

*Acquire a teacher, and get a friend to study with you.
—Pirke Avot 1:6*

*Temple Emeth cordially invites you to join with our congregation
As we celebrate the Installation of*

Rabbi Steven Sirbu

As our teacher and preacher

Friday, December 19, 2003

The First Evening of Chanukah

At 7:45 p.m.

*Installation Speaker: Sue Feldman, President,
Greater New York Council of Reform Synagogues*

Temple Emeth's Annual Chanukah Dinner will precede the Installation Service at 6:00 p.m.

Reservations required. See the ad inside the Bulletin for more information.

To RSVP, call Nickie Falk at (201) 444-7519, or Maddy Wolf at (201) 585-0393.

Temple Emeth
1666 Windsor Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
833-1322 School 833-8466

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Month	Bulletin		Mid-month	
	Deadline	Pub. Date	Deadline	Pub. Date
December			November 27	December 10
January	December 11	December 26	January 6	January 15
February	January 8	January 23	February 4	February 12
March	February 12	February 24	March 3	March 11
April	March 11	March 26	April 7	April 14
May	April 15	April 23	May 5	May 12
June	May 13	May 21	June 9	June 16

**TEMPLE EMETH BULLETIN
ADVERTISING RATES**
Size 2" x 3 1/2" Ten issues \$ 260.
For info: Call 201-836-3369 Bob Spiewak, Editor

Is Your Emeth Tzedakah Box Full??
Send your collection to the Emeth Tzedakah Fund. Please indicate where you would like your donation to go. Remember: all of this money goes to charity!

Phone _____ Name _____

I would like my donation to go to:
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 _____ Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County
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Return to: Temple Emeth
Tzedakah Fund
1666 Windsor Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666

Material for the bulletin is not only welcome, it is essential for the success of the publication; HOWEVER, it is necessary to honor the deadlines as listed. For the Bulletin mailings, all material must be in the Bulletin Box at the Temple Office by 8:00 pm on the date of the deadline.

For Mid-month mailings, all materials for inclusion- either camera-ready art or information to be included in the body of the Mid-Month sheet - are due by 12:00 noon on the date of the deadline.

* Scrip is available for Stop and Shop, Pathmark Shoprite, and Kings

* Scrip can be purchased:
During regular Temple office hours and in the Gift Shop on Sundays from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm when the Religious School is in session.

A Message from Rabbi Steven Sirbu



While we equate Chanukah with miracles, menorahs, dreidles and presents, you may not know what the word "Chanukah" actually means. The word itself means "dedication," as the event that Chanukah commemorates is, of course, the rededication of Temple by the Maccabees after it had been defiled by Antiochus and the Syrian Greeks.

Chanukah is a joyous time for the Jewish people. The songs, foods, and other traditions are anticipated by children and adults alike.

This year, our synagogue will have extra reason to celebrate, as December 19, the first night of Chanukah, is the date of my installation. The evening will include the Annual Chanukah Dinner, at which we will light as many menorahs as possible and honor our new members. We will then move to the Sanctuary for the Music Service, which will be immediately followed by the Installation Service.

My installation speaker will be Sue Feldman, a member of my previous synagogue who has known me since my first interview to be a rabbinic intern there. Sue is president of the Greater New York Council of Reform Synagogues, our neighboring region of the Reform movement. In addition, she has a connection to Teaneck, as her son and his family live here.

In her role as regional president, Sue has met many rabbis and heard about even more. At my installation she will speak about the qualities I bring to the rabbinate, speaking as one who has watched me from the beginning.

The service will also include words from our regional director Rabbi Randi

Musnitsky, who has been a great supporter of Temple Emeth, and Rabbi Emeritus Louis J. Sigel, whose wisdom and compassion continue to guide our congregation.

It will indeed be a night of celebration and dedication for our entire community, and I hope you will attend.

While Chanukah evokes positive emotions from so many people, the phenomenon is not universal. People who are part of interfaith families often find this one of the most stressful times of the year as they attempt to navigate varying and sometimes contradictory symbols and customs. Even those who make the commitment to convert to Judaism are affected by this as they try to honor their parents and siblings. And the problem is compounded this year as Chanukah and Christmas overlap. There are no easy answers, but on Tuesday December 16 at 7:30 p.m., I will attempt to offer some guidance as part of a December Dilemma Workshop and Discussion.

