

TEMPLE TIMES

| Lubbock, Texas |

Announcements

Most Kabbalat Shabbat Services are on **Friday nights at 7 pm** (Be sure to check weekly email for updates).

Seeking mensches to host **Onegs** or **Shabbat dinners** so we can nosh and kibitz with Rabbi Fenves!



Please contact Stephanie Shine at stephanie.shine@ttu.edu if you would like to be a host!

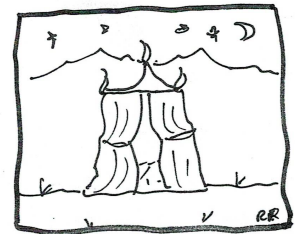
CSI First Thursday Monthly Lunch

Join us for lunch on Friday, **September 7th at 11:45 am** for lunch at Caprock Cafe on 34th. If you want more information and/or if you want to be included in the monthly reminder, please reach out

to: Christo at hebrewliteracy@gmail.com

Dear Shaareth Israel,

It was wonderful to see so many of you during my first in-person visit. Thank you for the warm welcome! From meeting with religious school families to planning a future baby naming to going over the high holy day music with Christina, the weekend made me very excited about the coming year.



-Ruth Rubin

I will be back this month with my husband and children Labor Day weekend and then again for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As we approach the High Holy Days, I encourage you to experiment with something new at the beginning of the Jewish year 5784. Maybe you want to try the ritual of tashlich and cast your sins away into the water on Rosh Hashanah afternoon. Maybe you do a taste test to find your favorite variety of apple over which to say the blessing. Maybe you take on the practice of teshuvah or repentance by writing a letter of apology to someone else. Maybe you challenge yourself to fast for the whole day of Yom Kippur. Pick one purposeful way, big or small, that you want to enrich your Jewish life and sweeten this season.

I look forward to celebrating together soon.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah!
Rabbi Fenves



September Yahrzeits

- 3 Sylvia Evensky
Marvin Feldman
- 5 Dora Blinderman
- 6 Adisyn Lynn Calfin
- 7 Simon Wertheimer
- 8 Hyman Fair
Ruth Sitzer
David Nokken
- 9 Monty Joseph Strauss
- 12 Darcy Reich
Chana Rechel Buchalter
- 13 Rose Stettner
27 Elul Ruthe Rosenberg Pechter
- 19 Jennie Wolfe Blumenthal
Joe Harris
- 20 5 Tishrei Anna Koppel
- 24 Rudolf Zarfaz
Jewelle Degge Wolfe
- 25 Sigmund S. Moise
10 Tishrei Joshua Eliezer Goldstein
- 26 Dorothy Kirschner
- 28 Morton Wolfenson
- 29 Charles L. Skibell

Donations

Thank you to all of our donors for your continued support!

Operating Fund:

- **Jane Winer** in memory of **Monty Strauss**

Religious School:

- **Henry & Sellie Shine** in memory of **Ruth Shine Pemberton**
- **Henry & Sellie Shine** in memory of **Fela & Leon Shturman**

Building Fund:

- **Venita Gross** in memory of **Mike Morgan**

Thank you to all our donors, past, present, and future. When you send us a donation, please make note of:

- The designated fund (without a designation, your donation will be directed to the General Fund).
- The purpose of the donation (Is it dues? Is it in memory or honor of someone?)

This photo from 2008 comes to us from Gail Roth Tutino:



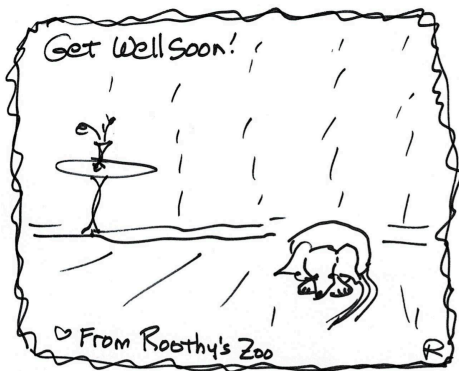
Donna Owen, Norma Skibell, Bobby Skibell, Fela Shturman, Gail Tutino, Marilyn Fried, Keri, Lowell, and Alexander Richey, Daniel Berg, Susan and Ed Youngblood

Refuah Shleimah

We offer Mi Sheberach, a prayer for healing, to those who are sick, and to all the people who love and care for those who are sick. Please email Rabbi Fenves with your updates. This list is up to date as of August 18th.

