Friday, December 12	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 13	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 14	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
Sunday, December 14	9:00 A.M. – TBD	TI Sisterhood Meeting
Tuesday, December 16	7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, December 18	2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Yiddish Club
Friday, December 19	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 20	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Thursday, December 25	Administrative Offices Closed	
Friday, December 26	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 27	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service



**Keep Jewish life strong in the Canton community and around the world.**

Your contribution can ensure a better future for our next generations with your support of the Jewish Community Federation now and through your estate plan.

Your bequest or other planned giving provides resources to enrich Jewish life and to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

**For information about bequests or other planned giving call the Federation office at 330-445-2404.**

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AGUDAS ACHIM  
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## AGUDAS ACHIM

Orthodox

**Saturday, November 1**  
*Shabbos Parshas Lech-Lecha*  
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:30 a.m.  
Earliest Mincha 1:39 p.m.  
Shabbos ends 7:04 p.m.  
Maariv 7:15 p.m.  
Havdalah 7:34 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 2**  
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.  
**Tuesday, November 4**  
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.  
Thursday, November 6  
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, November 7**

Mincha & Kabbalas  
Shabbos 4:55 p.m.  
Candle lighting 4:56 p.m.  
Sunset 5:14 p.m.  
**Saturday, November 8**  
*Shabbos Parshas Vayeira*  
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.  
Earliest Mincha 12:39 p.m.  
Shabbos ends 5:56 p.m.  
Maariv 6:10 p.m.  
Havdalah 6:26 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 9**  
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.  
Shacharis 8:00 a.m.  
**Tuesday, November 11**  
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.

**Thursday, November 13**  
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, November 14**  
Mincha & Kabbalas  
Shabbos 4:45 p.m.  
Candle lighting 4:49 p.m.  
Sunset 5:07 p.m.  
**Saturday, November 15**  
*Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sara*  
*Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh*  
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.  
The Molad (new moon) for the month of Kislev:  
Thursday (November 20) 1:38 p.m. + 9 chalakim

Earliest Mincha 12:40 p.m.  
Shabbos ends 5:51 p.m.  
Maariv 6:05 p.m.  
Havdalah 6:19 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 16**  
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, November 18  
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.  
**Thursday, November 20**  
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, November 21**  
*Rosh Chodesh Kislev*  
Mincha & Kabbalas  
Shabbos 4:40 p.m.  
Candle lighting 4:44 p.m.  
Sunset 5:02 p.m.

**Saturday, November 22**  
*Shabbos Parshas Toldos*  
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.  
Earliest Mincha 12:42 p.m.  
Shabbos ends 5:47 p.m.  
Maariv 6:00 p.m.  
Havdalah 6:14 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 23**  
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.  
**Tuesday, November 25**  
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.  
**Thursday, November 27**  
No Torah Class  
Thanksgiving Day  
**Friday, November 28**  
Mincha & Kabbalas

Shabbos 4:35 p.m.  
Candle lighting 4:41 p.m.  
Sunset 4:59 p.m.  
**Saturday, November 29**  
*Shabbos Parshas Vayeitzei*  
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.  
Earliest Mincha 12:44 p.m.  
Shabbos ends 5:44 p.m.  
Maariv 5:55 p.m.  
Havdalah 6:11 p.m.  
**Sunday, November 30**  
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

\* = Zoom



## SHAARAY TORAH

Conservative

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**Saturday, November 1**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. in Library due to Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Whitehill (In-Person; Zoom)  
**Sunday, November 2**  
Daylight Saving Time Ends – Turn clocks back one hour!  
**Monday, November 3**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Tuesday, November 4**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*

**Wednesday, November 5**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Thursday, November 6**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Friday, November 7**  
Candles 4:59 p.m.  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Saturday, November 8**  
Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)  
**Monday, November 10**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*

Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Tuesday, November 11**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Wednesday, November 12**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Thursday, November 13**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Friday, November 14**  
Candles 4:52 p.m.  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Saturday, November 15**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)

**Monday, November 17**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Tuesday, November 18**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Wednesday, November 19**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Thursday, November 20**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Friday, November 21**  
Candles 4:47 p.m.  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*

**Saturday, November 22**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)  
**Monday, November 24**  
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.\*  
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Tuesday, November 25**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m. at Beit Ha'am

**Wednesday, November 26**  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Thursday, November 27**  
Happy Thanksgiving! No Services!!  
**Friday, November 28**  
Candles 4:44 p.m.  
Evening Service 5:30 p.m.\*  
**Saturday, November 29**  
Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)



## TEMPLE ISRAEL

Reform

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**Saturday, November 1**  
No Stollen Moments Torah Study  
Sadie Whitehill Bat Mitzvah  
**Friday, November 7**  
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat  
6:15 p.m. Kid-dish Shabbat Service  
Led by Rabbi David

Komerofsky and Suzanne Stieglitz  
**Saturday, November 8**  
10:00 a.m. Stollen Moments Torah Study  
We will be piloting the forthcoming New Reform Torah Commentary this week

**Friday, November 14**  
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat  
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service  
Led by Rabbi David Komerofsky and Suzanne Stieglitz  
With monthly birthday and anniversary blessings

