

An affiliate of The Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Temple Emeth Bulletin

THE OLDEST REFORM CONGREGATION IN BERGEN COUNTY

VOL. 42 NO. 6

MAY 1991/IYAR 5751

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

Strong medicine, this belief in a "Messiah"!

Again, having celebrated our most "messianic" of all holidays, Passover, I've gotten to thinking how pervasive is this human need for a "Messiah" in religion, in politics, in every social organization.

"Messiah" is a simple Hebrew noun meaning "a man upon whose head oil has been poured." In Bible times, it meant the Israelite king or his heir apparent. In post-exilic times, it meant some yet-to-be-born scion of the dynasty of David the King who will physically restore Israel to its original hegemony by removing whatever temporary, foreign usurper sits on David's throne and rightfully to usher in a time of real, physical, this-worldly peace for Jerusalem, Israel, and, as a result, all the world.

Powerful stuff, this yearning for some natural (or supernatural) strong man who will usher in a time of peace and plenty. It accounts for the origins of Christianity. It accounts for the retention of Jewish sanity during decades and, even centuries, of living in the insane asylums of medieval Europe with its ghettoes and Judengassen: <u>"ANI MA-AMIN...</u>"

These perpetual messianic expectations explain the origins of modern, political Zionism. It is nothing other than the secularization, as Arthur Hertzberg long ago taught us, of the Jewish religious belief in the Messiah.

Messianism can also be demonic. Its heady, intoxicating fumes can take hordes of rational people and turn them into raving lunatics who will believe anything that is asked of them. In 1665, Shabbetai Zevi in Turkey had over a million Jews dog his every step and count his every word as he demanded of the Turkish Sultan that Jerusalem be handed over to this rightful son of David. When threatened with death for his arrogance, our would-be Messiah converted to Islam. And one million of his Jewish devotees STILL believed that he was the Messiah, insisting that his conversion was the final proof of his legitimacy, in approval and imitation of which, they, too, converted to Islam in support of him!

Lately, the rational world has marvelled over the phenomenon of the irrational belief and trust in a patently evil, malevolent strong man. Despite every feral thing that he did and continues to do to his own Iraqi people and to his "brothers" in the Arab world, Saddam Hussein still enjoys being lionized and lauded as the messianic saviour of the Arab world. Granted, the incredible depth of Arab frustration; granted, the repeated hammer-blows to Arab dreams of recapturing the glories of a real glorious Arab past. Granted the intensity of hatred for everything that is Western, especially personified in the Jewish presence in Israel: is that enough to explain away the madness of Iraqis, Jordanians, Palestinians as they embrace with messianic zeal the "mother and father" of all savages as their redeemer?

Sure, every Pesah, we Jews open the door for Elijah, for that perennial messianic herald. I think we ought to open it warily, yes, suspiciously, ready to slam it in the face of the wild-eyed, the non-reasonable, the nihilistic, even if it garbs itself in <u>very</u> Jewish gabardine!

TEMPLE EMETH BULLETIN

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Educational Director Youth Director

BULLETIN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Copy Deadline Publication Date

May 16 June 6

DATES TO REMEMBER

May	11	Shabbaton at Joan and David
an Fisse		Paul's home
May	19	Shavuot - Confirmation
June	9	Clean-up day
		HELTER HONOR ROLL

Temple Emeth has just concluded its commitment to use our Youth Lounge to shelter the overflow of homeless singles from January to March. This mitzvah was made possible mainly through the efforts of Hedy Geller of the Social Action Committee who had to arrange for volunteers to stay overnight on Sundays. Most of the volunteers were Temple Emeth members.

For their services, we honor and thank: Don Fiedler Ted Greenwood Jackie Brickel Roger Hoffman Hedy Geller Moshe Dworkin Brigid Ullman Susan Dworkin Jamie Elkin Carol Rothstein Bert Kuerer Harold Rothstein Charly Kneeter Fran Hyman Adele Holman Bob Siegel Charlene Schulman Lynne Geller Diane Belok Leah Rosch Ken Rosenthal June Mandelkern Evelyn Siegel Bob Mandelkern

We plan on serving the homeless again and would hope that we can make it a 100% Temple Emeth mitzvah. Sam Allar, Social Action Chairman