This program is sponsored by our Outreach Committee, which strives to welcome interfaith families into our synagogue community. The Outreach Committee will sponsor two similar programs in early 2004: an introduction to Shabbat scheduled for January and a Pesach program planned for March. These programs are open to all; I hope you will invite a friend, especially someone who does not yet know how wonderful Temple Emeth can be.

As we approach the festival of lights and dedication, let us dedicate ourselves to bringing God's light to the world. May we celebrate as a community and make it possible for all to rejoice.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Jewish Learning – A Path to Self Discovery

How many of you have asked yourselves, “Why do I belong to Temple Emeth?” For that matter, why do we belong to any synagogue at all? Since becoming President, this question has taken on more than philosophical interest and importance to me. Your answers, and an understanding and exploration of how to respond, is a basic step towards ensuring the continuing welfare of our Temple family.

On Shabbat, during the Torah service, we often sing the following words in unison:

“Al Shloscha devarim
ha-olam omeid:

al ha-Torah
v'al ha-avodah
v'al gemilut chasadim”

“The world is sustained by three things: by Torah, by worship and by
deeds of lovingkindness”

At its core, Temple Emeth exists so that as a community we can connect with God and our Judaism by providing opportunities for us to learn about the Torah and the values that lie therein; to find inner peace through prayer; and to improve the world by performing acts of loving kindness, for each other and for those who live in our community. But that is not necessarily the same reasons we all belong to Temple Emeth. I suspect that some, maybe many, of us belong for reasons that have only slight connections to the reasons Temple Emeth exists.

How many of you belong because you simply want a place to be on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with people you know? How many belong because it is required in order for your child to become a B'nai Mitzvah here? How many of you belong because your spouse insisted on joining and you agreed to keep peace in the family.

I don't ask these questions accusingly, because for a significant part of my life, those were my reasons for belonging. I always took pride in being Jewish, but I never gave much thought to it. After becoming a Bar Mitzvah, I did not belong to a congregation until it was time for my oldest child to begin Hebrew school. Even then, I only attended services occasionally, usually when there was some special event occurring at the same time.

Without going into the reasons why, that began to change for me just over three years ago, and separate and apart from my now being President, Temple Emeth and Judaism is important to my life. Simply put, I find that the more I come to Shabbat services the more I understand about Judaism, and the more I want to learn.

A major reason I was disconnected all these years was because I had little understanding of our prayers and rituals. Although there were opportunities to learn, I did not take advantage of them. So I am using this column to make you aware of a few opportunities that exist, here at Temple and elsewhere, to learn about Judaism and perhaps begin to find more personal and meaningful reasons for belonging to Temple Emeth.

Every Shabbat morning at 9:10 AM, Rabbi Sirbu leads a Torah study discussion. We read through the Torah, paragraph by paragraph, trying to discern the meaning of the words and their relevance to our lives. Rabbi Sirbu is an excellent teacher and study leader, but it is a collaborative process among all who attend (usually 25 – 35 congregants). Discussions are lively and engaging, and there is frequent laughter mixed in with the sobering thoughts and “aha!” moments. If you haven’t already, I recommend you drop in one Shabbat morning. You may find yourself surprised at how invigorating and enjoyable it is.

Space limitations prevent me from elaborating on some of our other Adult Education offerings, but both Rabbi Sirbu and Rabbi Sigel teach on Tuesday evenings, and Rabbi Sirbu leads us on Wednesday afternoons at “Lunch and Learn”. Again the discussions are spirited and enlightening, and prior knowledge is not required to participate. Call the Temple office for a schedule.

In addition, I urge you to log on to the following website: www.urj.org/torah/ten This is a new program put together by the Department of Lifelong Jewish Learning of the Union for Reform Judaism. The program is entitled, “**10 Minutes of Torah**”, and if you register, you will be sent a one-page e-mail every Monday through Friday which will bring you a personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic. Each day has a separate theme: Torah, Social Action, Israel Connections, Jewish Ethics, and Jewish World. You can register for all five days or any combination.