**Saturday, November 15**  
10:00 a.m. Stollen Moments Torah Study  
Genesis 25:1-18  
**Friday, November 21**  
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat  
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service  
Led by Rabbi David Komerofsky and Suzanne

Stieglitz  
Torah Reading (Genesis 26:12-29)  
**Saturday, November 22**  
10:00 a.m. Stollen Moments Torah Study  
Genesis 28:1-9  
**Friday, November 28**  
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service  
Led by Rabbi David Komerofsky and Suzanne Stieglitz  
**Saturday, November 29**  
No Stollen Moments Torah Study





MARY DONNA  
RUBIN

## A Time to Give Thanks—For Blessings, Freedom, and Each Other

Our High Holidays are officially over. They are beautiful, meaningful, and always memorable! I wish all of you a sweet, healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Fortunately, our beautiful American holiday, Thanksgiving, is right around the corner.

Please take a minute, and reflect on this question. What does Thanksgiving mean to YOU? Is it more family get-togethers, days off work, or a time to reflect on all the things for which you are thankful?

I think that right now, all of us are grateful, thankful, and relieved that our hostages are FREE! Now, they can begin to heal, and feel the warm embraces of

their loved ones. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks, again, for our many blessings.

As is true of most holidays, there are special foods that are traditional for

each holiday. In this issue, I am sharing two recipes that go hand in hand with Thanksgiving. One is Thanksgiving Dressing/Stuffing made with....you guessed it, Challah Bread. The other recipe I am sharing is a how to roast a whole fresh turkey.

Challah Bread, whether fresh, frozen or stale makes the best stuffing. You can make it ahead of time or cook it at the same time you are cooking your turkey.

Before I list the recipe preparations, my final note is this: please look at the word "Thanksgiving." Reverse the two root words, and you have the best "Life Recipe" anyone could give you: giving thanks!

Giving thanks to G-D, to life, to health, to friends, for family, to children and grandchildren, to the beautiful array of fall colors we see daily, to beautiful snowfalls, to friendships, to the stranger who greets us with a smile, and to those who are givers.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and I thank you, our readers, for allowing us to present the Stark Jewish News to you.



### ROAST WHOLE FRESH TURKEY

#### For the cavity:

- One whole orange, peel on, quartered.
- Celery leaves
- Fresh Rosemary leaves
- Fresh thyme leaves
- A poultry seasoning bouquet of flavors
- Fresh parsley
- 2-3 whole garlic cloves
- 1 whole onion, quartered
- Sage leaves or flakes

#### For the outside of the turkey:

- Margarine or plant-based butter to taste, melted
- One carton of kosher chicken broth, plus more for basting
- Use the following dry seasonings to taste: garlic powder, onion powder, sage, rosemary, thyme, and paprika

#### Preparation:

1. Place oven rack in lowest position
2. Heat oven to 325-350 degrees
3. Remove giblets from turkey, keeping the neck inside cavity.
4. Rinse thawed turkey and pat dry with paper towels.
5. Place orange, celery leaves, seasonings, garlic, and onion inside cavity.
6. Rub breast with melted margarine or plant-based butter and season with the dried herbs.
7. Add chicken broth to bottom of pan.
8. Tent with foil or cover with roaster lid.
9. Cook twenty minutes per pound (or follow directions on turkey packaging), occasionally pouring additional broth over the turkey to keep moist.
10. Uncover one hour before end of cooking time to brown (you can re-cover if the turkey becomes too brown).
11. Cook until meat thermometer registers "cooked".
12. Remove from pan. Let stand about 5 minutes. Slice, serve, and enjoy!!!



### CHALLAH BREAD DRESSING/STUFFING

#### Ingredients:

- 1 one-lb. loaf of Challah bread cut in ½-inch cubes
- 4 celery stalks with leaves, diced (about 1 ½ cups)
- 2 large onions, diced (about 2 cups) You can use more if you like.
- ½ C. chopped, flat leaf parsley (fresh or flakes)
- 2 tsp. of thyme (fresh or flakes)
- 1 tsp. rosemary flakes (optional)
- 3 Tbs. (or to taste) of sage seasoning or chopped sage
- 1 stick margarine, or plant-based butter (non-dairy)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 Tbs. salt (optional)
- Juice from ½ lemon (optional)
- Fresh black pepper to taste
- 2 C. chicken broth or chicken stock
- 2 medium apples, diced (optional)

#### Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease a 13x9 casserole pan or aluminum pan.
3. Melt the butter or margarine in a sauté pan over medium heat.
4. Add the onion, celery, sage, rosemary, a pinch of salt, and some black pepper.
5. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft (about 10 minutes).
6. In a large mixing bowl, combine the Challah pieces, diced apples (if used), parsley, celery-onion mixture, and all dried spices.
7. In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, chicken broth, salt, and lemon juice. Add to the bread mixture. Toss and mix well with spoon (not a mixer).
8. Pour this dressing mixture into the prepared casserole pan.
9. Bake covered for about 20-25 minutes. Remove the foil, and continue to bake for an additional 35-40 minutes, until the top is brown and most of the liquid has evaporated. Serve Warm