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Temple Emeth

# Bulletin

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THE OLDEST REFORM CONGREGATION IN BERGEN COUNTY

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VOLUME 42 No. 4

MARCH 1990/ADAR 5750

## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

"Thou shalt communicate!..."

There's the hidden message of Pesach. There's the hidden reason why, more than all our great holidays, Pesach has maintained its charm and its charge for us today.

Through the rich atmosphere of the Seder, Pesach tells us that to be truly human and free one must learn to communicate lovingly with others. It does this through making "table talk" into a religious rite.

That's all there is to the Seder: "table talk". It starts off with a child asking a parent for some information. And the parent responds out of his commitment and knowledge and experience.

Now, the Bible is filled with this early intuition that human speech is that which distinguishes humans from lower forms of biological life. Our rabbinic sages were impressed with the fact that in three different sentences in the Torah, a child's possible queries about Pesach are described, and, in four sentences, what seems like possible adult responses are written down. Hence, the Seder, an "orderly" and somewhat structured asking and answering based on these Torah implications.

The Seder does even more. It tells us: no question that a human may ask is ever irrelevant (even though it may be irreverent and baiting!). Is the child arrogant? Even he can be communicated with. The "simpleton": he, too, needs an answer, even though he isn't college material! And, to cap it all: "the child who cannot even ask: (remember: there are only three Torah textual questions to the four answers)-even he gets an "answer". "Aht p'tach lo", says the Haggadah: "you, parent, open yourself to him, the indifferent one!"

There's the key: "open yourself to him". Relate to him in your humanity, through your gift of speech, in your role as father, as mother, as friend, as neighbor.

Lest you think that the Seder is no more than a forced kind of structured "table talk", remember what the sages said further: "Everyone who dwells at length upon the story of Pesach, behold it is praiseworthy". At my father's Seder table, it wasn't just the formal procedure of me reciting the "four questions" followed by my father dutifully reading the rest of the Haggadah, ceremoniously "answering" me, ponderously and piously "telling" me the story of Pesach. It wasn't just a delivering of the mail, and "let's eat."

No. In the midst of the "telling", digressions were many and they were often. I would interrupt the proceedings with a comment on the text. This was always welcomed. Sometimes, "Wiseguy" college kid that I was, the comment had a sneer in it. Yet, I never remember a rejection. I never remember a hasty retort, an impatient and anxious desire to return immediately to the revered Haggadah text. There would be give and take, and my father would give as often as he would take. Somehow, the evening stretched into a languorous and almost sensual warmth of human experience. And, all of this before the meal!!

So, here's Pesach again with its magic that reminds us parents and children, husbands and wives, neighbors and casual acquaintances, how to become more human and emerge from the real Egypt of our souls. It reminds us that Pesach is possible every day- that day on which we have grown up enough to "open yourself to him".

## TEMPLE EMETH BULLETIN

Temple Emeth  
1666 Windsor Road  
Teaneck, N.J. 07666



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## BULLETIN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Copy Deadline	Publication Date
April 4	April 25
May 10	June 6

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 24	Shabbat Shebang
March 31	Brotherhood Comedy Night
April 1	Breakfast with the Rabbi
April 10	Community Seder
April 22	Rummage Sale
May 3	Congregational Meeting
May 5	Temple Dinner Dance honoring the Sigel's

## B'NAI MITZVAH SCHEDULE

3/31 Jennifer Vogel  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vogel  
4/7 Joshua Moskowitz  
Mr. and Mrs. David Moskowitz  
4/21 Brian J. Levy  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Levy

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

3/23 Honoring 25 year members  
3/24 VAYAKHEL P-KUDAY HA-HODESH  
3/30 VAYIKRA  
3/31 VAYIKRA  
4/6 Family Friday Night  
4/7 TZAV-HAGADOL  
4/13 HOL HAMO-ED PESAH  
4/14 HOL HAMO-ED PESAH  
4/20 Shabbat of Outreach  
4/21 SHEMINI  
4/27 Israel Independence Shabbat  
Senior League Creative Service  
4/28 TAZRIA-M'TZORA

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

A view of our calendar reveals that communal Temple life is full indeed! Purim has just passed with all its excitement and spectacle. Pesach will soon be upon us with the warmth and joy of Emeth's annual Second Seder and we are about to share Shabbat Shebang, a day-long celebration of the Sabbath. These holidays, with their message of personal and national freedom, strike vibrant chords in us as we consider current world events.