We are trying to keep this list as current as possible. Please email the rabbi any updates you have. Note: the Mi Sheberach list we read on Friday nights is different from the list published in our Temple Times.

- Deena Evensky
- Bruce Friedman
- Chuck Lewis
- Sandra Longoria
- Phillip Marshall
- Cheral Osran
- Esmeralda Sandoval
- Ron Shane
- Jeff Steel
- Gail Tutino
- Jane Winer



If any member would like to add a name to the monthly Yahrzeit list, please send the name, date of celebration, and relationship to Leon Shturman (leonsdesk@gmail.com).
Thank you.

September Shabbat Services

1st	Ki Tavo - 7:00 pm Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8
8th	Nitzavim-Vayelech - 7:00 pm Deuteronomy 29:9 - 31:30
15th	Rosh Hashanah - 8:00 pm Genesis 21:1 - 34
22nd	Ha'azinu - 7:00 pm Deuteronomy 32:1 - 52
29th	Sukkot - 7:00 pm Leviticus 22:26 - 23:44

Thank You!

- Thank you to **Jessica Gross Hunter** and **Stephanie Shine** for leading a Shabbat service in July.
- A big thanks to those who schlepped and sweated, carted and climbed to make the Big Bash Clean-Out a whopping success: **Christo Chaney, Bain Cerna, Beth and Alex Cobb, Mary Finnell, Jordan Langehennig, Jeff Merimon, Robin, Wyatt, Zola, and Josephine Phillips, Stephanie Shine, Fela and Leon Shturman, Elissa Zellinger.**



Nugget from Rabbi Fenves' D'var on Eikeyv

What does the Torah mean when it teaches that "man does not live on bread alone"? How does Jewish tradition interpret this well-known phrase about the manna given to the Israelites in the desert? The Rabbis recognized the emotional and spiritual component of food. We are not just bodies and biology. We strive to feed ourselves and each other, body and soul.

Nugget from Rabbi Fenves' D'var on Shoftim

What is the significance of the often-cited phrase, *Justice, justice, you shall pursue*? Repeating the word *justice* twice has been interpreted as seeking justice in action *and* words, or as pursuing righteousness *through* righteousness. That means that both the ends *and* the means must be just.

The Phillips family is honored to invite all members of Congregation Shaareth Israel to:



Zola Phillips's Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 7, at 10:30am. A Kiddush luncheon will follow. We would love to have your presence at the service to add to the joy of the occasion. L'shalom, Robin and Wyatt Phillip



- Ruth Rubin

What's the Board up to?

The Board met on August 8 and chatted with Christina McKinney, our Music Director, to thank her for many years of beautiful service with us and to learn more about the choir. We continue to make plans for the High Holy Days and the Congregational Meeting.

Have some ideas for the board? You are welcome to contact us by emailing csilubbock@gmail.com.



Jessica Gross

Originally published in *Lilith*, August 7, 2023; reprinted with permission.



I’ve come a long way from Long Island, New York.

JESSICA GROSS

Lubbock, Texas is, by far, the least Jewish place I’ve ever lived.

If you’re from one of the coasts, as I was, you might have some misconceptions about Lubbock if you’ve even heard of it. You likely assume it doesn’t snow (we get about one snowfall a year), that everyone loves football (various people I know—myself included—have never been to a game), that it’s full of tumbleweeds (okay, I’ve seen a few). You’d be right to guess there’s not much to do, that it’s windy and dry, and that it smells, some days, like the biggest cow fart you could possibly imagine.

You’d be wrong to guess there are no Jews. But there aren’t many of us.