In this modern day and age, what easier way can there be for you to begin to explore your Judaism?

As we recite on Shabbat as we return the Torah to the Ark:

“Honoring one another, doing acts of kindness,
and making peace: these are our highest duties.

But the study of Torah is equal to them all,
Because it leads to them all.

Let us learn in order to teach;
Let us learn in order to do!”

B'Shalom and have a joyous Chanukah
Larry Silver, President

UPDATE FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM

The transition committee has delighted in welcoming Rabbi Steven Sirbu and his wife Rebecca to our congregation. Our goal has been to teach the new Rabbi who we are and give him the necessary tools to integrate successfully into our community as we in turn learn about him.

I believe we have accomplished this goal with several activities over the past 6 months. This transition has been an exceptionally positive experience for congregants, staff, and clergy:

We invited the rabbi to attend our annual congregational meeting in May. We arranged for the rabbi to meet in June with chairpersons of TE committees to learn their goals, problems and plans.

We assisted the rabbi in meeting with local community leaders, the Teaneck Clergy Council, the UJA and other leaders and rabbis in the Jewish community.

The congregation was invited to a July 4th casual welcome service. A series of cottage parties were held over the summer at congregant's homes and at the temple to meet the rabbi and his wife.

An important event in the life of Temple Emeth will occur on Friday evening December 19, 2003. We will officially install Rabbi Sirbu as our Rabbi and spiritual leader.

We will begin with a Chanukah Membership /Installation Dinner at 6pm. Please respond as soon as possible to the flyer you received as we expect a sellout crowd. This will be followed at 7:45p by a musical service and official installation ceremony of Rabbi Sirbu and we will conclude with a special Oneg thereafter. Put this date on your calendar! We hope you will make every effort to attend this evening and celebrate with your temple family.

There are many people to thank for their volunteer effort over the past months. Transition team members: Paul Wilson, Karen Duigud, Carlene Fleischman, Barry Massarsky, Jenna Firshein, Membership Chairs Pam Etzin and Debra Solway, Oneg maven Ruth Adler and especially Maddy Wolf and Nicky Falk for all the work they have done.

Daniel Firshein, Transition Team Chairman

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

I am Elinor Buchbinder and have been a nurse/midwife for 30 years with a B.S. from Boston U and an M.S. from Columbia. I am married to Richard, a retired attorney for 33 years and we have lived in Teaneck since 1975. We joined Emeth in 1984, our daughter Darrell became a bat mitzvah in 1990 and a confirmand in 1993.

My own religious education here, resulted in my bat mitzvah in 1999 under Rabbi Gurvis and Cantor Tillim.

I have chaired the Caring Community Committee and served on the Rabbinic Search Committee. I'm on the Gala 2004 Committee and my husband has served as financial secretary. We continue to keep Temple Emeth as an important part of our lives.


Scrip is Available from Captains:

- Ted Greenwood**, 595 Ramapo Road
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 - Don Kaplan** 145 Stonehurst Drive
Tenafly, NJ 07670- 201-568-5189
 - Jim Sandler** 29 Brinkerhoff Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666- 201-836-3134
 - Sy Lazar** 280 Prospect Ave-#3K
Hackensack, NJ 07601-201-498-9563
- Temple Office** 9am-5pm Monday - Friday



STEERING or DRIFTING?

When we leave the house
 We know where we'd like to go
 Sometimes our plans are changed
 By traffic, rain or snow
 And then we may have a change of plan
 But we soon make a new one
 Whether it may be for errands
 Or just to have some fun
 Or do we sometimes just go out
 Without a plan at all?
 So what? Either way we do it
 We can have a ball!
 If we run our lives haphazardly
 It's really not the same
 A little steering's needed
 In THAT important game
 There are times to steer
 And times to drift
 To sort them out it is a gift
 But ours for fame or blame!