Our Cantor has just graced our halls with her second outstanding Cantorial Concert. Brotherhood's Comedy Night will certainly entertain us at the end of March and the Sigel Sonata, Opus 30 will be the Gala of the year. Our social life abounds!

So many ritual and social experiences for all of our members but what of those who are unaffiliated? Now is the time to introduce your Jewish friends, neighbors and co-workers, who are unaffiliated with a synagogue, to the exciting and vital world of Temple Emeth.

So often when we ask why someone has never joined a synagogue, the response is "No one ever asked me!" We at Temple Emeth need to change that. We, who are committed to the future of Jewish visions and values, must begin inviting others to join us to enjoy the benefits of belonging to our synagogue community.

With that in mind, we have a special occasion for you. On Friday evening, March 23, at 8:30 p.m., we will celebrate Membership Shabbat, an opportunity for our members and their guests to capture an insight into the varied programs offered, for all ages, at Temple Emeth. We invite each of you to bring a friend or neighbor to visit our Temple and share with us the warmth of Shabbat. Please plan to be with us on March 23rd.

Diane and Micki

## BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP PARTY

Approximately 100 guests attended the "Evening in Italy" Brotherhood Membership Party on February 3rd. The dance floor was crowded as we danced the night away to live music, ranging from nostalgic to new. A sumptuous catered dinner, topped off by mouth-watering desserts was enjoyed by all-and lucky auction winners went home with a 1990 Entertainment Book and a Temple Emeth sweat shirt. This event was truly successful because "you" were there! Special thanks go to Elaine Pollack, Martha Weisberg, Betsey and Stewart Silverman, Sydell and Sy Yegelweil, Fran and Leo Schneider, Carla Silver, Judy Yablonka, Fred Berg and Stan Hecht. **Marianne Berg, Chairman**

## OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

At the Oneg Shabbat on April 13th Temple Emeth's Outreach Committee will present the film "Intermarriage: When Love Meets Tradition". The film focuses on five young interfaith couples struggling with their differences and commitment to each other and to their respective religions. The couples speak openly about their concerns and the conflicts they face.

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## NEWS FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Family Education Day for Pre K-4th graders and their families was held on Saturday, January 20. The theme Tu B'Shevat, was explored through art, music, seders and tree planting activities. As is our tradition, everyone had the opportunity to have trees planted in Israel in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

A lovely Shabbat Dinner was held for 3rd and 4th graders and their families on February 2. More than 100 people enjoyed this repast, as well as an after dinner program followed by a beautiful service and enjoyable Israeli dancing.

Our 8th graders enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Kutz February 9-11. The theme, "Caring for the Environment", was developed by re-searching original Jewish texts on this issue and exploring how to apply these guidelines to our contemporary world.

A social worker from the Jewish Family Services, Gail Prestowsky, visited our 5th through 7th grade classes to discuss the possible options for responding to incidents of anti-Semitism. Unfortunately, our students face this from time to time in their public school setting and need to explore ways that are comfortable for them in dealing with such situations.

## NEWS FROM OUR PARENTING CENTER AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Ten new mothers are enjoying a support group which meets once a week to share experiences of the new dimension in their lives with their precious little infants.

Artwork of our Nursery School children will be on exhibit at the Teaneck Public Library during the month of March. We hope you can stop by to see it.

Registration continues for our summer and fall programs. A few spaces still remain for two, three and four year olds. To register, call 833-8466.