I moved here three years ago, at the beginning of Covid. I didn’t know I was moving for good. My then-boyfriend of three months and I had decided to “spend the pandemic”—which we thought would last about a month, maybe two—together in Lubbock, where he lived and worked as an academic. So he and my dog and I drove about thirty hours from New York City, where he’d come to visit me over spring break, to West Texas. We discovered we loved living together, so we rented a house. “My” dog became “our” dog. We got engaged and then married. And I, finally, got a Texas driver’s license, because it turns out I live here now.

As you might expect, moving from New York City to Lubbock was an adjustment, compounded by the fact that the pandemic made it so hard to meet people. I wasn’t used to the way it looked (flat and brown), to driving everywhere, to such a slow pace, to having so few interactions with strangers each day.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

I certainly wasn't used to living somewhere with so few Jews.

Lubbock is a mid-sized city of just over 260,000 residents; for all those people, there is a single synagogue with around 50 members. (There are, by comparison, dozens of churches.) Brandeis University Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies estimates the Jewish population of "Lubbock & Nearby Counties"—which total close to 459,000 people—at 2,200, or around 0.5%.

Moving somewhere that wasn't flush with Semitic energy gave me plenty to complain about (but then again, what doesn't?). Texas Tech University, where my husband is a professor and I adjuncted for several semesters, doesn't give time off for any Jewish holidays, though there is a day off for "Easter Monday," which I had never heard of before. Strangers don't offer "Happy Chanukah" or even "Happy Holidays", only "Merry Christmas"; no "Chag Sameach," only "Happy Easter." When I called a huge liquor store chain my first Passover in town to ask if they had Manischewitz, the salesperson asked, "What is that—a liqueur?"

My local supermarket's macaroons are made with wheat.

There is, most gravely, the possibility of antisemitism, and the ever-present fear of it, even though I haven't experienced it personally. A Jewish mom I know reported that a middle school classmate of her son's had circulated a petition arguing that all Jews should be killed. A Jewish friend who's a professor at Texas Tech overheard one of her students say on Zoom—thinking incorrectly that her microphone was muted—"Well, she's a Jew." It's possible I haven't experienced antisemitism because I am careful about who I tell that I'm Jewish (and, unlike a person of color, I can pass). I have not, for example, informed my neighbor, whose truck sports aggressively conservative bumper stickers. She's kind to me, and I'd like to keep it that way.

At first, when I moved here, I routinely—enviously—Googled the number of synagogues in other cities. Santa Fe, New Mexico, for example, which is a four-and-a-half-hour drive northwest of us, has three synagogues and a Chabad for just over 88,000 people (one synagogue for every 22,000 people, as opposed to Lubbock's one-to-260,000 ratio). I lamented the fact that my hopeful future children would grow up somewhere so goyishe.

Three years later, I won't say these feelings have completely evaporated. But early in 2021, I went to the synagogue for the first time, looking to make friends. Now, I'm finding that, perhaps paradoxically, I feel the most Jewish—and the most connected to my faith—in Lubbock I've felt since childhood.

I grew up in Nassau County, Long Island, which, at 14.2% Jewish, is percentage-wise about 28 times more Semitic than Lubbock. The synagogue I attended had around 500 members when I became a bat mitzvah in 1998. But on High Holidays, it became so full the already sizable room was expanded into the congregational hall behind it, usually cordoned off with a removable wall, and a tent was erected on the lawn outside so the service could be piped to overflow congregants via speakers.