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Here are the facts—

ADULT KALLAH - A weekend of study, prayer and socializing

WHEN - February 13th to February 15th, 2004

WHERE -The Pearl River Hilton, Pearl River, New York - a country setting just 15 minutes north of the George Washington Bridge

**THE COST - \$200 per person, Double Occupancy
\$270 per person, Single (not sharing a room)
Rooms with King, Queen and Double Beds**

**INCLUDES - Shabbat Dinner Friday night
Three scrumptious meals on Saturday
Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday**

**PLUS - Recreational facilities including an indoor pool, a whirlpool, fully equipped exercise room with saunas
Lobby lounge with fireplace and grand piano
Beautiful grounds for your outdoor amusement, etc.**

A deposit of \$50 per person will guarantee that you will not be left out! Send your check with the tear-off below. If you wish, you can send the full amount now.

**Partial Scholarships are available. Any questions? Call —
BEV LAZAR 498-9564 or CARLENE FLEISHMAN 836-0226.**

ADULT KALLAH 2004
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Your Name(s).....

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Telephone.....Day.....Evening

Please mail your check payable to TEMPLE EMETH ADULT KALLAH, to:

Adult Kallah Co-Chairs
c/o Temple Emeth
1666 Windsor Road
Teaneck, N. J. 07666

.....

Dear Auction Maven,

Every year my family and I go to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. usually, we stand with the crowds on Central Park West and see the balloons, floats and the marching bands go by. But we never see the live performances in front of Macy's.

Thanks to the 2002 Gala and Auction, we had THE BEST Thanksgiving Day Parade experience we've ever had. We were seated in the Grand Stand in front of Macy's (SEATED - NOT STANDING!)and saw all the performers. My favorite was the one done by the cast of Hairspray. Some of our friends said they saw us on TV as the camera panned around the crowd.

Thanks Auction Maven for getting such a wonderful auction item. And, thanks mom and dad for bidding on it.

See you on May 22, 2004!

Michael Wolf

The Reform Movement and You

Temple Emeth is a proud member of the Union for Reform Judaism:

Serving Reform Congregations in North America. Each month this space will highlight programs or events sponsored by the Reform movement.

Biennial Update: The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) held its 67th General Assembly (better known as "The Biennial") in Minneapolis in early November. Over four thousand delegates, representing hundreds of Reform synagogues, attended the Biennial to exchange ideas, hear new Jewish music, see old friends, and much more.

At the top of the agenda was changing the name of the organization to better reflect its composition and mission. After a vote of the entire plenum, the UAHC was retired and replaced with the "Union for Reform Judaism: Serving Reform Congregations in North America." For more information on the Union, log on to www.uri.org.

If you wish to attend the next Biennial, it is not too early to mark your calendar: November 16-20, 2005, in Houston.



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“One should be more concerned with spiritual than with material matters, but another person’s material wealth is (one’s) spiritual concern”

Rabbi Israel Salanter

At this season of Chanukah, teachers and students in our Religious School reflect on the meaning of “light” as a theme and a source of meaning in our lives. The Torah, History, Hebrew, Ethics, and Holidays that we study in our Religious School are the building blocks that shed “light” and shape our lives as Jewish adults and “mentchen”. Our students encounter Jewish learning that both “illuminate” our lives and provide meaningful encounters with our tradition.

Examples:

- 7th grade - Field trip to Ellis Island - fun, informative, community building.
- 6th grade - Reflecting on heroes and heroines and personalities in Jewish history and making ethical decisions.
- 5th grade - Studying “a modern miracle” - the State of Israel and its impact on their lives.
- 4th Grade - Creating exciting games based on the prophets and learning to connect to our liturgy as a living faith.
- 3rd Grade - Beginning the exciting study of Hebrew, both modern and ancient.
- 2nd Grade - Learning blessings, holidays and Torah through the stories of our family.
- 1st Grade - Identifying and connecting to Jewish values through traditional Jewish stories and literature, song and prayer.
- Kindergarten - Creating art, learning songs, and how our synagogue is a home to them.