Gail S. Kahn, Director of Education

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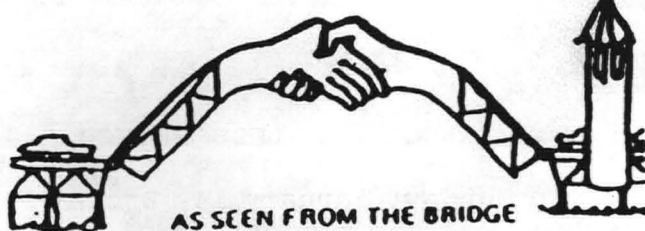
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## TEMPLE EMETH SENIOR LEAGUE

Temple Emeth Senior League has been very busy these past few months. Just recently, February 2-4, we participated in Kallah weekend. This was a JFTY event that took place at Camp Kutz in Warwick, New York. The theme of the weekend was: "Changes in Personal/Family Growth, Media, and Religion". Teaneck tackled "Changes in the Media". Our program demonstrated how TV and music have changed throughout the years. We appreciate all of the support that we received while planning for this weekend.

Currently, we are working on, and planning for, our Creative Service to be held April 27. Each year, Senior League picks a theme, relevant to today's world, and writes a creative service for the entire congregation to participate in. This year's date coincides with Israeli Independence Day. Thus our theme will be, "Israel and the Road to Independence". We hope everyone will join us for the Friday evening service and Oneg to follow. And don't forget to look in your next Bulletin for our latest events since we are always doing something new. **Laura Pollack**

201 837-0608



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## TROUBLE WITH GRANDFATHERS By Bob Spiewak

### HEARTS AND SUKKOT

We have a little Sukkah,  
It's only six by eight  
To have some Sukkah parties,  
We early set the date  
With such a little Sukkah,  
The number must be planned  
That we invite to join us  
But the number did expand  
"So many loving people"  
Said my warmhearted bride  
Let's have the wine and challah  
And have the rest outside  
We opened the Sukkah's door  
And to our great pleasure  
The Sukkah could now expand  
Far beyond it's measure  
And so it is with human hearts  
So small within each breast  
They can expand with love,  
For each friend with whom we're  
blessed.  
But unlike the Sukkah that  
Unfolds for just the season  
A heart grows larger every  
year  
Grows larger beyond reason  
For even when a friend is gone  
And every life must finish  
The love we hold within our  
hearts  
Need never to diminish  
There is no limit to the size  
To which a heart can be  
If just like the Sukkah door  
It's open constantly.

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## **FROM THE RABBI'S MAIL BOX**

Dear Rabbi Sigel,

On behalf of the Board of Governors and Administrative Staff of Hackensack Medical Center, I would like to express my gratitude to all who volunteered at our institution on Christmas Day.

The spirit of holiday giving displayed by you and members of your Temple was deeply appreciated by both the staff and the patients. Although it is difficult to be hospitalized during the holidays, I am certain that the Temple Emeth volunteers lightened the day for all.

Again, thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely, John P. Ferguson,  
President Chief Executive

## **NCJW SCHOLARSHIPS**

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Teaneck Section, offers tuition-aid scholarships to those college students entering their Junior or Senior year and Graduate students who are pursuing a course of Jewish studies which ultimately will enable them to serve the Jewish community. Primary consideration will be given those individuals pursuing studies in the field of Jewish education. Applicants must either reside or work in Bergen County. Awards are made after a personal interview and are based on financial need, scholarship and commitment. Applications must be typed, completed with references and returned by May 1.

**Jewish Education Scholarship**  
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## **BROTHERHOOD HOMELESS BRUNCH**

On Sunday, January 14, Brotherhood, at the suggestion of the Social Action Committee, sponsored a special brunch for about 35 homeless men and women from the CAP shelters in Hackensack.

The two hour event was enjoyed by all. Bert Kuerer graciously accepted our invitation to play keyboard for the first hour, which certainly added to the festivity, after which a volunteer group of musicians, the Garden State Harmonica Club performed.

Brotherhood members pitched in and participated in their usual dedicated fashion. Very special thanks go to: Carl Monheit for turning out the delicious omelets, and to Bob Spiewak for supplying and preparing the makings of the omelets. Thanks also to Sam Allar, who was a tremendous help in planning this event, and to the Vatskys, Silvermans, Hechts, Hauptmans, Penny Allar and Hedy Geller for furnishing the various courses and helping facilitate the afternoon. As always, John, our custodian was invaluable in every way. We are grateful to Butterflake Bakery for the generous donation of cakes.