June 1 Jesse Gronner

Mr.and Mrs.Sam Gronner June 8 David Feldbaum Mr.and Mrs.Miles Feldbaum

B'NAI MITZVAH SCHEDULE

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

May	10/11	B'HAR-B'HUKOTYE	
May	17/18	B'MIDBAR	
May	24/25	NASO	
May	31/ June	1 В'НА-А-LOHT-КНА	
June	7	Family Oriented	
	Sei	vice - Scouting	
June	8	SHLAH-L'KHA	

Staci Butler

Hello! My name is Staci Butler. I'm an eighth grader at Roy W. Brown Middle School in Bergenfield. On Saturday, April 27 I was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. My Torah portion was "Kiddoshim" from Leviticus, a parsha*: on caring, fairness and understanding. I am very interested in music; I currently play the piano, trumpet, violin, sing in the school and Temple choirs and have done gymnastics since I was three.

Jesse Gronner

Hi, my name is Jesse Gronner. On June 1st, I'll be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, to read my portion from Numbers called "B'haa-loht-kha". I am a student in the 7th grade at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. My favorite sport is soccer, and I play various intramural I'm in the advanced math sports. class, and enjoy this subject. My dad, Sam, my mother Karen, and my older sister Arielle invite you to join with us on the day for which I've studied and prepared.



As you already know, Rabbi Sigel will be retiring at the end of June Last September, in preparation for this event, we invited you to 1992. participate in a Rabbinic Search Committee. We are certain that you must be curious as to the progress of our search.

A large committee, of nearly fifty members, was formed under the able quidance of Past President Dan Kirsch assisted by Ritual Chairman Joe Boonin, to allow a broad cross section of our membership to be represented in the To further ensure that broad representation, a subselection process. committee drafted the questionnaire which you received in November 1990. Your responses were tabulated and used in the formulation of our application to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Rabbinical Placement Commission.

The CCAR, in their newsletter, has now advertised our congregation's By the middle of May, we expect to have received a Rabbinic position. "panel" of approximately fifteen candidates who are interested in our pulpit.

A sub-committee has been working, in closed session, to develop a series of questions for the initial screening of the full panel of candidates. A mock interview, with a student Rabbi, provided an effective test-run. The full committee will be meeting to confirm the questions to be used and to set procedures for conducting telephone and in-person interviews. The full committee will also consider the composition of the sub-committee which will conduct the in-person interviews.

All interviews will follow the procedures and guidelines suggested by the Rabbinical Placement Commission. It is expected that the initial round of interviews will be completed by mid-summer and the field of candidates will be narrowed considerably. A second round of more intensive interviews will then commence and continue until a candidate is selected.

All meetings, interviews and relevant discussions must be carried on with absolute confidentiality. For this reason, information in the coming months will be limited. We appreciate and understand your interest and concern, and promise to keep you informed. Micki and Diane

RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE QUESTIONAIRE

Last fall, the Rabbiinic Search Committee sent out a questionnaire to obtain the members' feelings about the congregation's priorities. We believe the responses were representative of the congregation.

Ten items, stood out as having the highest priority. Conducting a Service

Reading and Interpreting Torah

Personal Warmth

Knowledge of Reform Judaism

Sermon Content and Delivery

Rapport with Adults

Knowledge of Traditional Judaism

Knowledge of Hebrew

Creative Worship (Alternative Services) Rapport with Youth and Children

Four items indicated sharp differences among the congregation, with a significant number of people deeming them "Not Desired", while a significant number of people thought them either "Essential" or "Important". They were:

Performing Interfaith Marriages Wearing Tallit

Wearing a Kipah

Active in Fundraising.

The Committee spent a great deal of time on these items. They will all be topics for discussion with any rabbinic candidate, but will not, in themselves, be regarded as reasons for accepting or rejecting anyone.

The Committee believes that the survey results have a great deal of validity. We received 258 responses, out of a total congregational membership of 457 families.

Since the Committee's views closely parallel those of the Congregation at large, we are optimistic that we will be able to formulate criteria, and ultimately select a rabbinic candidate, who will truly reflect Temple Emeth's priorities. The Committee is now entering the most critical and sensitive stage of the process, involving the interviewing of a panel of candidates. In order to maintain confidentiality, I would appreciate it if all questions were directed to me as Chairman, rather than to Committee members.

Daniel E. Kirsch

NEWS FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The teachers and I would like to thank everyone for a lovely Faculty Recognition Shabbat evening on March 8. The school committee prepared a lovely dinner and services were an opportunity for the faculty to feel truly appreciated. We salute Debbie Rutz on her tenth year teaching at Temple.