All of our students are urged to do acts of tzedakah and gmilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Make the last night of Chanukah the best night and add to the “light” by giving a very special gift of tzedakah that is \$18.00 to the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry. This gift of \$18.00 provides nutritious lunches for a lucky Ethiopian child for two whole weeks. See us at the Religious School for further details.

Encompassing all of these studies is our emphasis on “living a mitzvah and being a mensch”. A great chasidic master used the candle lighting of Chanukah as a time to focus on the need to shine a light into our “inner darkness” and to purify our “inner temple”. It is truly a joy to see the “illuminated faces” of our Religious School students as we continue our Jewish journey together. A poem written by Rabbi Leah Kroll beautifully articulates this idea. Share this poem with family and friends this Chanukah as you light the candles and may your holiday be filled with light and joy.

*May you know God as Abraham our father did, and face your trials with great dignity.
Like our mother Sarah, may you be gracious and kind to those who pass your way.
May you be as gentle as Isaac and as determined as Rebecca.
Like Jacob, may you be dedicated and conscientious in all you set out to do.
May you be blessed, as Leah was blessed, with a close and loving family.
And like Rachel, may you radiate warmth from your soul to everyone whose life touches yours.....*

B'racha,

Dora Geld Friedman

From the Early Childhood Center

Between Simchat Torah and Chanukah there is a seemingly quiet period in our Jewish holiday celebrations. For the Early Childhood program it is an opportunity to integrate the lessons we have learned from our ancestors with the customs and traditions we follow today.

Beginning with the story of Noah, we can help our children to relate on a very simple level to the importance of actions and consequences. This is a very child-friendly story, and one that lent itself to a variety of learning experiences in the ECC. As we know, it has a happy ending for the righteous Noah and his family, who chose goodness and to follow God's directives. In gathering the pairs of animals, it also addresses our responsibilities to other creatures on this earth beyond ourselves, an important lesson indeed in dealing with young children.

Later we go another step further in the stories of Abraham and Sarah, who were willing to stand up for what they believed in - one God. They would even leave the comforts of family and familiar surroundings to be able to establish their beliefs more strongly. They also extended an open door to those who stopped by their tent for food, drink and rest. This provides us with an excellent introduction and transition to Thanksgiving - an American holiday that embraces some of the most admired qualities in Abraham, Sarah and our heritage:

- ♦ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM - the right to pray and believe our own way
- ♦ WELCOMING OF GUESTS - The Pilgrims were taken under the wings of the Native Americans, who performed this mitzvah that we so admire in Abraham and Sarah. They not only allowed the Pilgrims to live in peace, but taught them the many survival skills of hunting, planting and fishing that the Pilgrims would need to endure the new and harsher reality of their new home.

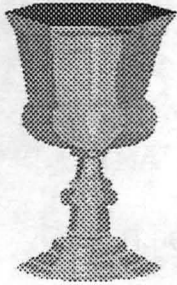
All of this is a great segue into the story of Chanukah and the Maccabees. Once again the idea that one can stand up for one's religious beliefs is central to the miracle of being able to overcome seemingly overwhelming odds. For a child who can feel small and powerless in the face of daily challenges, these stories are inspiring as well as empowering.

One of the missions of an Early Childhood program is to connect the dots in a young child's life. The stories and events in our Jewish history help us, as educators, to accomplish this. Through such activities as arts crafts, creative drama, music and literary experiences, we can address the social, emotional and spiritual growth of each child. And for us as adults, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon those values that we cherish, and recommit ourselves to defending them with the passion and fearlessness of our ancestors.

Sharon

Temple Emeth

December 5-18, 2003 Kislev 10-18, 5764



Friday, December 5 Shabbat Vayetze

Candle-lighting - 4:08 p.m.

Kindergarten -2nd Grade Shabbat Dinner at 6:15 pm

Family Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Oneg is being sponsored by Ronda Orero and Kenneth Rein
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Izak Raymond Orero

Saturday, December 6 Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of Izak Raymond Orero

Torah Portion: Genesis 28:10-32:3

Haftarah : Hosea 12:13-14:10

Sat. 6 9:10 am Torah Study
10:30 am Shabbat Service

Wed. 10 10:00 am ECC Parent/Teacher
Conferences

12:00 pm Lunch & Learn

Sun. 7 9:00 am No Religious School Classes
Parent/Teacher Conferences
9:00 am Gift Shop Chanukah Boutique Sale

6:15 pm Etz Chayim Rehearsal

7:30 pm Kol Emeth Rehearsal

8:00 pm House Committee Mtg.