**Fran Schneider**

## **EMETH HOSTS NCJW SHABBAT**

The annual National Council of Jewish Women Shabbat will be held at Temple Emeth, Friday evening, March 30th at 8:30 p.m.

Please join us in recognizing this volunteer organization which is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish and secular communities locally, nationally and internationally.

**Beth Monheit Janice Lipsitz**



## GOOD AND WELFARE

### Mazel tov to:

Shirley and Richard Norman on the birth of their grandson  
Austin Julian Norman  
Florence Sultzer on her 90th birthday  
Eileen and Carl Nahm on the birth of their granddaughter  
Rachel Nahm, daughter of Linda and Richard  
Mary Hauptman on being appointed to the Advisory Commission on  
Women Veterans of New Jersey  
Leila and Norman Fallet on the birth of their granddaughter Chana  
to Debby and Cary Buckman  
Janis and Bud Maltin and Jackie and Aaron Maltin on the birth of  
Aja, a second daughter to Janis and Bud  
Shirley and Ken Heller on the marriage of their son, Ian Lowell  
to Bettina Schein  
Nettie and Leonard Feuchs on the birth of their granddaughter  
Ashley Erika to Tammy and Ronald Feuchs  
Grace and Bob Jacobs on the birth of their grandson Adam Robert  
to Dawn and Bill Jacobs  
Sandy and Walter Frimmet on the birth of their grandson

The Congregation mourns the passing of our beloved member, Jack  
Lazar and extends our sincere condolences to his wife, Helen

### Condolences to:

George Forstot on the loss of his beloved mother, Rose Forstot  
Harvey Lewis on the loss of his beloved father, George Lewis  
Estelle and Bob Spiewak on the loss of their beloved brother,  
Martin Spiewak  
Luis Mendez on the loss of his beloved brother, George Mendez  
Gloria Barsky on the loss of her beloved mother, Ethel Rose

Get well wishes to: Dr. Harold Goldberg



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of Eileen and Carl Nahm

Grace and Bob Jacobs in honor of their new grandson Adam Robert  
Jacobs born to Dawn and Bill

### Museum Fund:

Valerie and Ernest Horn in honor of Florence Sultzer's 90th  
birthday

Gladys Kaplan in honor of Florence Sultzer's 90th birthday

Audrey and Norman Muehsam in memory of Martin Spiewak, brother of  
Bob Spiewak

### Prayerbook Fund:

Anne and Ken Rosenthal in honor of Florence Sultzer's 90th birthday

Anne and Ken Rosenthal in honor of Eileen and Carl Nahm's new  
granddaughter

### Social Action Fund:

Temple Emeth Retirees in honor of Florence Sultzer's 90th birthday

Sandy and Herb Loft in memory of Saul Lewis, father of Harvey Lewis

Suzanne and Philip Keusch in memory of Saul Lewis, father of Harvey

### Cantor Bornstein's Discretionary Fund:

Micki and Mike Grunstein in memory of Saul Lewis, father of Harvey

Fran and Irwin Butensky in memory of Martin Spiewak, brother of Bob  
Bev and Sy Lazar

### Rabbi Sigel's Discretionary Fund:

Pearl Ostrow

Jacqueline and Aaron Maltin in honor of the birth of Robert Daniel  
Rutz, new grandson of Rabbi and Mimi Sigel

Marcia and Herbert Friedman in honor of the speedy recovery of  
their daughter

Joan and David Paul in honor of the birth of Julia Rachel Nahm,  
granddaughter of Eileen and Carl Nahm

Nettie and Leonard Feuchs in honor of the birth of their grand-  
daughter, Ashley Erika Feuchs

Leila and Norman Fallet in memory of Martin Spiewak, brother of Bob

### Music Fund:

Jacqueline and Aaron Maltin in honor of the birth of their new  
granddaughter, Aja

