Temple Shaaray Tefila Welcomes New Senior Leadership

Jessica Herrmann

Temple Shaaray Tefila has announced the appointment of several new senior staff including Executive Director Alli West, Early Childhood Center Director Patty Goldstick and Youth Engagement and Experiential Education Director Jessica Herrmann.

“This is a time of great change, opportunity and excitement,” said Temple President Karen Spiegel. “This team will build on our strengths and expand our horizons through their recognized leadership, deep knowledge of Judaism, innovative ideas and inclusive approach.”

Executive Director Alli West has been a staff member at Temple Shaaray Tefila for the past 11 years and was appointed Executive Director in July of 2019. Having worked in nearly every area of temple life, West has built close relationships with both the temple and broader Westchester community. Most recently, she was the Director of Next Generation Engagement, spearheading successful congregation-wide events and creating meaningful opportunities for all generations to connect with Jewish teachings and traditions. Prior to that, she was the temple’s Associate B’nai Mitzvah Director, enriching the lives of young learners and guiding families on their journey to this important milestone. In addition to serving on the Religious School faculty and as a Senior Youth Advisor, West was also a Cantorial Soloist, singing at Shabbat and B’nai Mitzvah services as well as at Caramoor during High Holidays. She also served as the Director of Programming for the Westchester Youth Alliance for seven years and led the temple’s Interfaith Family Initiative. West is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Early Childhood Center Director Patty Goldstick has more than 25 years of Jewish education experience. Prior to coming to Temple Shaaray Tefila in July of 2019, she was Director of Family and Youth Activities and then as Director of Programming and Volunteers. Goldstick has a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood and Special Education from the Bank Street College of Education.

Youth Engagement & Experiential Education Director Jessica Herrmann came to Temple Shaaray Tefila in August of 2019 from Washington, DC, where she was a resident of Moishe House hosting several events a month to cultivate community among Jewish young professionals. She also implemented experiential education methodology into Temple Micah’s educational programs. Prior to that, she worked in Philadelphia where she spent two years with Repair the World, building community, facilitating social educational events and implementing service projects. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Dickinson College, Herrmann graduated from George Washington University with a Master’s in Experiential Education and Jewish Cultural Arts.

“Our new senior team will help strengthen the Jewish identities of our youth and families,” Spiegel said. “Educational innovation and social action are central to Temple Shaaray Tefila’s priorities and we are confident that this team will continue to reinforce and broaden our dynamic programming.”

Temple Shaaray Tefila, located in Bedford Corners in Northern Westchester, is a Reformed synagogue with a traditional spirit and has a thriving Early Childhood Center and K-12 Religious School. Temple Shaaray Tefila serves more than 650 families in Bedford, Mount Kisco, Katonah, Chappaqua, Somers, Armonk and surrounding communities. Visit www.shaaraytefila.org to learn more.

Katonah Museum of Art Features Israeli Artist Rotem Reshef

Rotem Reshef

Rotem Reshef’s most recent painting-installation “Arcadia”, is now on view in a solo exhibition at the Katonah Museum of Art, until January 26, 2020. An abstract process based action painter based in New York City and Tel Aviv, she works in 2 and 3 dimensional forms.

In this large scale exhibit, Reshef is alluding to Nicholas Poussin’s painting “Et In Arcadia Ego. The installation deals with the tension between the picturesque environment of the museum’s natural surroundings with the potential of disturbance and the suspended aggression that lies underneath the surface, both in American and in Israeli societies.”

For Reshef’s painting installations, she uses a control and release technique, as she pours diluted paint on a horizontal canvas, tilting it and imprinting it to create layered compositions.

In Arcadia, Reshef has collected organic materials, some from the Museum’s grounds in Katonah, and paints on montreal rolls of unstretched canvas that are suspended from the walls. “The marks and vibrant palette which saturate the entire surface reference the natural world, and the gesture of pouring paint reveals her unconventional artistic process that filters and redefines abstraction and expression,” the Museum summarizes. Her attention to detail and texture encourages the viewer to see the ecological changes.

Born in 1964, Reshef is a graduate of HaMidrasha-Faculty of the Arts at Beit Berl Academic College and holds a Master’s degree from Reinwardt Academy, Amsterdam. In 1987, she was awarded a promising Young Artist Scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and participated in the Inaugural Exhibition of the Museum of Israeli Art in Ramat Gan, Israel. She has had many solo and group exhibitions in New York, California and Israel.

The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay Street, Katonah. Call 914-232-9555 for more information.

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Westchester Jewish Life  •  November 2019  •  Cheshvan-Kislev 5780  •  Page 7  •  www.westchesterjewishlife.com