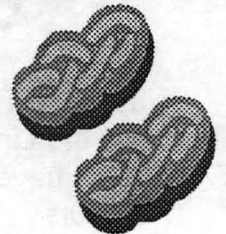
Thurs.11 8:00 pm Bd of Trustees Meeting

Friday, December 12 Shabbat Vayishlach

Shabbat Services at 8:30 p.m.

Candle-lighting - 4:08 p.m.

The Oneg is being sponsored by Robyn and Ernie Villany and Friends
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Emily Rae Villany



Saturday, December 13 Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Emily Rae Villany

Torah Portion: Genesis 32:4-36:43

Haftarah Hosea 11:7-12:12

Sat. 13 9:10 am Torah Study
10:30 am Shabbat Service

Tue. 16 7:30 pm Dec. Dilemma Workshop and
Discussion

Sun. 14 9:00 am Religious School
3:00 pm The Jewish People's
Philharmonic Chorus

Wed. 17 6:15 pm ECC Family Chanukah Dinner
7:30 pm Kol Emeth sings at Garden State Plaza
8:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Thu. 18 7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting
8:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting

Good and Welfare

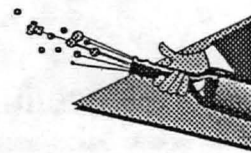
Condolences to

Carlene Fleishman on the loss of her cousin,
Johanna Ross.

Mazel Tov...

Get Well Wishes...

Muriel Kaplan
Martin Berck
Paul Lazar
Sandra Rumayor
William Grunstein



SAVE THE DATE

EVENT: WINE TASTING AND DESSERT PARTY

When: January 31, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.

Please watch the December Bulletin and
Mid-Month Mailing for details.
Is this a fun temple, or what?



Save the Date - May 22, 2004

"The Sky's the Limit" 2004 Gala and Auction
We already have some fabulous items.....

Furs...Jewelry...Dinners

We need more great stuff - help us solicit
Donations from your friends and businesses
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Call Michael Robinson @ 973-942-3800 or
Cynthia Massarsky @ 201-871-3159

Save the Date

Kabbalat Shabbat - Friday, Jan. 30, 2004

Guest speaker:

Rabbi Marla Feldman, Director
Union for Reform Judaism
Commission of Social Action

Temple Emeth B'Yachad

Please join us for a most interesting topic
on December 21, 2003
at 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Sirbu will discuss:
Can You Handle the Truth?

Though Reform Judaism encourages an honest
dialogue about God and tradition, we are
sometimes uncomfortable with the truth that
archaeology presents us about our past. Are we
willing to accept the possibility that the Chanukah
story didn't happen the way we were taught (and
the way we are still teaching our children)? If we
are not, what does that say about our commitment
to truth? If we are, do we undermine the
foundations of our religion?

Cost: \$5.00 per person - Leave your check, name
and phone number in the B'Yachad box in the front
office.

Save the Date

Join us as we welcome
Leila Devorah Tilem
into our congregational family
on Shabbat evening, Friday, Feb. 6, 2004,
at 7:30 p.m.

Temple Emeth Invites You To A

December Dilemma Workshop & Discussion

Led by Rabbi Steven Sirbu

Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Temple Emeth, 1666 Windsor Road, Teaneck

As December approaches, many families must decide how to observe Chanukah and Christmas in a way that is meaningful and comfortable for everyone. It isn't easy, but an honest dialogue with loved ones can bring a family closer and lead to a celebration of the values that everyone shares.

In our workshop, Rabbi Sirbu will touch on the following topics:

- ◆ Good Communication
- ◆ The Art of Compromise
- ◆ Grandparents and Grandchildren of Different Faiths
- ◆ The Core Values of the Holidays

He will also answer your questions and offer guidance on how to handle the December Dilemma. This event is open to all interested individuals. You do not need to be a Temple member to attend. Please join us.

