



Season of Gratitude and Possibility

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RABBI DAVID STERN
SEPTEMBER 2026 TO JUNE 2027**



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI DAVID STERN

As program planning began for my final year as senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, our leadership offered me a special gift: I got to choose the guests! It was no easy task. The possibilities were exciting and endless.

But what made that difficult task easy is what always has: this historic and ever-new congregation, its clear compass and values, and you. Because in a year of transition, what better focus for celebration than the values that have defined us for 154 years and counting: the richness of Jewish texts, our ennobling call to justice, the beauty of Shabbat, the joy of music and dance, our relationship to Israel, the power of prayer. Together we'll have the opportunity to reflect on the role of food and culture in shaping Jewish identity, Judaism's love of dialogue, and the power of music as a path to peace. We will do it young and old, longtime members and new arrivals, grandparents and parents and children. And to cap it all off, we will have the opportunity to travel to Israel as a Temple community in June.

But best of all, and true to the heart of who we are, we will get to do it together. Because that's our other vital priority in a year of change: not only our connection to our Jewish legacy, but our connection to each other. Because above all else, it is a sense of vibrant and sacred community that bridges our past, our present and our shining future.

I look forward to seeing you as the pages of this book come alive with the depth of our tradition, the joy of community and the celebrations of our remarkable journey together.

Shanah Tovah!
David



OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

SIMCHAT TORAH WEEKEND WITH



Joanie Leeds

Conclude the High Holy Days season with the power of community and Torah, as we welcome Joanie Leeds, a Grammy Award-winning recording artist and performer, whose warmth and musicality will bring out the joy in the young and young-at-heart!

OCTOBER 2

6PM: All-In Shabbat and Simchat Torah Service

Consecration | 6th Grade Siddur Presentation
Kol Shir and Shir Joy Youth Choirs | Congregational Dinner

OCTOBER 3

4PM: Simchat Torah Family Concert

For children 12 and under and their families

OCTOBER 4

Morning: Religious school, various times







OCTOBER 16-17, 2026

HENRY D. SCHLINGER ETHICS SYMPOSIUM



Rabbi Sarah Bassin

HIAS Rabbi-in-Residence

In this special weekend, Rabbi Bassin will guide us in exploring immigration through the lens of Jewish values and the enduring responsibility to welcome the stranger. Rabbi Bassin's work with HIAS includes mobilizing Jewish communities to support immigrants and refugees through direct service, advocacy and partnerships with organizations doing work on the ground.

"We have always had the vision of helping people access welcome and safety and opportunity. That vision has never changed, but what it looks like in reality evolves to meet the changing conditions of a world in flux."

Lifting Our Lamps: The Sacred Work of Welcome

OCTOBER 16

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

Reclaiming a National Narrative of Welcome

OCTOBER 17

9AM: Torah Study

Reading Ezra in an Age of Mass Deportation

12PM: Lunch-and-Learn

Striving to be Human: Stories from the Front Lines of Deportation and Detention

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026

Dan Nichols



Welcome back, Dan! One of Reform Judaism's best-known singer-songwriters, Dan Nichols returns to Temple with his matchless blend of energy, camp classics, communal anthems and soulful vulnerability. In this packed weekend, he'll co-lead Shabbat services, perform a Saturday evening concert and offer a Sunday jam session with teens.

NOVEMBER 13

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

NOVEMBER 14

10:30AM: Shabbat Morning Service

4PM: Tot Shabbat

6:30PM: Havdalah Concert

NOVEMBER 15

Morning: Religious school, various times

12:30PM: Songleading workshop for teens



NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | FEBRUARY 11, 2027 | APRIL 1, 2027

D'varim: Conversations with Rabbi David Stern

Join us as Rabbi Stern engages in dialogue with prominent thought leaders in politics, arts and culture from within Dallas and beyond. Stay tuned for details on these exciting evenings of exploration and exchange.

At the time of this printing, these and other events throughout the book are still in the planning stages and more complete information will be provided in future communications.



DECEMBER 4-11, 2026

HANUKKAH

Lighting the Way

We honor the many ways that Rabbi Stern has illuminated our lives in this retirement-year Hanukkah celebration.

DECEMBER 6

Tzedek Emanu-El Family Experience

Join with other families in the Karla & Larry Steinberg Center for Jewish Learning for a meaningful *tikkun olam* project. Watch for details in Temple communications.

DECEMBER 8

6PM: Light up the Night at NorthPark Concert

Light the *hanukkiyah* and sing your favorite Hanukkah songs at our annual concert with Cantor Vicky Glikin, Cantor Margo Wagner and the Temple Emanu-El adult and youth choirs.



DECEMBER 11

6PM: All-In Shabbat and Congregational Dinner

Our community glows with the light from hundreds of candles in this service on the last night of Hanukkah.





