FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Kudos, Thanks and a Sad Note

On Sunday, May 22, Rabbi David was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. It was a well-deserved honor for our very own Torah scholar. Usually, when members ask me which fund they should donate to, I mention the General Fund, as it gives us the greatest flexibility in using the contributions. This time, however, I’d like to recommend that anyone who is considering a donation make it to either the Rabbi’s Professional Development Fund or the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund in recognition of his honor.

The Professional Development Fund can be used by the Rabbi to purchase books, attend seminars, etc. The Discretionary Fund is used by the Rabbi as he wishes to make contributions to social justice causes and to help fund Temple-related activities. Contributions to either Fund would be a fitting recognition of Rabbi David’s accomplishments.

As those of you who read these notes know, I often use this space to thank people. And as I’ve said in the past, we are basically a volunteer organization and depend on people to step up….which many of you do. While the Rabbi was in Philadelphia to accept his Honorary Degree, a relatively new member of our community – Devante Lockett – volunteered to lead Friday evening services. Thank you, Devante. Young folks such as Devante will be a major part of Temple Israel in the years to come, and we are so grateful to see them participate, whether by coming to services and/or volunteering.

Of course, we do have a small staff on whom we greatly rely: Nicole Widdes as our Administrative Assistant; Mona Cheslak as Bookkeeper; Andrea Buck as Youth Education Director; Marko Jukic as Building Supervisor; and Jeanne Kogl as Kitchen Supervisor. All of them go above and beyond to make our institution work. But I want to single just one of them out this month: Nicole Widdes.

On a sadder note, our wonderful bookkeeper of more than 10 years, Mona Cheslak, will soon be retiring as she is facing some health issues. We are in the process of interviewing candidates to take
her place, although we know no one really can take her place. There will be more to come on this, but if you are waiting on a check that is taking a bit longer than usual to be processed, or if your dues account is not quite up to date, please bear with us.

The Board has been kept abreast of this situation and is also working through a potential renting of our Annex to a pre-school program. The details have not yet been finalized, but if all goes according to plan, we will be putting our Annex to a wonderful, community-serving purpose. And, of course, we hope that members with young children will see the benefit in taking advantage of such a program. More to come on this as well.

Stay safe; be well. L’shalom,

-- Mark Weitz

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY: June 2022 / Sivan - Tamuz 5782
As Mark mentioned in his President’s article, last month I was in Philadelphia (or in the Philadelphia suburbs to be more exact) to receive a “Doctor of Divinity” degree from my rabbinic alma mater the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. RRC (like several other Jewish seminaries) customarily awards this honorary degree to its alumni who have subsequently served in good standing as rabbis for 25 years. So this year it was the turn of members of the RRC class of 1997 to get their D.D.’s.

I am gratified and humbled to realize that I have been at this vocation for a quarter of a century --- almost half of that career spent right here with all of you. Being a congregational rabbi is a very meaningful and personally rewarding career and I recommend it to anyone with a spiritual bent who loves Judaism and loves people. Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and friendship!

For those of you who didn’t have a chance to watch the livestream, I thought I would share with you Rabbi Waxman’s remarks as she and Seth Rosen (the Chairperson of the Reconstructing Judaism Board of Governors) presented me with my honorary degree. Her remarks (and a few photos) are set forth below.

L’shalom,

Rabbi David Steinberg
rabbidavid@jewishduluth.org

I call forward Rabbi David Steinberg

David, you are a rabbi of and for the people.

You pivoted from a career in law to the rabbinate and have served congregations across the liberal denominational spectrum, mostly in very cold parts of the United States, including a Reform community in Plattsburgh, NY, and a Conservative one in Burlington, VT. Since 2010, you have been spiritual leader of Reconstructionist affiliate Temple Israel in Duluth, MN, succeeding your fellow honoree, Amy Bernstein.