This workshop is sponsored by the Temple Emeth Outreach Committee, which strives to welcome interfaith families into the synagogue community. For more information or to RSVP, please call Outreach Committee Co-Chair Ken Rutz at 201-692-3652 or the Temple office at 201-833-1322.

Save these Dates for Future Outreach Workshops:

Friday, January 9 or Sunday, January 11 (Final Date TBD): Shabbat 101: An Introduction to the Jewish Sabbath and Its Rituals.

Sunday, March 21: The Passover Party Planner: Why Is This Holiday Different From All Other Holidays?

December 2003 6 Kislev 5764 – 6 Tevet 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 KISLEV	2 7 KISLEV	3 8 KISLEV 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim Rehearsal 7:30 pm Kol Emeth Rehearsal 7:15 Quilting Bee	4 9 KISLEV 8:00 pm Exec. Comm. Mtg.	5 10 KISLEV 11:4:08 6:15 pm K-2 Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Family Service	6 11 KISLEV 11: Vayetze 11: Shabbat Ends: 5:18 10:30 pm Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Izak Raymond Orero
7 12 KISLEV 9:00 am Parent Teacher Conference for Religious School NO CLASSES 9:00 am Gift Shop Chanukah Boutique Sale	8 13 KISLEV	9 14 KISLEV	10 15 KISLEV 10:00 am ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim Rehearsal 7:30 pm Kol Emeth Rehearsal 8:00 pm House Comm. Mtg.	11 16 KISLEV 8:00 pm Bd. of Trustees Mtg. Bulletin Deadline	12 17 KISLEV 11:4:08 8:30 pm Shabbat Service	13 18 KISLEV 11: Vayishlach 11: Shabbat Ends: 5:18 9:30 am Tot Shabbat and Bagel Breakfast 10:30 am Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah of Emily Rae Villany 6:00 pm EmTY-Shul In
14 19 KISLEV 9:00 am Religious School 9:00 Social Action Committee 2:00 pm Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus Concert 5:30 pm EmTY Chanukah Party	15 20 KISLEV	16 21 KISLEV 7:30 pm December Dilemma Workshop and Discussion	17 22 KISLEV 6:30 pm ECC Family Chanukah Dinner 7:00 pm Etz Chaym sings at Garden State Plaza 7:30 pm Kol Emeth Rehearsal 8:00 pm Finance Meeting	18 23 KISLEV 7:30 pm Ritual Meeting Comm. 8:00 pm Membership Comm. Mtg	19 24 KISLEV 11:4:10 6:00 pm Chanukah Dinner 7:45 pm Music Service and Installation of Rabbi Sirbu	20 25 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 1 11: Vayeshev 11: Shabbat Ends: 5:21 10:30 am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas Eric Gaits Hoffman
21 26 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 2 9:00 am Religious School 10:00 am B'Yachad Breakfast	22 27 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 3 ECC WINTER VACATION THROUGH JANUARY 2	23 28 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 4	24 29 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 5 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 7:00 pm Renaissance "Chanukah Chappening"	25 30 KISLEV 11: Chanukah - Day 6 BUILDING CLOSED	26 1 TEVET 11: Chanukah - Day 7 11:4:14 8:30 pm Shabbat Services	27 2 TEVET 11: Chanukah - Day 8 11: Miketz 11: Shabbat Ends: 5:25 10:30 am Shabbat Services
28 3 TEVET NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	29 4 TEVET	30 5 TEVET NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	31 6 TEVET NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL			

9:10 AM TORAH STUDY EVERY SHABBAT IN THE LIBRARY

Renaissance Group

Temple Emeth has a new speakers' lectern complete with a state-of-the-art microphone and audio system thanks to the Renaissance Group. Co-chairpeople Barbara Kaufman and Bea Westin presented the new lectern to President Larry Silver at the Renaissance Shabbat Dinner on October 24th. The gift was selected especially to meet the needs of Temple speakers and renting organizations, and as a thank you from the Renaissance Group for all the support of our Temple family.