Classes have begun conducting their own Sunday morning services. Parents attend and students have the opportunity to experience leading a service which will serve them well when they participate as B'nai Mitzvah.

A model seder was conducted for K-4th graders. We thank the following parents who helped: David and Hillary Levine, Martine McGowen, Elaine Bivetto, and Eileen Commike.

Fifth through seventh graders attended a Passover show joined by three other Temples from Bergen County. "A Wish on a Fish" was a refreshing change of pace for our pre-Passover activity.

Israel Family Education Day was held on April 6. Workshops included making felafel, Israeli dancing, and Jewish Jeopardy. Rumor has it we have quite a number of knowledgeable champions in our midst.

Several of our congregants and faculty members attended the county-wide symposium on Jewish education on March 13. Speakers, workshops, and a panel discussion explored the theme "Keeping our Kids Jewish".

Bergen Academy of Reform Judaism continues to grow and flourish. Temple Beth El in Closter will be joining the school next year which will bring a significant increase in enrollment. A brunch in honor of Rabbi Dan Freelander, our Regional Director and one of the founders of BARJ, was held on March 17. This resounding success realized an unprecedented amount of funds for the BARJ program.

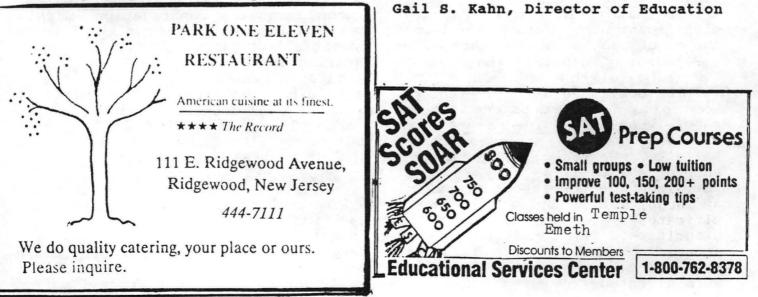
NEWS FROM OUR PARENTING CENTER

Parents, grandparents, et al joined us for model seders just before Passover. All the traditional steps of the seder were included, at a level that the children were able to understand. Cameras were flashing and videotapes were rolling as these precious moments were immortalized.

A field trip to the dentist proved to be a delightful experience for our pre-schoolers. Our thanks to Dr. Larry Liebster, congregant and periodontist who hosted us and offered the children a gentle and supportive introduction to the dentist's office.

Tot services are conducted once a month by Cantor Bornstein. The Sanctuary is becoming a comfortable and familiar place for our youngsters.

An outstanding in-service workshop was conducted as part of our staff development program. Our thanks to June Handler, congregant and Early Childhood Specialist, for sharing her expertise and talents with us. Another workshop is planned in May.





February 27 may seem like a long time ago, but the fun and liveliness of this year's Brotherhood sponsored Purim Bash remains fresh in many people's minds. Wendy and Michael Furman and Pauline Hecht recreated a costume parade, relay races and quessing games from last year. "It's important that the kids can see that children can have fun in the Synagogue as well as view it as a holy, special place." Seeing Rabbi Sigel and Cantor Annie Bornstein donning costumes contributed to the up-beat, festive mood. In lieu of their customary black robes, Rabbi wore the traditional garb of a klesmer player and played his clarinet; Cantor Annie was a long-haired blonde punker. Everyone wearing a costume received Following a traditional a prize. Megillah reading with horn-honking, hissing and stomping to drown out the name of evil Haman, and the singing of hymns to such unorthodox tunes as "Oklahoma", and "When You Wish Upon

A Star", the children and adults paraded in their costumes. There were many Esthers, Hamans and princesses, of course.

The older children were treated to an art project of making Mishloah Manot, baskets of treats brought traditionally to friends and neighbors on Purim. A highlight of the night was the guessing of how many gummy bears were occupying a fishbowl. Other contributors to this event were Cindy Friedland, Rhona Herman and Vicky Farhi.

Pamela Ritzer

TROUBLE WITH GRANDFATHERS by Bob Spiewak

Shaloch Manot

'Twas the eve before Purim When our front doorbell rang And we opened the door To a cute little gang There were two little girls And just one other Who looked much too young To be these girls' mother Queens Esther and Vashti Said "Shalom" with a grin That we couldn't resist And invited them in Sure enough the third person Who came was none other Than Estelle's Hebrew teacher ... The little girls' mother! They gave us a box Full of goodies galore As they cried "Shalach Monot" And went out the door The three were soon gone From our hearing and sight But the glow of their presence Made it one special night!