DECEMBER 18-19, 2026

RABBI LEVI A. OLAN LECTURESHIP



Orly Erez-Likhovski

Executive Director, Israel Religious Action Center

Orly, an attorney by training, has contributed to significant legal wins in Israel, including disallowing gender segregation on public transit, ending the Orthodox monopoly on state-funded rabbis' salaries, and winning the first class-action lawsuit regarding exclusion of women in public and religious spheres.

"We are working to advance an alternative—one of healing and rebuilding. An alternative based on equality and mutual respect, on a shared society for Jews and Arabs, and on a Judaism that seeks to bring people together rather than excluding or discriminating against them."

In this thought-provoking weekend, learn more about the tireless efforts to achieve Jewish pluralism in Israel and the role of IRAC in promoting social justice and advocating for progressive Judaism.

DECEMBER 18

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

DECEMBER 19

9AM: Torah Study

12PM: Lunch-and-Learn

JANUARY 8-9, 2027

CANDICE AND ROBERT HAAS VISITING SCHOLAR

Leah Hochman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Jewish Thought, Hebrew Union College

A keen observer of the contemporary American Jewish scene, Leah Hochman writes and teaches about Jewish thought, Jewish food, Jewish literature and Jewish ethics, and the many intersections among them. As she does with her students at HUC in Los Angeles and at the University of Southern California, she will make you laugh, make you think, and maybe make you hungry!

JANUARY 8

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

JANUARY 9

9AM: Torah Study

12PM: Lunch-and-Learn



roccan Couscous





JANUARY 22-24, 2027

SHABBAT SHIRAH WITH



Elana Arian

Enjoy a soulful weekend celebrating Shabbat Shirah with Elana Arian, one of the most influential voices shaping Jewish music today. A friend to Temple, our services just wouldn't be the same without her! In addition to favorites like "I Have a Voice" and "Hinei Mah Tov," "Ivdu et Adonai," commissioned for TE150, has quickly become one of our congregation's most beloved songs. You won't want to miss this special Temple homecoming with Elana.

JANUARY 22

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

JANUARY 23

10:30AM: Shabbat Morning Service

Evening: Havdalah Concert

JANUARY 24

Morning: Religious school, various times

FEBRUARY 21, 2027

Looking Back, Stepping Forward



Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band and Rachel Linsky's Zachor Dance Projects

Celebrate an afternoon of Klezmer music and Yiddish dance at the historic Forest Theater, which has undergone its own renaissance in the heart of the old South Dallas Jewish community. Rabbi Stern serves on the board of directors of Forest Forward, the nonprofit organization working to revitalize South Dallas, and the Starbucks stage in the renovated theater will be named in his honor.

2:30PM: Learn traditional Yiddish dances in a public workshop with choreographer Rachel Linsky

4-5:30PM: Performance

5:30-6PM: Audience dance party

Led by the performers with the live band







FEBRUARY 26-27, 2027

KATHERINE F. BAUM ADULT EDUCATION SCHOLAR

Rabbi Michael Marmur

Professor of Jewish Theology, Hebrew Union College

One of Reform Judaism's most stimulating, thoughtful and entertaining scholars and a dear friend of Rabbi David Stern, Rabbi Marmur has met many of our members both at Temple and on trips to Israel. Rabbi Marmur comes to us from his home at HUC in Jerusalem for a deep dive into Jewish thought, personal theology and prayer.

FEBRUARY 26

6:15PM: Shabbat Evening Service

FEBRUARY 27

9AM: Torah Study

12PM: Lunch-and-Learn



APRIL 4, 2027

Polyphony



An Arab-Jewish conservatory and musical ensemble based in Nazareth, Polyphony returns to Temple with its ongoing mission to bridge the divide between Arab and Jewish communities through music. Their message reflects Rabbi Stern's commitment to a democratic Israel, coexistence and peacebuilding.

4PM: Concert







MAY 2027

Celebrations to Honor Rabbi Stern

Show Rabbi Stern our gratitude for his decades of visionary, compassionate and loving leadership in these events designed to bring the community together in joy and appreciation.

MAY 2

Closing Day Picnic for the Center for Jewish Learning

Celebration Weekend, May 21-22

MAY 21

Shabbat Evening Service

MAY 22

Community Havdalah and Festive Party

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JUNE 3-13, 2027

Multigenerational Trip to Israel

**Led by Rabbi Stern, Cantor Vicky Glikin
and Rabbi Amy Rossel**

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Israel with your Temple community, whether it's your first time or your 15th time. You'll visit the people and places that are close to Temple's heart, plus enjoy new discoveries in the ever-evolving home of the Jewish people.







Temple
Emanu-El

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