





November 2025

A Reform Congregation

Volume 19 Issue 5

ECHO—OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

By Katherine Fuller

In Jewish Dimensions of Social Justice, authors Albert Vorspan and David Saperstein wrote that "Our tradition emphasizes the dignity of each human life and the sanctity of the home; further it mandates us to protect the vulnerable." But we often turn away from the homeless – the problem is so large that individual efforts are seen as drops of water in the sea. We may view the impoverished with fear, apathy, shame or callousness. For many, caring for the homeless is seen as a function of government, much like maintaining roads and offering police protection.

It may seem possible to look the other way, but that is not responsible behavior. Rebbe Menachim Mendel Schneerson taught that "when we see someone in need, we must respond. When we see injustice, we must cry out. When we see imperfection, we must do everything possible to help perfect the situation. But it is not only the result that counts, it is your effort, and the sincerity behind the effort, that fulfills your innate need to be responsible."

As many of you know, I work for ECHO, the Eastern Carolina Housing Organization, which just moved in next door to Temple Shalom. ECHO receives much of its funding from governmental agencies: HUD, VA, State of South Carolina, and several counties (12 in SC and 3 in NC).

ECHO's mission is: "To break the cycles of homelessness experienced by individuals and families in our community, and for every person experiencing a housing crisis to find a place they can call home." They do this work under stressful conditions: heavy caseloads, annual grant applications with complex funding and compliance requirements, and far too much paperwork!

Over the past year, ECHO gave hope to over 2,600 people in our region experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. They provided nearly 30,000 nights of crisis housing through the transitional housing program, moved 720 people out of homelessness into safe and stable homes, and prevented eviction of 260 others. 360 housing units were provided with furniture and household goods from the My Home Donation Center, where my husband, David, volunteers. Between 2020 and 2022, \$32M was distributed to Horry County landlords through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to keep tenants in their homes due to loss of income during the COVID pandemic. This was when I became involved with ECHO.

ECHO has crisis housing for victims fleeing domestic violence, those with problematic substance use, people released from incarceration, and youth and young adults, some of whom are runaways or have been kicked out by their families. They are all housed through our Rapid Rehousing Grants.

Our Homelessness Prevention program helps very low-income individuals and families facing eviction. At no cost to the participants, ECHO provides temporary financial assistance for rental and utility arrears, current rent, and security deposits.

ECHO understands that veterans and their families have made sacrifices to protect our country, and we want to ensure that they have access to the support they need to achieve secure housing. Temporary financial assistance with rent, finding and securing new homes, and eviction prevention, are some of the services offered. In addition, there is an outreach team, many of whom are themselves veterans, helping eligible families who may be hesitant to seek assistance. John's Place is a community living facility for up to 40 male veterans. It offers 24-hour onsite support, assistance in obtaining VA benefits including disability, and boasts healthy and delicious meals crafted by a professional chef.

ECHO has been awarded the highest level of accreditation by CARF International (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for our Supportive Services for Veteran Families Rapid Re-housing and Homelessness Prevention programs.

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A Reform Congregation

4023 Belle Terre Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC 29579 (843) 903-ONEG (6634) Rabbi Aaron Sherman

What's Happening at Temple Shalom November 2025

SERVICES

- Friday 11/07/25 Shabbat service followed by an Oneg
- Saturday 11/08/2025 Shabbat service followed by a Kiddush
- Friday 11/14/25 Shabbat service followed by an Oneg
- Friday 11/21/25 Shabbat service followed by an Oneg
- Saturday 11/22/25 Shabbat service followed by a Kiddush
- Friday 11/28/25 No Shabbat service due to Thanksgiving weekend

Temple Shalom is selling the 2025 Attractions® Dining & Value Guides as a fundraiser. The books are available to order now. The price is the same as last year, \$25 per book. Thank you to those who have already ordered!



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SHABBAT SERVICES

We meet at 4023 Belle Terre Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29579.

Our **Friday evening** services begin at 7:30 p.m.
Our **Saturday morning** services begin at 10:30 AM.
Members who cannot physically attend Friday night or scheduled Saturday services can view services via Zoom.
Contact TempleShalomMBPresident@gmail.com to request a Zoom invitation.