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SHABBATON SATURDAY, MAY 11

The next Temple Emeth Shabbaton will take place Saturday, May 11 at the home of Joan and David Paul at 146 North Terrace Place, New Milford. Call 265-4102 for reservations.

Ted Greenwood will lead a topical discussion followed by a Havdalah service. The program will be from 2:30 to 4:30.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE ANNOUNCES TWO SUPPORT GROUPS

Caregiver Support Group, for caregivers of older adults, six Wednesdays from 2-3 PM starting May 15.

Widow-Widower Support Group, for recently widowed individuals, six Tuesdays from 11-12 Noon starting May 14.

Fee of \$30 for the six sessions of each group.

Contact Carol Ramer, ACSW or Ethel Minder, CSW at 488-8340.



Beverly Lazar shared this letter with me. She and her husband wrote to a Jewish service man in Saudi Arabia and received the following response: 13Feb91

Dear Mr and Mrs Lazar

Hello from Saudi Arabia! Just wanted to take time to write and say thanks for the card and warm wishes. I only got it 3 days ago. I don't have time to write a full letter cause I'm moving out again tomorrow. I probably won't have time to write for a few weeks and I'm not even sure if I'll have access to a mail spot so this letter can get out. Anyway, we really do appreciate the support. Thought you'd want to know that your card was received by someone. We're all doing well in my unit. I'm part of 2nd Brigade 3rd Armor Division. There's lots we want but little we need. The essentials are what matter most. I got my first shower in 17 days today. We even got fresh eggsbut our cooks already moved out so we boiled them in an old coffee can. Beats MRE's (Meal, Ready to Eat but Meal, Rejected actually by Ethiopians). Hope your Holidays were good and that the New Year is treating you well. We'll make you proud of us. Thanks again, Shalom A friend in the Desert Stephen Kabel Cpt Stephen Kabel 139-62-2932 Operation Desert Storm Cco 45th SPT BN(FWD) APO NY 09681-6240 PS: I grew up in NJ- a small town outside of Phila called Delsan-near Cherry Hill

SPRING "CLEAN OUT" JUNE 9, 1991

In order to best utilize our limited storage space at Temple Emeth on June 9, 1991 between 9 and 12 A.M. we will be doing a giant "clean out" of all unwanted "stuff" from the Temple storage facilities. We will be reorganizing the areas under the stage, above the stage, behind the boiler room and inside the shed.

If you think you have equipment or personal property that has been left at the Temple, please try to be here on that day. If you are unable to be here please call Marion Schechter or Ted Greenwood in advance of that day.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mazel Tov To:

Eleanor and Myron White on the birth of their grandson Tobias to Nina and Jonathan

June and Morton Handler on the occasion of their 45th Anniversary Nettie and Leonard Feuchs on the birth of their granddaughter Jessica Michelle to Marilyn and David Marker

Helen Lazar (Mrs. Jack Lazar) on the birth of her grandson to Anne and Bill Lazar of Portland, Oregon

Dru Greenwood on becoming Director of Outreach for UAHC-CCAR Mr.and Mrs. Corey Weiss (Karen Winkler Weiss) on the birth of their son Michael Ephraim and to grandparents Eileen and Martin Winkler

Get Well Wishes To: Dorothy Weinstein of Ridgewood Lotte Reidel Michael Steinberg Alan Schenck

Condolences To:

Barbara Blumenfeld on the loss of her beloved mother, Florence Miller

The Congregation mourns the passing of our beloved member, Marvin Kraft and extends condolences to his beloved wife, Rhoda

The Congregation mourns the passing of our beloved member, Jennie Baer and extends condolences to her beloved husband, William

CONTRIBUTIONS

Youth Fund:

Beth and Carl Monheit in memory of Anne Kirschenbaum, mother of Carol Heischober

Gail and Bob Levy in memory of Anne Kirschenbaum

Gail and Bob Levy in memory of Charles Ingber, father of Rita Hantman Shirley and Dick Norman in honor of the birth of Melissa Ann, granddaughter of Sandra Leeds

Playground Fund:

Estelle and Bob Spiewak wishing a speedy recovery to Mike Steinberg

Israel Bond Fund:

Grace and Bob Jacobs in memory of Marvin Kraft, husband of Rhoda

Rabbi Sigel's Discretionary Fund:

Shirley Norman in memory of her beloved mother and in gratitude to Rabbi Sigel

Carol and Bob Heischober in gratitude to Rabbi Sigel

The Kraft Family in memory of Marvin Kraft and in gratitude to Rabbi Sigel Nettie and Leonard Feuchs in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Jessica Michelle Marker

Cantor Bornstein's Discretionary Fund:

Carol and Bob Heischober in gratitude to Cantor Bornstein Shirley Norman in gratitude to Cantor Bornstein

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Parenting Center Fund:

Sidi Stern in memory of her beloved husband, Ernest Stern

Music Fund:

The Choir sending get well wishes to Michael Steinberg The Choir in honor of Tobias, new grandson to Eleanor and Myron White Martha and Bud Weisberg in honor of Dru Greenwood's becoming Director of Outreach of UAHC-CCAR

Institute of Living Arts Fund:

Jackie and Howard Guttman in memory of Ann Kirschenbaum, mother of Carol Heischober

Jackie and Howard Guttman in honor of the birth of Tobias Jay White, to Nina and Jonathan White and grandparents Eleanor and Myron White Leo Braunschweiger in memory of Herman Braunschweiger Sara and Conrad Berke in honor of ALL the past Presidents Shirley and Boris Bierstein in honor of Mildred Otten's birthday

Library Fund:

Mary and Irving Hauptman in honor of the Jewish War Veterans

Prayerbook Fund:

Anne and Ken Rosenthal in honor of Mildred Otten's special birthday Lucille D'Allessandro in memory of her beloved mother, Lucille Silverman Robert Woog in memory of his beloved wife, Barbara

Museum Fund:

Audrey and Norman Muehsam in memory of Edward Muehsam

Landscape Fund:

Ruth Meissner in memory of her beloved father, Arthur Baer

Soviet Jewry Fund:

Marianne and Fred Berg in honor of the marriage of Lori Wolinetz Sybil S. Silberman Judith M. Lane

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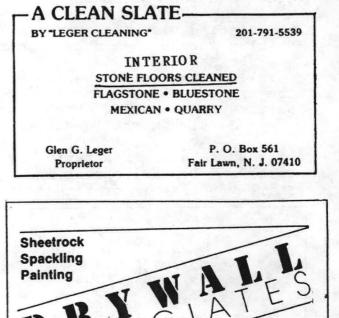
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TEMPLE EMETH ADULT KALLAH NOVEMBER 15-17

This year's Adult Kallah will be decidedly different. For one thing, we're chairing it for the first time (with assistance from Estelle and Bob Spiewak, who chaired it last year). Besides that, it's going to be in a new place!! The Black Swan Inn, just off Route 20 in Lee, Massachussetts has graciously agreed to accomodate us in their lovely lakeside resort. Private bathrooms, of course, and a lovely lakeview lounge in which to hold our Shabbat Services, discussions and evening entertainment.

The food will be kosher style (no shellfish, pork products or mixing of meat and dairy).

The cost will be \$120 per person, with a \$30 deposit per person to reserve your room.

We have reserved a total of twelve rooms, each having two double beds. More will be made available if we respond quickly.

Please send your reservation checks to the Temple, attention of Eleanor and Myron White and prepare for an outstanding weekend.

Eleanor and Myron White (837-7437)



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RABBI SIGEL HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

Sunday morning, April 14th, the Teaneck chapter of B'nai B'rith honored Rabbi Sigel as "Man of the Year", at a testimonial brunch, attended by 130, on behalf of B'nai B'rith Youth services with keynote speeches by both Seymour Cohen, director of B'nai B'rith Community Volunteer Services and a passionate tribute by the Hon. Matthew Feldman who recounted the Rabbi's involvement with the civil rights movement and integration in Teaneck thirty years ago.

Cantor Bornstein, who made the invocation brought the Temple Emeth Junior Choir. Their singing was a highlight for all to remember.

The gathering was made complete by having the "Official Bergen County Motzeh Maker", Leonard Marcus, acting in that capacity.

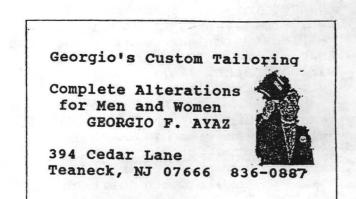
A presentation was made by the Hon. D. Bennett Mazur who read a proclamation which was "unanimously" passed by the State of New Jersey Assembly.

The Master of Ceremonies was Michael Kates, Teaneck Town Counsel.