I felt really Jewish. I went to Hebrew school, which I loved, twice a week up through the year I became a Bat Mitzvah; I continued attending weekly sessions with the rabbi until Kabbalat Torah, or Confirmation, in my sophomore year of high school, after which I was dejected to leave my temple-based education behind. For a chunk of time in my childhood, I thought I might like to become a rabbi when I grew up; I led the charge of Jewishness in my family in certain ways, like requesting that we have Shabbat dinner on Friday nights, which we did for years. I was not a happy high schooler, but I remember walking through the halls thinking how grateful and lucky I was to have been born Jewish.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 7

This feeling started to fade in college at Princeton University, which felt far less Jewish than my northern Long Island hometown, though I haven't been able to find any stats. I took Hebrew as a foreign language for a year; I went to the Center for Jewish Life for holidays; but Judaism faded somewhat from my life nonetheless. Mostly, I attempted to assimilate by donning brightly colored polos (though I couldn't bring myself to pop the collars) and rounding out my Long Island accent, for which I was mocked. I was so successful that I am now physically incapable of pronouncing "orange" the way I did growing up: "ahh-ringe," as compared to my new version, "oar-ringe."

By the time I moved to New York City right after college, I was feeling lost in my relationship to Judaism. For 13 years, I moved back and forth between Manhattan (15.8% Jewish) and Brooklyn (19% Jewish), but being surrounded by "my people" didn't give me the sense of belonging it had as a child. I bounced from synagogue to synagogue—B'nai Jeshurun, Romemu, Congregation Beth Elohim—but never found one that felt like home. Maybe this had to do with the fact that I was rarely if ever willing to pay the exorbitant membership fees: not an issue in Lubbock.

Often, I found myself hovering on the outside of cliques at synagogue social events—dating mixers, onegs—awkwardly trying to ingratiate myself. This could have easily been something about me; clearly the people who made up the cliques had figured out a way "in." But I felt adrift. Not Jewish enough, maybe — embarrassed, for example, when I fumbled the words at a prayer on a Friday night that hadn't been part of my childhood synagogue's rotation, but that everyone else seemed to know.

The first time I went to shul here in Lubbock, the synagogue's president was sitting in the back row. As a newcomer, I felt shy, but because the congregation is so small, she recognized immediately that I was new and greeted me warmly. After services, I told her I'd love to volunteer in whatever way the synagogue would have me, and she suggested I would soon be inundated: "You'll be sorry you offered!" I became involved, reading books to young kids, and then more involved. I now lay-lead services (our rabbi commutes from out of town), host onegs afterward from time to time, attend Shabbat dinners, and, this past fall and spring, served on the search committee to find a new rabbi. The president invited me and my husband over for Seder last year, and we met a couple who have become our close friends; in April, I officiated the naming ceremony for their brand-new kid. I don't think there is a single person in the synagogue I haven't spoken with at least once.

But feeling really Jewish here isn't limited to the times I'm actively engaged in synagogue life. Even when I'm grocery shopping or going to the dentist, I'm aware of my Jewishness; there's nothing like being an outsider to put into relief who you are. I spent six years in my twenties living on the Upper West Side, and I have never felt younger or more fashionable. (Living in Brooklyn before and after, not so much.) My dark curly hair is an anomaly in Lubbock—people actually comment on and compliment it! And, though I'm aware of the possibility of antisemitism, my fears have as yet been unfounded. After several semesters rigorously avoiding mentioning to my Texas Tech students that I was Jewish, I mentioned in the fall that I had to miss class for Rosh Hashanah. One asked with genuine curiosity what Rosh Hashanah was, and I got to explain it. It's possible I'm the first Jew some of them have ever met—the one who might interrupt any stereotypes they've developed or been taught—and isn't that a privilege?

My husband and I are expecting our first child this fall. Though we may not live in Lubbock forever, I feel comforted knowing that—God willing—our daughter will have her baby naming at our small, cozy synagogue, and will be welcomed into the Jewish faith by an intimate, kind, and supportive congregation. That I'll have a place to bring her on Friday nights where people coo over her and know her name; that I have—already—new-mom and mom-to-be friends I've met through shul to walk alongside into this new phase. I imagine we will enjoy being integrated into—even needed by—Lubbock's Jewish community, and the sense that we don't need to fight for our place, but, rather, that we belong.

Jessica Gross is the author of the novel Hysteria. Her nonfiction has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Los Angeles Review of Books, The Paris Review Daily, and elsewhere.



Meet Music Director Christina McKinney!

How long have you been leader of the choir?