Bernice and Nat Ritzer in honor of the marriage of Shirley and Ken  
Heller's son, Ian to Bettina Schein

Pauline and Stan Hecht in memory of Pam Cohen, sister-in-law of  
Betsey and Stew Silverman

Fran and Irwin Butensky in memory of Saul Lewis, father of Harvey



## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Playground Fund:

Estelle and Bob Spiewak in honor of the new granddaughter of Leila and Norman Fallet, Miriam Chana Buckman  
Estelle and Bob Spiewak in honor of the new granddaughter of Jackie and Aaron Maltin, Aja  
Estelle and Bob Spiewak in memory of Marty Spiewak, beloved brother

### Parenting Center Fund:

Micki and Mike Grunstein in memory of Jack Lazar beloved husband of Helen Lazar  
Marianne and Fred Berg in honor of Miriam Chana Buckman new granddaughter of Leila and Norman Fallet  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Bloom in memory of Martin Spiewak

### Barbara Straussman Memorial Fund:

Bonnie and Steve Traiman in honor of Julia Rachel, granddaughter of Eileen and Carl Nahm

### Landscape Fund:

Barbara and Paul Kaufman in memory of Steven Saloway, son-in-law of Ruth Meissner

### Youth Fund:

Micki and Mike Grunstein in memory of Martin Spiewak, brother of Bob Spiewak  
June and Bob Mandelkern in honor of the birth of Miriam Chana Buckman, granddaughter of Leila and Norman Fallet  
Florence Sultzer in gratitude to the Senior League for beautiful birthday cake in honor of her 90th birthday  
Rena Taubes in honor of Dan Kirsch

### Inscribed Prayerbook Fund:

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## THE AMERICAN REFORM CANTORATE

The hazzan of the medieval period was a man of extensive learning and of high esteem. The congregation was dependent on him and led by him during worship services. He was the most important person in the city expressing skillfully the meaning of the sacred words he sang. The term "hazzan" is known to the earliest rabbinic records around the turn of the Common Era. The original hazzan was a general synagogue official, who, by the end of the 5th century, interpreted the special poetry of the piyyutim. By the 7th century and onward, the liturgy was so vast that only experts could master it. The liturgy was not yet "fixed" and therefore changed with each service.

The cantor was "invested" with great spiritual responsibilities regarding the interpretation of each prayer. Although each Jew could call to God directly, the sacrifices had once been offered by designated priests representing the people. The hazzan was that person...the "sheliach tsibur"...the agent or representative of the people. The fact is that the rabbi was not a synagogue functionary then as he/she is today.

Now for a look at the Modern Reform Cantorate, allow me to share with you a typical week in my life.

Monday brings forth an adult beginners Hebrew class followed by an adult advanced Hebrew class where both the basics of reading and liturgy are studied. After lunch and a possible hospital visit, I return to meet individually with 7 Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates to help them prepare their Torah, Haftarah, speech and prayer book responsibilities, all of which culminate in their participation in our Shabbat service as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. From 8-9 p.m. I teach an adult education Torah Cantillation class.

Tuesday includes the selection of music for the forthcoming Shabbat service as well as the investigation of new and newly published pieces not yet heard by our congregation. The day might include a shiva call or hospital visit until 4 p.m., at which time I teach 7th grade Hebrew in the religious school until 6 p.m. Tuesday evening I generally meet with 2 or 3 Bar/Bat Mitzvah students provided there is not a committee meeting.

Wednesday finds me making various community calls ranging from "Bikur Cholim"...visiting the sick...to speaking at the Elizabeth Morrow School in Englewood. In the afternoon I meet with yet another 6 Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates which takes me up to 7 p.m. The choir meets every Wednesday evening from 7:45 until 9:30 and I often "sprint" between a committee meeting and choir rehearsal in order to appear at both. (I don't roller skate!)

Thursday is technically my day off. However, emergency situations, consultations, meetings, calls from anxious brides and grooms and more phone calls inevitably await me. Thursday evening almost always beckons to me in the form of a Board or Ritual Committee meeting.