B'nai B'rith president, Eric Loeb pointed out that this was just the beginning of a year of celebration of the Rabbi's accomplishments.

In a lighthearted way the Rabbi agreed that he would be available for such events. His acceptance speech brought out the fact that even in his college days the Youth Services of B'nai B'rith (Hillel) were of great importance to him and many other Jewish students.

The closing benediction, a moving tribute of affection for Rabbi Sigel, was delivered by Rabbi Michael Chernick.



SHAVUOT

Reaffirming our Jewish Commitment

As the holiday of Shavuot nears, we are again reminded of the precious tradition Judaism offers to those who actively seek to understand and embrace it. On Shavuot, we commemorate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Just as our ancestors became partners in the covenant thousands of years ago so we, too, at Shavuot are called upon to reaffirm our Judaism.

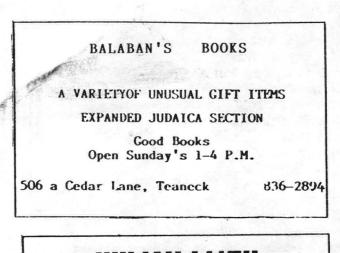
The Jewish commitment of Jews-by Choice can be a powerful inspiration to those who were born "Jews-by-Chance." We all benefit by the presence of those who consciously and passionately choose to be Jewish. As the highlight of Shavuot services, it is customary to read the Megillah of Ruth, which includes a deeply moving passage: "Entreat me not to leave you and to return from following after you; for where you go I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God" (1:16-17). These words remain a powerful expression of Jewish commitment, for they were originally uttered by Ruth because of her desire to convert and commit to Judaism. This commitment to Judaism and the Jewish people is the reason we celebrate Shavuot.

On Shavuot we acknowledge the contributions made to Judaism by the presence of Jews-by-Choice beginning at Sinai and throughout our history. We also encourage the recommitment to Judaism by ALL JEWS, on this festival of the "Giving of the Law." Whether as a high-school student or later in life through an adult Jewish studies program, the ceremony of Conoffers firmation а special opportunity when even "Jews-by-Chance" are able to assert that they, too, are "Jews-by-Choice."

Please join us for the Outreach Shabbat on May 17. Our guest speaker will be Kathryn Kahn, UAHC Regional Outreach Coordinator.

Mazel Tov to Dru Greenwood on becoming Director of Outreach of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Martha Weisberg Temple Emeth Outreach Chair The environmental subcommittee performed a tree-planting ceremony as part of the Yom Ha Shoah service outside Temple Emeth on Thursday, April 11th. The ceremony was a visual symbol of what we're doing, to plant a tree as evidence of doing something, physically, as well as symbolically, to renew life. This tree will add life, clean air, and show the juxtaposition of green, of nourishment to the earth, against the memory of the dark days of the Holocaust.

remembrance, Temple At this members who are also survivors witnessed the reading of the martyrs as Rabbi Sigel gave a short memorial. At this observance of death and destruction, the symbolic and physical act of planting a tree was poignantly felt by all. "The Temple Community will see this as an addition to the landscape, and be reminded of the Jewish commitment and responsibility to go ahead into the future, to be mindful of the delicate fragility of life, the earth and its resources." Pamela Ritzer



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This form has been included in the Bulletin for your convenience. Clip out and mail back to Temple to honor or memorialize friends and relatives.

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS THAT

YOU SAW IT IN THE BULLETIN

JUDAISM CLASS

A 16-session course designed to give participants a basic understanding of Jewish belief and practice will be offered Wednesday evenings at Temple Beth Or in Washington Township beginning May 15. The class is open to all: individuals who are considering conversion to Judaism; interfaith couples; and Jews by birth and non-Jews who wish to obtain a basic adult-level knowledge of Judaism. The course will approach Jewish tradition-faith, people, way of life-through a study of the holiday and life cycles of Judaism. A basic reading knowledge of Hebrew will also be included.

Class will meet once a week for 16-weeks from 7:45-9:45 pm through September 11. Registration fee includes tuition and one set of books and materials.

For information please call Kathryn Kahn at UAHC office at 599-0080.

HOME-MAKER SERVICES

Jewish Family Service of Bergen County announces its fourth year of subsidized homemaker services to elderly and disabled persons in Bergen County.

This program provides short-term, interim home health aide care to financially eligible county citizens. Services address personal care needs and may also include shopping, cooking, light housekeeping as well as companionship.

Request for service can be made by contacting JFS at 488-8340.

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