

Temple Emanuel in Statesville Rededicates Congregation with Historical Marker

Congregation Emanuel was established in 1883 by German immigrants, the most famous of whom were the Wallace Brothers, who ran a successful medicinal Herbarium business in Statesville. Their Herbarium was known internationally, and won awards at the Paris Exhibition in its time. The current Sanctuary was dedicated in 1892, presided over by Benjamin Szold of Baltimore – father of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah. So, our roots go very deep into the soil of American Jewish history.

We have just completed our

third year in the program with Rabbi Deborah Zuker. She is a wonderful spiritual leader, blessed with a beautiful voice to lead us in prayer. Her Shabbat sermons were always a fascinating disquisition on the weekly parshah, weaving ancient themes into meaningful applications to our modern day lives. We will miss her dearly, and we wish her a hearty Mazel Tov and best of luck at her new pulpit in Peabody, MA. So if you're ever in the Peabody area, and are looking for a great Rabbi to spend Shabbat with, head to Rabbi Zuker's new congregation.


We recently celebrated our heritage with the dedication of a Historical Landmark, pictured here. This beautiful marker was designed by member Jack Celnik, a trustee of the congregation. Rabbi Zuker led the dedication with a "Shehechyanu" and an appropriate prayer. This was followed by a hearty BBQ complete with Kosher hot dogs and hamburgers "imported" from Charlotte. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a fantastic time. Of course, the event was tinged bittersweet, as it was also our farewell weekend with Rabbi

Zuker. Shalom, Rabbi, l'hitraot!

We would like to extend an open invitation to all members of the Iredell, Mecklenburg and surrounding communities to join our proud little congregation in worship, and to help us welcome Rabbinic Fellow Aaron Weininger to his new home away from home in beautiful North Carolina. ✡




Elliot Vazel, Jack Celnik, who created the historical marker, and Rabbi Deborah Zuker.




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New Gladstein Fellow Joins Beth Shalom of Lake Norman

Rabbi Adam believes in the power of the Jewish Tradition to give sacred meaning to our lives, inspire us at any given moment, and bring us closer to our community and our families. Adam is proud to be a member of the Beth Shalom community, and is excited to guide congregants on their personal journeys.



Rabbi Adam Baldachin

He looks forward to the many meaningful relationships the community at Beth Shalom offers and is eager to both teach and learn a great amount during the next few years. Through text study, worship, stories, and song, Adam hopes to help foster a community of caring and devoted members who care deeply about their com-

munity and its impact on the world.

Adam grew up in central New Jersey where he attended Solomon Schechter Day School until 8th grade. After attending public high school, Adam missed the Jewish learning and decided to pursue his Bachelor's Degree

at List College where he majored in Talmud, at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), and American History at Columbia University. While at List College, Adam sang in a Jewish collegiate cappella group called Pizmon with which he traveled to Jewish communities around the world, including Argentina and Ukraine. In this group he learned about the power of music and the determination of Jews to keep their traditions alive.

During the winter break of his sophomore year, Adam traveled to Jerusalem through Hillel on a Jewish pluralism trip and met his future wife, Maital Friedman. During the second semester of his junior year, Adam studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and starred as Joseph in his musical theater debut, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Upon graduating from List College, Adam and Maital celebrated their wedding in Israel and spent the first year of marriage at Princeton University where Maital completed her final year as an undergraduate student. While living in Princeton, Adam commuted to West Orange, NJ, where he taught Judaic studies at the same Solomon Schechter Day School that he had attended.

In 2007, Maital and Adam moved to Uganda for the year. In addition to volunteering at a rural village through American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Adam worked with the Abayudaya, an indigenous Jewish community in Uganda. There, he taught Torah, Hebrew, and computer skills, and served as a spiritual leader for the community.

When he returned to America, Adam began rabbinical school at JTS. During his first year, Adam

served as the Koach Rabbinic Intern at the University of Maryland's Hillel. In his second year, Adam studied at Machon Schechter, the Israeli Masorti Rabbinical School in Jerusalem and interned for the Masorti Communities in Kiryat Bialik and Be'er Sheva under the mentorship of Rabbi Mauricio Balter. As a Gladstein Fellow, Adam serves as the rabbinic intern at the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel in Riverdale under the mentorship of Rabbi Barry Dov Katz. Adam has supplemented his learning with wonderful summers at Jewish camps including three summers working at Camp Ramah in Nyack, NY, two summers working at Camp Ramah in the Rockies, and two summers working at Emma Kaufmann Camp in West Virginia.

Adam's wife, Maital, was born in Eilat, Israel, and raised in Westchester, NY. Maital graduated from Princeton University in 2007, where she studied religion and African studies. After graduation, Maital moved to Mbale, Uganda. She received the Henry R. Labouisse '26 Prize to establish a library at the Bushikori Christian Centre (BCC). Maital also worked as the administrative assistant of the health unit at BCC. Maital moved back to New York, where she worked as the Assistant to the Director of Youth Services at CASES: The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services through the Princeton Project 55 Fellowship. In 2010, Maital participated in the Dorot Fellowship in Israel. She volunteered at Yedid, a citizen's rights organization, studied Hebrew and Arabic, and planned educational seminars for her peers. Additionally, she produced, directed, and edited a documentary about religious ritual, Jewish identity, and society through the lens of women's head coverings. Maital is currently a candidate for an MA in Public Administration at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service and an MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at Skirball Department of Hebrew & Judaic Studies. Adam and Maital have an adorable son named Shalev who was born in November 2010. ✡

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