Then, finally, it is Shabbat...day of rest. Services take place at Temple Emeth every Friday night and Saturday morning throughout the year, often enhanced by a "Tot Shabbat" or Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Of course, we have festival services according to the calendar.

I teach 7th grade Hebrew on Sundays from 10-12 a.m.

Miscellaneous duties include finding the time to organize, rehearse and learn such extras as the March 18 Cantorial Concert, the organization and creation of musical programs for Temple Emeth functions, involvement with the American Conference of Cantors, minyanim, funerals, weddings, responding to the homeless and needy in our community and the general ministration to the congregation. On a personal level, I had hoped to begin work on a Doctorate. However, given my schedule, this seems not to be the time.

All of the above combine with the musical artistry, knowledge and individual strengths to form what has become the American Reform Cantorate.

I remain grateful for the support you have given me both before and after my own investiture.

Last week, a congregant remarked to me, "Cantor, you look like you don't know whether you're coming or going"...you know what? Sometimes I don't! Cantor Annie Lynn Bornstein

### OUTREACH CONNECTIONS-PASSOVER

For an interfaith couple, the decision to raise their children as Jews is arrived at after much "soul searching". Having made that commitment, the non-Jewish partner often shows great determination in arranging, and reinforcing quality religious education for the Jewish child. The responsibility of educating our children cannot be undertaken lightly, but the results of a partnership between parents and temple can be of priceless benefit to the child.

The following illustrates one non-Jewish mother's "reward" at Passover:

It was the first seder of Passover. Our children were excited about finding the afikomen, hoping to be the ones who would be rewarded. My son, while getting dressed, realized he might be asked to read from the Haggadah. He was self-conscious and said, "Do I have to read?" I answered him by saying that I knew his grandparents would be proud if he did. Although not Jewish myself, my husband and I had chosen to raise our children as Jews and I was very supportive of the process.

The seder plate was laden with the traditional shankbone, matzah, bitter herbs, karpas, eggs and charoset. The oldest grandchild of two Jewish parents recited a prayer she had memorized. Her brother read the phonetic Hebrew. Our son was the next to read. His father and I "kvelled" in anticipation. A whisper came over the table, "He is reading Hebrew. Listen to how beautifully he is reading the Hebrew!" My son looked up and searched the table proudly for me. His confident expression clearly showed his pride in being a Jew.

When interfaith couples decide to raise their children as Jews, they should support that decision by providing opportunities for their education in religious school and at home.

Kathy Kahn 559-0080

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**SOCIAL ACTION: SOVIET JEWRY  
ACCULTURATION**

Tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate to the United States this year. It is our responsibility to accomplish Soviet Jewish acculturation by encouraging our newly emigrated brothers and sisters to join and become active members of our Temple and community.

At the February Board Meeting the officers and trustees of Temple Emeth unanimously adopted a motion to provide the new Russian Jewish families in our community with participation in religious educational activities at the Temple without charge for two years.

To facilitate the process of acculturation, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Regional Social Action Committee is holding a conference, "Integrating Soviet Jewish Emigrants Into Our Synagogue and Communities" on Wednesday, March 21, 6-10 p.m. at Temple Sholom in Cedar Grove, N.J. Anyone interested in this program and its implementation at Temple Emeth, please contact Hedy Geller at 836-4690.

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**ART EXHIBIT AT TEMPLE EMETH'S  
EXPERIENTIAL MUSEUM**

Works by the internationally noted artist Jeffrey Packard, renowned for his contemporary interpretations of Biblical and Judaic themes, will be on display March 5th to May 8th. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Mr. Packard has been commissioned by the Trustees of Temple Emeth to create a permanent wall sculpture for the Temple lobby. The sculpture was dedicated by Rabbi Sigel during a ceremony for Temple members on Sunday, March 4th.

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## SUMMER KALLOT

Plan to be part of a unique adventure of the spirit. The UAHC-CCAR Commission on Religious Living announces Summer Kallot 1990 opportunities for adult Jewish learning.

