

# *The Scribe*



TEMPLE EMANU-EL  
DOTHAN, AL

February 2025

Shevat 3 - Shevat 30, 5785







# THE RABBI'S STUDY

## Rabbi Jonathan L. Jackson



### Vayechi

I had this weird thought both of the times that I lived in Israel, which was that if I die here in Israel please do not let me be buried here. Maybe that surprises you. It's not an uncommon cultural trope or religious desire to hear that Jews want to be buried in the land of Israel. For me, and for many whom I have counseled in the last moments and years of their lives, one imagines resting in the place we call home, among roots or family or some such familiarity. I myself want to be buried where I was born, near the cold Atlantic. I'm honestly not sure where that thought came from back in Israel, both times for me living there—this thought as I stood in the land of my deep ancestry, the land that my grandparents and great grandparents could not reach. *Parashat Vayechi* teaches us, yet again, how beautifully complicated it is to be Jewish—a person of many cultures, times, and places all at once, both an individual and a nation. And it also highlights the need both for individual choice and for belonging in community.

Listen again to the words of *Parashat Vayechi*: *And when the time approached for Israel to die, he summoned his son Joseph and said to him, "Do me this favor, place your hand under my thigh as a pledge of your steadfast loyalty: please do not bury me in Egypt. When I lie down with my ancestors, take me up from Egypt and bury me in their burial-place." He replied, "I will do as you have spoken." And he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. Then Israel bowed at the head of the bed (Gen. 47:28-31).*

In the biblical civilization of Judaism, we refer to death as "being gathered to one's ancestors." What that used to mean is that when we passed on, our bones or earthly remains would lie with those physical remains of our ancestors, in the very place where their loved ones laid them to rest. That laying to rest, that gathering to one's ancestors meant literally, in an ossuary or bone box. And in those very ancient times, well before Avram of Ur, those bones were kept where the living would gather together to eat each day. So, in our most ancient layers of our Jewish civilization, we literally lived among the dead and the dead rested among the living. If we extend this concept forward to how we practice Judaism today, we have come to understand this **יצרור בצרור החיים**, this being bound up eternally in the bundle of eternal life, to mean that our breaths return into the breath of Gd, our work in the world rippling among those who survive us, our life energy subject to eternal existence according to the scientific laws conservation of matter and energy, and the gift of memory intertwining all of it.

Jews are complex in the world today. The world can't always handle such contradiction and complexity of identity and culture. Sometimes, maybe often, sadly, the world argues against the Jews violently. We are contradictorily part of many groups, families, and places as Jews—like me sojourning in Israel, my thoughts turned to still feeling away from home, even as, being a Jew, I am legitimately part of my deep ancestral native land in Israel. The place where our ancestors' bones are gathered and come to rest is a matter of choice even as it is a matter of truth.

In essence, you can be complicated and contradictory as a Jew. Yours are deep roots and new belonging, but neither denies your Jewishness nor the completeness thereof. Yours is individual choice as an undeniable member of the ancient People Israel, wherever you desire your bones to rest. But I ask to reflect not on your end, but on what such musings about your end and place of rest teach you about where you are, where you have been, and where you are going in life. Just don't be afraid when the pieces of you, of your journey, and your heritage conflict—that's actually being human, honest, and living well.



# YAHRTZEIT OBSERVANCES

## February 7

William Nomberg  
Anna Cohen  
Kate G. Price  
Clement Shugerman  
Mary Nomberg  
Nathan Greenberg  
Sarah Ray Robinowich  
Jerry L. Parker

## February 14

Bailey Kraselsky  
Shirley Schwartz Barenbaum  
Phyllis Sukoff  
Mark Lewis  
Dorothy Martin  
Irving Angel  
Abraham Berman  
Ida D. Robinowich  
Morris Turner  
Sandra Lee Greenberg  
Anna Bashuk  
Mary Turner  
Sidney Bernard Katz  
Jean Grossman  
Henrietta Meyers Kraselsky  
Lynn Hanna Makara

## February 21

Charles Schwartz  
Samuel Schreiber  
Meyer Cohen  
Robert E. Price  
Philip Rudderman  
Amelia Crine

## February 28

Frank Turner  
Rachel Abel  
Emanuel Crine  
Meyer John Becker  
Nathan Kraselsky

*Shloshim*

*Regina Stevens*

*May the beauty of their lives shine forever, and may we always bring honor to their memories."*



# SIMCHAT SHABBAT

## FEBRUARY 2025

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

13 - CAL BLAISDELL  
13 - SADIE ANNA FELDMAN  
17 - LEIGH WILLENS  
22 - MITCHELL BLOCK  
25 - SUSAN N. BLUMBERG

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

26 - BARRY & DONA KRASELSKY

SIMCHAT SHABBAT IS TYPICALLY CELEBRATED ON THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

## MI SHEBERACH

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

EDA FELDMAN  
PETER FELDMAN  
SARA LOZANO  
GILBERT LOZANO  
MIKE STUFFEL  
KATHY STOUT  
JINIESE CRAWFORD  
MARCUS WOODWORTH  
ADAM JETTER  
JUDY ANN DEAL  
DEAN MITCHELL  
GABE TUFANO  
PHILLIP RAY