TempleShalomMB.org

ECHO—OUR NEW NEIGHBORS Cont'd from Page 1

Seachange Residential Recovery for Women will be opening shortly offering a supportive environment for women seeking recovery from problematic substance abuse. There will be trained staff onsite counseling and introducing the residents to 12-step groups, life skills programs to maintain their hard-won sobriety, yoga therapy to promote physical and mental well-being, and peer support systems.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, there is a team at a Myrtle Beach coffee shop that meets with anyone needing housing assistance. We have someone at the county courthouse on Thursdays to mediate with landlords and tenants facing eviction proceedings, working towards a resolution before the case comes before the judge.

All of ECHO's programs offer case management that ensures people are receiving the support they need. We help our clients with obtaining benefits they're entitled to, connecting them to community resources, and assisting them with employment, education and healthcare. One of my co-workers literally gave a client the shirt off her back so that the client would feel confident for her first job interview – she got the job!

Just this week, one of the case managers came to the finance office and told us about a young veteran they had just housed. When they gave him the keys to his new apartment, he burst into tears and cried like a baby. He would no longer be on the street, and, for the first time, his son would be able to live with him. We were all a bit teary. This is why support staff does what we can to further ECHO's mission.

Yossi ben Yochanon, a 2nd century BCE chief justice in Jerusalem, wrote: "Let thy house be opened wide, and let the needy be thy household." To make kindness real, you have to bring it home, and this community we all live in is our home.

If you would like to help:

To volunteer: https://echousing.org/volunteer/
To donate: https://echousing.org/volunteer/

MyHomeDonations@echousing.org 843-591-5050



www.echousing.org

What's Happening at Temple Shalom November 2025 Continued from Page 2

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to our service leaders, to everyone who led readings during a service, carried the Torah, opened the Ark, served as a parking attendant or greeter, and helped with set up and clean up for the holidays.

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to our 2nd Annual Rosh Hashanah Food Drive. We collected 2 more bags than last year. Donations were picked up by South Strand Helping Hand in Surfside Beach. They were very grateful.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 19 Bring your Menorahs and candles to Temple for our group candle lighting at the beginning of the service. This is night number 7.

VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, celebrating their Centennial Anniversary in 2025, is a research institute, an institution of higher learning, an adult education organization, a cultural organization, and a world-renowned library and archive. Their mission is to preserve, study, share, and perpetuate knowledge of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. YIVO offers adult education, Yiddish language programs, lectures, conferences, art exhibitions and concerts, some free and some for a fee. https://www.yivo.org. Also, check out the Events Recorded section.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL (https://www.nli.org.il/) Read articles, listen to music and attend online events.

AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (https://aifl.org/events)

Participate in events about Israel's entrepreneurship, culture, medical research, environmental protection initiatives, and so much more.

Leo Baeck Institute (LBI) is an archive and research library devoted to the history and culture of German-speaking Jews https://www.lbi.org/

URJ ((<u>https://reformjudaism.org/</u>) – choose the calendar tab

Are you a foodie? Check out The Jewish Food Society at https://www.jewishfoodsociety.org/ for interesting stories and recipes. Also visit Jamie Geller at https://jamiegeller.com/author/jamie-geller, Tory Avey at https://toriavey.com, and Jewlish at https://toriavey.com, and <a href="https://toriavey.com

The Forward -- founded in 1897 as a Yiddish-language daily, the Forward soon became a national paper, the most widely read Jewish newspaper anywhere. The English Forward was launched as a weekly in 1990 and moved to fully digital publication in 2019. The Forward delivers incisive coverage of the issues, ideas and institutions that matter to American Jews. Its rigorous reporting and balanced commentary on politics, arts and culture have won numerous awards year after year and made it the most influential nationwide Jewish media outlet. It is currently free and available to everyone everywhere.