July 11-15 on the Campus of

Brandeis University

Waltham, Massachusetts

August 22-26 on the Campus of

U.C.L.A. Los Angeles,  
California

\* In-depth Study of Classical Jewish Texts

\* Discussion of Contemporary Jewish Issues

\* Cultural Activities

\* Options for Religious Living

For additional information,  
contact the Temple Office.

## BONDS AID SOVIET JEWISH ALIYAH

We can be thankful that massive Russian emigration to Israel is underway, and accelerating. Israel Bonds is launching an urgent campaign to help the State provide housing and employment for them.

You may be able to purchase more than you think. If you hold Bonds that will become due between now and December 31, 1991, you may reinvest in new Bonds at full maturity value providing you reinvest in a higher denomination.

Your prompt action will help Israel in this critical period of Soviet Jewish aliyah. For complete information, contact June Mandelkern, Israel Bond Chairman or call the Bond office at 907-0001.

Telephone 833-0335

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## A LOOK AT HUNGER

New Jersey is home to over 600,000 people who don't have enough to eat. Over 300,000 of them are children. The magnitude of the problem, however, is not visible since most hungry people do not seek help they simply or not so simply go hungry.

Many of these are the chronically poor, born into poverty and lacking access to the resources to help them change their lives. Many are the working poor, who simply don't earn enough to make ends meet and who, because of cutbacks in federal aid, can no longer receive additional assistance. The new poor consist of the wage earner who is laid off after many years, the divorced woman with dependent children, the elderly with limited financial resources, the family trying to recover from adversities.

Whatever the diverse causes of their problems, these people, have common needs. And often their most pressing need is quite simply food. Please send your donations of food or checks for the Center for Food Action to Temple regularly. Put it on your calendar as a reminder to contribute to those without food. It's a mitzva.

Sam Allar, Social Action Chair

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Our custodian, John Rodriguez has been an invaluable help during our Religious School Shabbat dinners. Without being asked, he takes the initiative to arrange beautiful table settings and stands guard over the chafing dishes. He even knows the secrets of the Temple kitchen ovens—no small accomplishment! This really comes in handy, especially now that we're preparing some of the dinners ourselves.

John, keep up the good work and please, don't leave town on Fridays! Jane de Vries, Cyndy Friedland and Elaine Polakoff

## **OPERATION EXODUS - ISRAEL**

Threatened anti-semitic hostility in the Soviet Union has created an urgent situation. That, together with the fact that for years world Jewry has actively sought the release of Soviet Jews and now must respond or else lose our credibility, warrants the efforts of every Jew on behalf of our Soviet brethren.

The number of Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel jumped from 220 in 1986 to 12,814 in 1989. In the month of January, 1990 4585 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel, and the number is growing.

Israeli sources expect between 210,000 and over three quarters of a million over the next 3-5 years.

The cost of settling 200,000 is estimated at \$3.6 billion. The Israeli government plans to spend \$3 billion. The American Jews' share of that is \$420 million to be pledged in one year and paid in three. The remaining \$180 million will be paid by the rest of the world Jewry.

For further information, call the United Jewish Community office at 488-6800.

## **CONCERT TO BENEFIT JFTY MITZVAH CORPS**

A celebration of Reform Jewish commitment to Social Justice will benefit the JFTY Urban Mitzvah Corps on Saturday evening, April 14 at Temple Emanu-El in Livingston at 7:45 pm. The program, "The Fight for Civil Rights: Continuing the Struggle into the 90's," will feature Carolyn Goodman, mother of slain civil rights activist Andrew Goodman. A musical performance by folk singer Doug Mishkin will conclude the evening. Mishkin, who has performed at many national Jewish events, including the December 1987 "Rally for Soviet Jewry" in Washington, will perform songs that find their roots in the civil rights movement.

JFTY Urban Mitzvah Corps, now preparing for its 21st summer, has provided over 400 Jewish High School students opportunities to live Jewish social justice values by working and studying for 6 weeks in urban renewal and social service settings. Mitzvah Corps is supported by the contributions of New Jersey Reform Jews.