I've been at the synagogue almost as long as the building itself, I think it was 1986 or '87. I began as the pianist while Clint Barrick was the leader. When Clint left, Conley Cook (now of blessed memory, as one says) took over. When Conley moved, that's when I took over leading.

What is your favorite part of playing at CSI?

Above all, the people of the congregation, many of whom are like family to me. You appreciate what we do and let us know about it, which is a great feeling. My other favorite part of it is the members of the choir over the years. I love being around them, and making music together is fun! In addition, rehearsing for the

high holidays brings us closer to each other and gives us the chance to get to know (and break in) the new members. I have been lucky to find some great musicians who also are very cool people. 😊 Yet another favorite part is the music itself. From the old Sephardic tunes and chants to the new music still being written, there is a wide variety and richness to it that feeds our musical souls.

Do you have a favorite melody, song, hymn or tune at CSI?

It is not possible to choose! The tunes done every single week, like the Sh'ma, have special meaning to me just because they sink into my bones and become part of me. I am partial to the 4-part version of Shalom Rav we sometimes do which spotlights each member of the choir. Then there are the songs I love which we only do at High Holidays, like Eil Nora Alilah. In last month's newsletter, Mike mentioned some great ones which would also be on my list.

What sort of music do you like to listen to?

For quiet background music, I'm partial to harpist Andreas Vollenweider. I love classical music like Bach, Beethoven. and Brahms. For jamming in the car, I go with Boston and Van Halen, or the Eagles and America, depending upon my mood.

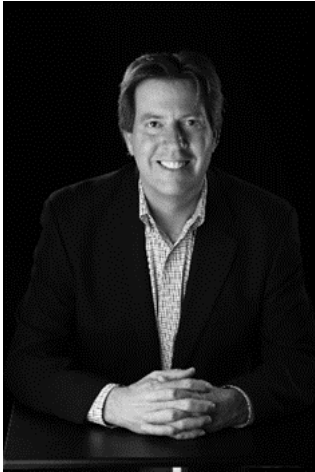
What was the beginning of your musical career/journey?

I started early. I wanted to learn to play the piano at 3, and my parents made me wait till I was 4 to start lessons, which is a long wait when you're a tiny tot who can't reach the pedals! My mom taught piano, but we were friends with another piano teacher, and that's who I wanted to take lessons from. Mrs. Harlan and my mom did a trade. I would go to her house, while her high schooler son had lessons at my house with my mother. George's lessons with Mom were an hour long, so that meant I got lots more time than was normal for a beginner. Sometimes I would get to take breaks to play with the cat or have cookies. She made learning the piano special - and so much fun - that I loved playing and have done it ever since.

When not playing in the choir, what might we find you doing?

Anyone who knows me could answer this one, because I always have my nose in a book, as attested to by my 13 packed bookcases and e-reader full of over 2000 titles. I may be a teensy tiny bit of an introverted bookworm.

Speaking of introversion, I must confess: I am not comfortable in groups (nor parties, crowds, or other gatherings,) so I tend to sneak out after services. Social butterfly I am not, but that doesn't mean I don't want to engage with anyone. I am most happy talking one-on-one. This my invitation for you to come up and say hi after services, especially if you have questions or suggestions about the music. I welcome discovering new music and honoring requests for specific tunes. My door is always open via email (lol) which is: kangaroostuff@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!



Meet Choir Singer and Accompanist Clint Barrick!

How long have you been singing with the choir?

I started in the early 1980s when Sara Newcomb was the Choir Director, and the Synagogue was located on Avenue Q and 22nd street. I sang for over fifteen years, eleven of which was as Music Director. It makes me happy that I still today am on the substitute list.

What is your favorite part of singing at CSI?

I have always loved participating in the Friday night services. I also love the variety of music that we have offered in services for nearly forty years!

Do you have a favorite melody, song, hymn or tune at CSI?

That's hard to answer because I love whatever piece we're doing at the moment!