You are deeply fulfilled by serving the religious needs of your congregants. You love leading services and chanting Torah, shepherding congregants through life cycle events, instructing and welcoming converts to Judaism. You are moved in the discovery of new meanings and connections in Jewish texts. And you take haverschaft, the cultivation of a peer community, seriously. This cultivation is matched with service: you are a member of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association and you currently serve on the RRA board.

David, we are pleased to recognize your many accomplishments in awarding you this Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa.
NOTES FROM THE BOARD
Please see President's Message this month.

NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS & HEBREW SCHOOLS
Two of my favorite communities came together one weekend in May for an Eagle Scout project facilitated by Sam Buck to paint and refresh the preschool classroom. The project also involved upgrading outdated technology.

Scouts, adult leaders and parents from BSA Troop 15, members of Temple Israel, and a few others emptied the classroom, spackled cracks and holes in the walls, taped off edges, re-attached cabinet laminate, and painted the walls and ceiling tiles. A pause allowed the paint to dry and Marko Jukic to clean and wax the classroom floor. Then Sam and his parents moved everything back into the classroom, re-hung the door and blinds, and installed the updated technology.

Sam’s role was that of project manager – determining the scope of the project, proposing it to Temple Board leadership and a Scout review board, securing funding, making a work plan, scheduling the work, buying materials, gathering volunteers, assigning and explaining tasks, answering questions and solving problems. He reported to Rob Shamblott, Temple’s designated “project beneficiary.” He also will write a report on how the project went as part of his application to become an Eagle Scout.

We would like to thank Temple members: Mark Weitz, Rob Shamblott, Pam and Tom Griggs, Dan Wallerstein; Troop 15 Scouts: Alex Leach (Eagle), Izak Blindauer, Isaiah Ranum, Ari Fischer, Luke Morwood, Jordon Morwood, and leaders: Brett Blindauer, Theresa Lawler, and family: Terra Ranum, Tayler Ranum, Skip Fischer, Judi Morwood; former Scout: Michael Bauman (Eagle).
In addition to Sam’s project, last month Jordan created an outdoor recreation area for New Hope for Families’ emergency foster home and Ari created a garden and sitting area in front of Mount Olive Church. I am proud of these young men and grateful for their contributions to our greater community.

Andrea Novel Buck
Youth Education Director

We’ll meet up at 6:00 a.m. at the home of Tom and Pam Griggs to walk together across the street to the beach for our outdoor Shavuot Shacharit service. The service will then continue back at Tom and Pam’s house for the Torah service (reading of the Ten Commandments) and concluding liturgy, after which all are invited to stay for breakfast. Address is in the Temple Membership Directory. RSVP to Tom (who can also give you the address if you don’t have it) and bring an extra coat, hat, etc. in case of a cold wind. Temple Israel COVID-19 protocols apply. Additionally, attendees are requested to wear a mask while in the home unless eating. Thanks in advance to Tom and Pam for hosting us! (In case of rain, we’ll do the whole service indoors at Tom and Pam’s house.)
Change of plans! Temple Israel will not be hosting Bill Hinden and the "Great American Jewish Songwriters" event on June 12th. Rather, we are focusing on that exciting opportunity for Spring 2023, which is a better fit with Temple Israel’s programming opportunities in 2022 and forthcoming in 2023. Other engaging events hosted by the Programming Committee are planned throughout the year with the "almost monthly" Learner’s Luncheons and a plan for hosting the Silver Lecture Series in November 2022. Keep watching for updates from the Programming Committee in TTW and monthly in the Bulletin.

Mah Jongg is Returning!

Temple’s Mah Jongg group is swinging back into action! We haven’t played since the pandemic started so we’re anxious to get back to the tables. We’ll be playing in the Communal Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month starting on June 8th. Play starts at 1:00 p.m. and ends at about 4:00.

This is an open group: Everyone is welcome to play. Please join us whenever you can; no rsvp’s are required. Please just bring yourself and your 2022 National Mah Jongg League playing card.

If you’re interested in learning how to play the game, please come to observe how it goes. In the past we’ve had players who are happy to teach and we’ll see if they are still willing to do that.