Ticket prices for the Benefit are \$50 for Patrons, \$36 for Sponsors, and \$18 for general admission. Patrons and Sponsors will receive reserved seating and acknowledgement in the program. Discount tickets are available for JFTY members (\$7), and students (\$8). Donor and Sponsor reservations should be made by April 5th. Please mail checks, payable to "JFTY Urban Mitzvah Corps" to JFTY/UAHC, 1 Kalisa Way, #104, Paramus, NJ 07652.

For more information or directions, call JFTY Director Andrew Rehfeld at 599-0080.



## THE DREAM, AGAIN

In all of Jewish history, there have been no more than ten or so dates that will be remembered as long as there are Jews to remember things. Most generations of Jews have lived and have died without ever witnessing the decisive turns of Jewish history except through the clouds of memory. Yet within the lifetime of our own generation, those clouds have parted not once, but twice, and we have seen the turning with our own eyes.

First was the Kingdom of Night, then was the rebirth of the Republic of Hope.

And now there is the Reunion, the great homecoming of hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union. Yesterday's trickle becomes today's flow, tomorrow's flood.

Through the tumultuous years of modern Israel's brief history, there have been moments of pure vindication, moments when all complexity has disappeared and the elemental reason for a Jewish State has stood in stark and pure relief. The mass immigration in the late 1940s and early 1950s, from the displaced persons' camps of Europe and from North Africa; years later, Operation Moses, the rescue of Ethiopian Jews; now, Operation Exodus, perhaps as many as a million and a half Soviet Jews ingathered, welcomed.

For the Soviet Jews themselves, the new freedom means, at last, the chance to build a life far from the quickening curse of anti-Semitism.

For the Jews of Israel, the new freedom means the renewal of a dream that some had supposed was obsolete, the chance to refresh the authentic purposes of a Jewish national home.

And for us, for the Jews of North America, there is an essential role to play; the fulfillment of this new chapter of our people's dream. Two years ago, a quarter of a million of us gathered in Washington to speak for the freedom of our people. That freedom is now ours to enable.

But freedom is not free. To bring masses of Soviet Jews to Israel means to provide housing, schools, jobs, lest the invitation to a new life prove a cruel and bitter hoax, lest the reunion sour. Here are Jews, eager to come; here is a nation eager to receive them. But they cannot come and they will not if there is nowhere for them to live, to learn, to work.

Plainly, it is our task to provide the resources that will translate the dream of freedom into the reality of reunion. As plainly, we want and mean to be more than passive financiers as that translation is written into our people's history. We want and mean to be partners with the Soviet Jews and partners with the Israelis, going beyond the raising of dollars and the signing of checks to helping ensure that every dollar that is spent is spent responsibly, efficiently, effectively.

It is unthinkable that the Jewish people will allow this glorious opportunity to shrivel, that we will allow ourselves to be remembered as the generation that had history in its grasp---and let go of it.

Nor is our shared opportunity limited to the wonders of reunion. The restoration of the early vision of Israel's purpose is inherently a restoration of a vision of peace, as well. The people of Israel know that chronic violence and war not only inhibit immigration, but also exhaust the energies and the treasure of the nation, the energies and the treasure that must now be turned to the sacred task of absorption.

We call attention to the danger of seeking to use this new opportunity for political purposes. The homecoming of our people transcends politics--but politics can poison it. Soviet Jews are not "settlement-fodder," nor ought Operation Exodus be a cover for the pursuit of ideological goals. The absorption of Soviet Jews must not become a pawn in the debate over a Greater Israel; if those who enter the partnership with enthusiasm are led to conclude that their efforts are being exploited by partisans of one view or another, their enthusiasm will surely wane.

Above all, we call on each and every American Jew, in all our congregations throughout the land, working through our local federations, to join in this partnership in reunion, to lend hand and heart and pocketbook so that we may together enter history. For that is what is here at stake. Together, it has been given us to write a new chapter, to make possible a new beginning, to bring new life to our people and to our dream--the dream of freedom, of peace, of home.

In this book of life, it is we who must inscribe our names.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

President Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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