But, if I had to answer, I'd say the Avinu Malkeinu we sing at Rosh Hashanah or the Adon Olam with the spectacular piano part that we sometimes sing to conclude weekly services.

What sort of music do you like to listen to?

Almost any classical music - orchestral, choral, instrumental, or chamber music. Also, quiet jazz.

What was the beginning of your musical career/journey?

Playing piano accompaniments in high school taught me that one could make money in the music field!

When not singing in the choir, what might we find you doing?

I am Program Director at FM89.1, the public radio station licensed to Texas Tech University. My main duty is to program and host classical music radio programs. I also play and sing a lot in the community.



Meet Choir Singer Jeannie L. Barrick!

How long have you been singing with the choir?

I started in January 2002, so 21 years.

What is your favorite part of singing at CSI?

I love getting to be part of the Jewish service and getting to hear the Torah read in Hebrew. It has greatly enriched my life!

Do you have a favorite melody, song, hymn or tune at CSI?

My favorite piece is the Avinu Malkeinu that we sing during the High Holidays.

What sort of music do you like to listen to?

I love choral music.

What was the beginning of your musical career/journey?

I've been singing my whole life. My mother sang to me as an infant and I was in a children's choir at age 3.

When not singing in the choir, what might we find you doing?

I teach music theory and aural skills at Texas Tech University. I am also the wife of Clint Barrick and the mother of Rachel, 16.



GRAB YOUR TORTILLA AND JOIN THE FUN!
Annual Sisterhood

Fiesta Salad Supper & Membership Drive

WHEN: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

WHERE: The home of Fela Shturman
3414 56th Street, 79413

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

WHO: All Congregation Shaareth Israel Women
Please join us for an evening of good food and friendship!

R.S.V.P.: Fela Shturman fshturman@gmail.com or (806) 438-3057
by Sunday September 3rd (Prefer email or text)

Please join Sisterhood, even if you cannot attend our events.
Your dues and additional donations support our Temple.
Please make your checks payable to Shaareth Israel Sisterhood.

We look forward to seeing you!

<u>Annual Sisterhood Membership dues for 2023-2024*</u>	
<u>Regular Dues</u>	\$50.00
<u>Mitzvah Members</u>	\$75.00
<i>(Receive 10% discount at our Gift Shop on regular priced items)</i>	
<u>Angel Member</u>	\$90.00
<i>(10% discount and we won't bother you the rest of the year)</i>	

* Dues for first time members are free for the first year

2023 High Holiday Schedule

Rosh Hashanah September 15, 8 pm, September 16, 10 am
Tashlich September 16, 4pm, Quincy Park.
Yom Kippur September 24, 8pm, September 25, 10am

Congregation Shaareth Israel
P.O. Box 93594
Lubbock, TX 79493
(806) 794-7517

csitemple.org

Clergy

Carla Fenves, Rabbi
 Deborah Goldmann, Rabbi Emerita
 Vicki Hollander, Rabbi Emerita

Board Members

Stephanie Shine, President
 Andrew Friedman, Vice President
 Deborah Bahme, Secretary
 Leon Shturman, Treasurer
 Jonathan Marks, Immediate Past President
 Elissa Zellinger, Religious School Delegate
 Charles Skibell, Member
 Eileen Nathan, Member
 Steve Balch, Member

Contact info for members:

Rabbi Carla Fenves - Call her or text her at (415) 745-5314 or email her at cfenves@gmail.com please.

Urgent Matters - Please contact **Stephanie Shine** at (806) 470-1340 or email stephanie.shine@ttu.edu or contact Rabbi Fenves.

Bulletin Submissions - News, reports, information, etc. can be submitted to the bulletin editor at csi_bulletin@hotmail.com.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month!

Bulletin Design: Jonathan Meyer

September 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	2
				7 1st Thursday Lunch 11:45 am	8 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	9
					15 Rosh Hashanah 8:00 pm	16 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 am Tashlich 4:00 pm
					22 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	23
24 Yom Kippur 8:00 pm	25 Yom Kippur 10:00 am	26	27	28	29 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	30