We’re observing the Temple’s Covid Protocol. Please contact Tracy Goman with any questions: tracyhgoman@gmail.com; 218-348-3739.

Temple Israel Book Group will be discussing FOX HUNT by Mohammed Al Samawi on Sunday, July 17, 10:00 am. Weather and low covid counts permitting we will meet outside at the Griggs home. Otherwise we will discuss over zoom. All invited to attend discussion–even if you have not read the book.

Learn to Read Hebrew for Adults is now enrolling!

July-September 2022; 10 one-hour sessions, $180

Familiarity with Hebrew can be a key to feeling at home in the Jewish community. Ten live online class sessions with our experienced Hebrew educators and a community of learners, coupled with independent practice between sessions, will enable students to master the alef-bet and recognize and understand common Hebrew words and phrases that are often heard in Reform congregational life.

This course assumes no prior Hebrew experience. A true beginner's course! After registration, students are given the Zoom link for our live classes, a link to purchase the workbook, and access to our extensive online course materials. Tuition is $180 and scholarships are available to Temple Israel members upon request.

Remember those in care facilities:
Carol Cohen, The Pines Three
Paul King, St Ann’s
Rochelle Rubin, Benedictine Health Center
Barb Russ, BeeHive Homes
Aaron Glazman, Edgewood Vista
Francine Gurovitsch, Chris Jensen Health & Rehab Center
TEMPLE ISRAEL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS  
(revised March 10, 2022)

- Anyone AGE 5 OR OVER must be fully vaccinated.
- Anyone AGE 12 OR OVER must have a booster when eligible to be considered fully vaccinated.
- Mask wearing is OPTIONAL.
- Six feet of social distancing is recommended, except for households and “pods” of fully vaccinated persons.
- Services are simulcast on Zoom, there will be no screen sharing of the prayer book. However, members may borrow or purchase prayer books and links for free downloads on your own personal devices can be found in our weekly “TTW” (“Temple This Week”) email updates or by contacting the Temple office.
- Please be sure to check the health screening questionnaire posted at the building entrance. All attendees are required to review the questions and, if the answer to any question is “yes,” should leave the building. We rely on attendees to individually review the questions and to be honest in their answers.
- We are maximizing efforts to maintain good air quality and recommend everyone get vaccinated.

Siddur at home
With the transition back to in-person services, siddurim (prayer books) will no longer be "screen-shared" during the Zoom simulcast of services. Temple members may borrow copies of the siddurim that we use at Temple for your home use. Please contact the Temple office if you wish to do so. If you have any siddurim at home already that you previously borrowed, please let the office know that as well. The Temple Israel office can be reached at 218-724-8857 or office@jewishduluth.org

If you wish to view online versions of the various siddurim on a separate device while “Zooming” into Shabbat services, here are the links that will enable you to do so:

- For Saturday morning services: HERE
- For Friday evening services (other than family shabbat services): HERE and then click on the cover of the first book listed on that page (i.e., the Shabbat only version)
- For the monthly “Family Service” (first Friday of each month): Click HERE

If you would like to purchase your own copies of the various siddurim, here are the links that will enable you to do so:

For Saturday morning services: Click HERE
For Friday evening services (other than family shabbat services): Click HERE
The siddur for the monthly “Family Service” (first Friday of each month) is out of print but some used copies for sale might be available at these links:

- Version with transliteration: HERE
- Version without transliteration: HERE

**Schedule of Shabbat Services and Torah Portions**

| June 3 & 4 - 6:00pm & 10:00am in-person & simulcast via Zoom - Nasso (Numbers 4:21-7:89) | June 10 & 11 - 6:00pm & 10:00am in-person & simulcast via Zoom - Beha'alotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:16) | June 17 & 18 - 6:00pm & 10:00am in-person & simulcast via Zoom - Sh'lach (Numbers 13:1-15:41) | June 24 & 25 - 6:00pm & 10:00am in-person & simulcast via Zoom - Korach (Numbers 16:1-18:32) |
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*Note: We are following the Israel Torah reading calendar where it diverges from the traditional Conservative/Orthodox diaspora Torah reading calendar. These dates diverge for several months in the spring and summer during years when 8th day of Passover or 2nd day of Shavuot (holidays not observed in Israel or in Reconstructionist or Reform Judaism) falls on Shabbat.*
Mazel Tov