VIDEO

Broadway: A Jewish Journey - LIVE CONCERT from NYCO Azi Schwartz https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=qMW8XP1rjRY&list=RDqMW8XP1rjRY&start_radio=1

Come to me mommy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwTwOh1WJlE

MUSIC

Song for Chayei Sarah https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-8CCRMIVBk&list=RDu-8CCRMIVBk&start radio=1

When the Daughters Speak by Dorothy Richman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKh7xAHH6V4

ART

Children of Ruth: Artists Choosing Judaism by Jean Bloch Rosensaft https://reformjudaism.org/blog/children-ruth-artists

GIVING THANKS

By Rabbi Aaron Sherman

At the end of this month we will celebrate Thanksgiving, when we will eat a big, delicious meal. Sometimes we overlook the significance in the name of the holiday. Don't get me wrong - getting together with family and friends is maybe the most important part of the holiday.

I grew up in Tulsa, OK. My closest family members were many hundreds of miles away and my father wanted to be home to lead Shabbat services the day after Thanksgiving. So, each year, we got together with the rabbi and his family in Oklahoma City. I fondly remember the peanut soup that Nina prepared.

Now it is my immediate family's tradition to get together with our friends Claire and Larry in Charleston. We have watched their children make their way through high school, discussed their classes in college, and look forward to hearing about their early work years.

So back to the name of the holiday. What are we thankful for?

I am thankful for the warm and caring members of Temple Shalom. My relatives really enjoyed meeting many of you at our wonderfully attended Simchat Torah service. Thank you to Hope and Mike for providing a holiday meal. Thank you to Helene, Larry, Pam, Jaime and Bill for putting up and decorating our Sukkah.

I am thankful for vaccines for COVID that wonderful doctors and scientists created.

I am grateful that the Israeli hostages have finally been released and reunited with their families. Hopefully the ceasefire will hold. I am also cognizant that there is a long road ahead for Israel and its neighbors to experience a lasting peace.

I am thankful for my health. I am well aware that many of you and many of your friends and family are battling various illnesses and ailments. This is abundantly clear from the many names you share at services before we sing the Mi Shebeirach prayer. I wish a refuah shleima, a full and healthy recover, to you and your loved ones.

I am thankful for my family – I appreciate the many possibilities that are open to my son as he applies to college.

I am thankful for my dog, at least most of the time. I love the energetic greetings he gives us when we return home, but he can be quite demanding when he thinks it is time for treats or when he wants attention in the evenings following dinner. He also can be quite adorable.

In our Shabbat and Festival prayerbook, *Mishkan T'filah*, we find the following prayer which reminds us of the many things for which we can give thanks:

For the good in us, which calls us to a better life, we give thanks.

For the strength to improve the world with our hearts and hands, we offer praise.

For the desire in us which leads us to work for peace, we are grateful.

For life and nature, harmony and beauty, for the hope of tomorrow, all praise to the Source of Being.

At my family's Shabbat table before we recite the blessings, we each share what we are thankful for from the week just ending.

I suggest we all take a moment to acknowledge what we are thankful for, and then I recommend including a component in your Thanksgiving celebration when you share with one another what you are thankful for.

I hope that we all have a wonderful and meaningful Thanksgiving celebration this year.





IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS OR CONCERNING ACTIVITY, please contact local law enforcement and/or the relevant suspicious activity reporting authority.

Another way we've committed to combating antisemitism and hate in the Lowcountry is through the creation of the first <u>Joint Incident Reporting Tool</u>, in partnership between our Federation, the ADL Southeast, and Secure Community Network. Now, when you witness an act of hate, you can report it so that all three organizations can collaboratively respond, investigate, and track patterns of similar incidents around the state.

The **Secure Community Network** (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official homeland safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.

Temple Shalom 4023 Belle Terre Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Temple Shalom is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 20-3142057

November 2025

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DONATIONS AND DEDICATIONS TO TEMPLE SHALOM

Donations to Temple Shalom can be made in several ways and are greatly appreciated.

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HIGH HOLIDA	AY DONATION is a great way to mak	ke an annual donation to Temple Shalom for any amount. Available	Ю
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Ple	lease take a moment to select your dona	ation(s), write a check, and mail it to Temple Shalom, or use PayPal.	
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PLEASE MAKE ALL THE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEMPLE SHALOM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD,
PLEASE GO TO THE DONATIONS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE
www.TempleShalomMB.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!