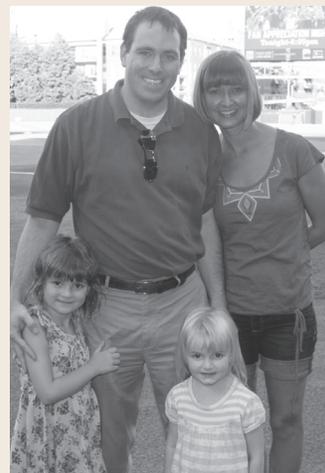


BETWEEN YOU AND ME



Rabbi Grossman

On a humid Mother's Day weekend in 2008, my wife Amy, pregnant with our second child, Lyla, our oldest, Zohara, and I came to Memphis prior to my start date in June. We looked for a house, enjoyed Momapalooza, and began to meet the Temple Israel family. That Friday night, prior to Shabbat services, Amy and I stood in the atrium greeting individuals one by one as each smiling face entered the foyer. At that moment, I learned two very important lessons: first, navy blue in the Memphis heat is not the most intelligent idea, and, second, the gracious hospitality and truly inviting nature of this community made us feel as though we had come home. After six years since that initial welcome, it's with sadness and anticipation that my family and I move on to our next adventure.



As a naïve, inexperienced, and sports-loving rabbi upon my arrival to my departure as a naïve, inexperienced, and sports-loving rabbi, I have been very fortunate to serve this congregation. Since my arrival, this community has made a tremendous impact upon my family and me. Your patience and encouragement have taught me many lessons about the power of people, the possibilities in the Jewish world, and the true meaning of "southern hospitality." I am truly grateful and appreciative for your accepting us into the Temple family, as together we have experienced life's joys and sorrows.

Throughout my tenure, the Temple leadership provided me a steep growth curve, which allowed me the flexibility to be creative, to take risks, and to fail in order to succeed. As a mentor, Rabbi Greenstein's hands-off approach and friendship provided me the guidance and freedom needed to mature, as well as the training to be a leader in this new age of religiosity. Beyond a Friday evening bima partner, Cantor Kaplan's wisdom and guidance helped to shape my confidence in the rabbinate. And with her calm nature and brilliance, Rabbi Katie Bauman is a confidante who consistently challenged me to better articulate my thoughts and see all sides of a situation.

Realizing transition is hard, I can imagine that there is much trepidation as this new chapter begins for Temple Israel. However, Temple's future is bright, especially with the passion from this community and the Temple team. As we mark the holiday of Shavuot this month, we call to mind our ancestors' transitions. Shavuot is celebrated 49 days following the beginning of Passover and honors the moment our ancestors, following the redemption from Egypt, unite together to accept the Torah's teachings, guidance, and questions. While anxious to meet what would follow, the Israelites' shared purpose unified them as they sought their mission to enter the Promised Land. So too, this Temple's greater vision of providing a sanctuary of prayer and inspiration, a vibrant center of Jewish learning, a congregational home for living Torah, and being a source of strength and force for good in our world, provides this community a foundation on which to flourish and prosper.

As a farewell, I say with great pride and affection to you—thank you. Thank you for being my Temple home. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for simply being you. And while I might be heading to Gator Country to don the orange and blue, know that in my heart will always be a special space for Memphis and Temple Israel.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Adam Grossman

RABBI GROSSMAN AND THE TI FELLOWS TO BE HONORED

Friday, June 13, 5:30 pm

Come and celebrate Rabbi Grossman and thank him for all that he has done for Temple Israel at a pre-neg (an oneg/reception) *before* the Shabbat service on June 13.

"When I asked Rabbi Grossman if we could do a dinner program prior to his June departure to the University of Florida, Adam said that the relationships he and his family have formed with Temple families and individuals are what matter most," Rabbi Micah Greenstein said. "However, I WAS able to convince Adam to kickoff our first pre-neg! Drop by on June 13 at 5:30 pm to say farewell to the Grossmans and to enjoy a nosh. A Shabbat service in honor of our cherished rabbi and the Grossman family will follow at 6:15 pm. All ages are invited!"

At the Shabbat service, we will honor Rabbi Grossman and the 2014 TI Fellows—a program led by Rabbi Grossman and the three TI Fellowship founders, David Edelson, Sam Fargotstein, and Jeff Dreifus. The 10-week TI Fellowship summer program is in its second year, and Temple Israel is thrilled to welcome the sixteen TI Fellows participating this year. These young Jewish men and women, representing sophomores, juniors, and seniors from colleges and universities across the country, are working at full-time internships in the Memphis area and are experiencing all of the wonderful aspects of Temple Israel and Memphis. Please give them a warm welcome to Memphis and to Temple Israel.