- To Jane Levenson on being recognized with the 2022 Rosie Award. Jane is known for being an active mother devoted to mentoring, encouraging and raising a multitude of children and young adults. Read more HERE

Todah Rabbah

- Todah Rabbah to the volunteers that placed flags on the graves for Memorial Day.

Please send your submissions to the Mazel Tov or Todah Rabbah sections to office@jewishduluth.org

June

Birthdays

1 Alexander Chernyshev
1 Emma Ross
2 Robert Greenberg
4 Roger Pellett
5 John Goldfine
6 Len Mitchell
6 Bart Polacsek
7 Margaret Kahn
7 Harriet Pearlman
10 Sam Black
10 Daniel Guttman
10 Shirley Witkin
11 Ellen Altman
11 Scott Hall
12 Akiva Alexander
14 Abigail Vosen
15 Beatrice Levey
15 Zipporah Vosen
19 Scott Barnhard
19 Casey Goldberg
20 Jennifer Pearson
21 Susan Rees
22 Larry Blunt
25 Michael Grossman
26 Aluna Pogorelskin
27 Andrea Buck
28 Kai Hoffman
30 Danny Frank
30 Theresa Neo

Anniversaries

4 Jack and Cynthia Seiler
7 Linda Glaser and John Herold
11 James Perlman and Deborah Petersen-Perlman
15 Deborah Freedman and Peter Wodrich
19 David and Katherine Siegler
20 Martin and Laura Weintraub
23 Elizabeth Kaplan and Steve Christianson
24 Michael and Michelle Baddin
24 Linda Eason and Dan Kislinger
26 Gideon Mailer and Nicola Hale
27 Thomas and Andrea Buck

Donations

03/25/22 – 4/22/22

Cemetery Fund
Lyle & Lynn Bergal In Memory of Harry Bergal
Dick & Diane Gould In Memory of Edgar Freimuth & Gita Freimuth
Bart & Allyz Polacsek In Memory of Jack Polacsek
Francine Gurovitsch In Memory of Rachel Gurovitsch
Dick & Diane Gould In Memory of Donald Freimuth
CHUM / Food Shelf
Jack Shapiro In Memory of Dorothy Slonim
Endowment Fund
Myron & Sandy Striker In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Denise Norparstak In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Barrie & Steven Orloff In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Jack & Cindy Seiler In Memory of Bessie Hyman
A Touch of Plasch In Memory of Stuart Seiler
John Eacobacci & Beret Amundson In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Michael & Nancy Keller In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Drian & Sue Liberty In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Andrew Genereau In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Anita Lurye Silver In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Joey & Jerry Laurie In Memory of Stuart Seiler
General Fund
David & Katherine Siegler In Memory of Jerome Siegler & Paula Sleeth
Brian & Francine Gunderson
Tracy & Chuck Goman
Jill Cornwell
Michele Wallerstein & Phillip Davis
Bart & Allyz Polacsek
Bart & Allyz Polacsek In Memory of Estelle Lefkowitz
Home Martin In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Neal Joffee In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Charles & Darla Millard In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Mike Grossman & Holly Church In Memory of Rosalind Grossman
Mike Grossman & Holly Church In Memory of Stuart Seiler
Steve David & Terese Tomanek In Memory of Abraham Prober & Harry Davis
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**Notes:**
- Shabbat begins at 5:00pm on Friday and ends at 5:00pm on Saturday.
- Rosh Hashanah is observed with a full day of rest and preparation for the new year.
- Yom Kippur is observed with a fast day.
- Simchat Torah is celebrated with a festive evening service.

**Dates:**
- September 27, 2022
- October 5, 2022