JANE YECHeli  
JOE RUGGIERO  
EDDA BECK-GILMORE  
ERIC GILMORE  
BEVERLY BUGDA  
ALLEN MANNING  
PAT GLAZER  
DOTTIE BROWN  
DEBRA SANSONE  
BERYL COSSIN  
LISA HOLLAND  
ROBERTA MARBLESTONE  
STACY GRANGER

STEPHEN HOLLAND  
LENARD CARROLL  
PATRICIA FRANCIS  
PAT WOOD  
ROSE CANIGLIA  
STEPHANIE OWENS  
JANICE STEFFEN



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL TZEDEKAH, MITZVAHS & MAZELS

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL GENERAL FUND

Dianna Sue Bryant

Robert Hoff

Susan & Leslie Blumberg  
In memory of Dr. Charles Kraselsky

Gary Wakstein

## CEMETERY FUND

Beth, Steven Schaffer  
Yahrzeits of Fannie Polis,  
Joel Schaffer, Lillian Rosen



## FROM THE SISTERHOOD

*I can't believe half a year has already passed! Just a friendly reminder that Onegs (following the weekly Shabbat services) are supplied by the Sisterhood members, resulting in a relaxing evening. The Sisterhood membership obligation is supplying two Onegs a year. Hopefully, we will all work together for a successful, fun sisterhood!*

*- Mary Miller, President of the Sisterhood*



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee and members of Temple Emanu-El would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members!

*Brianna Kramer  
Sophia Chua-Rubinfeld & Issac Bravo  
HaileAnn Ray & Benjamin Martin*



# FEBRUARY '25

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					JAN 31  Shabbat Shira Song of the Sea 7 pm	01 Morning Service - Shabbat Shira 9:30 am <b>Empty Bowls Charity</b>
02	03	04	05	06	07 Chanting Service 6:15 pm  Shabbat Services 7 pm	08 Torah Study 10:30 am
09	10	11	12	13 Tu Bishvat  Novosel Ma'ariv Service & Pizza* 6:30pm-8pm	14 Shabbat Services** 7 pm	15 Tu Bishvat Luncheon Seder 11am-12pm
16	17	18	19	20	21 Chanting Service 6:15 pm  Shabbat Services 7 pm	22 Torah Study 10:30 am
23	24	25	26	27  Novosel Ma'ariv Service & Pizza* 6:30pm-8pm	28 Rosh Chodesh Adar  Shabbat Services 7 pm	

## NOTES

Feb. 1 - **In place of Torah Study**, members will be participating in the Empty Bowls Charity

Feb. 15 - Torah Study is cancelled in lieu of the Seder Meal

\*Fort Novosel Services held at Wings Chapel

\*\*Parashat Yitro - Reading of 10 Commandments

## SAVE THE DATE!

Purim is Friday, March 14

Potluck, Service, and Purim Spiel



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL LEADERSHIP 2024-2025



## BOARD OFFICERS

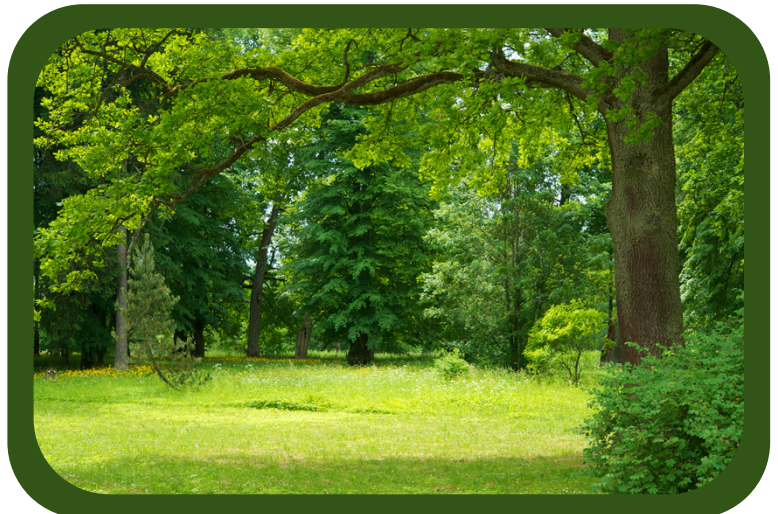
PRESIDENT	STEPHEN HOLLAND (334) 797-0134
VICE PRESIDENT	LARRY PADRO
TREASURER	LARRY BLUMBERG
SECRETARY	JOSHUA LESSIN

## CLERGY

RABBI	JONATHAN LEE JACKSON (781) 206-7939
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## BOARD TRUSTEES & LIAISONS

BOB BARBER	SUSAN S. BLUMBERG
LES KRAUT	BILL MILLER
IRA SUKOFF	BARBARA MINSKY, PH.D.
DR. STEFAN ZWEIG	LUCIA SUKOFF
PAMELA ROSS	



## TEMPLE OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am-12:30 pm  
Secretary: Susan Griffin  
(334) 792-5001

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dothansynagogue.org