The Shabbat dinner drew 114 members and guests, including Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, Executive Director of ARZA/World Union for Progressive Judaism, who was the Joshua Trachtenberg lecturer for the evening, along with two of his colleagues from the ARZA/WUPA headquarters.

Special thanks go to all the Renaissance volunteers who made the evening possible: to Elaine Pollack who coordinated the meal with caterer Ella Hill; as well as to Ruth Adler, Susan Barnett, Gloria Barsky, Sara Berke, Teri Binder, Pat Esterson, Paul Kaufman, Joan Paul, Naomi and Jerry Weber, and Martha Weisberg. Thanks also go to Marion Schechter for helping to coordinate the arrangements and to the seventh grade volunteers from our Religious School who helped to clear the tables – Michaela Chelemer, Aaron Gagliardi, and Adam Ouriel.

Reservations are coming in fast for the Renaissance Chanukah "Chappening" on Wednesday evening, December 24th. Since nothing else will be open that night, the Renaissance Group invites all Temple members to celebrate Chanukah at the Temple with Chinese food, a glass of wine, and a movie. Bring your menorahs and candles so we can all light the sixth candle together and trade inexpensive (under \$5) fun gifts. Your check for \$20 (members) and \$25 (guests), payable to the Renaissance Group, guarantees your reservation.

A special Comedy Nite is being planned for Sunday, February 29th, to celebrate Leap Year. The professional comedians have appeared on national television, including Comedy Central. Temple Emeth B'Yachad is co-hosting this event with the Renaissance Group. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information.



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Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library Update

Jewish Humor

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION

What's a Jewish telegram? "Letter to follow. Start worrying."

You may hear giggles and guffaws emanating from the library this month. That is because we are displaying books of Jewish humor. Since we could all use a good laugh, you should stop by. It couldn't hurt, right?

A Treasury of Jewish Humor edited by Nathan Ausubel. This volume features modern short stories and ancient tales, poems, excerpts from novels, and witty sayings taken from Jewish life throughout the ages.

Alan King's Great Jewish Joke Book. The comedian has compiled the best Jewish jokes from the shtetls to vaudeville, from the Catskills to modern Hollywood and comedy clubs across the country.

Encyclopedia of Jewish Humor by Henry D. Spalding. This is a collection of funny stories about colorful Jewish characters—parents, doctors, lawyers, shnorrers, matchmakers, etc.—from biblical times to the atomic age.

The Big Book of Jewish Humor edited by William Novak and Moshe Waldoks. With everything from the Wise Men of Chelm to the Marx Brothers, from Sholom Aleichem to Woody Allen and Mad Magazine, this book is a romp through the marvelously broad spectrum of Jewish humor.

Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Some of the finest Jewish jokes you'll ever hear are interspersed with perceptive insights into what they can tell us about how Jews see themselves, their families, and their friends, and what they think about money, sex, and success.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
DECEMBER MITZVAH OF THE MONTH
ANNUAL BERGEN COUNTY CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE**

This year, for the first time, Temple Emeth is joining many local synagogues in their annual Chanukah toy drive, presenting a unique opportunity to bring the joy of Chanukah to needy Jewish children.

Toys will be distributed at Chanukah parties held by organizations such as Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Jewish Family Services, Project Ezra, UJC, Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, etc.

Needed are NEW, UNWRAPPED toys as well as gifts for older children and teenagers, such as portable tape players, jewelry, watches, diaries, books and posters.

All gifts can be dropped off in the designated box in the Mitzvah Alcove.

This is a great opportunity for your kids to participate in picking out and wrapping toys for needy children. Please be generous!

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTING IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th.

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A MESSAGE FROM ELLIOT W. STEINBERG, PRESIDENT OF B'YACHAD

This has been quite a year. The place is rockin'. We started the year with cottage parties, special Shabbat Onegs to introduce Rabbi Sirbu and Rabbi Rebecca to our membership, and B'yachad sponsored an open house breakfast in September. There is a feeling of rebirth, camaraderie, and the joy of being in our home away from home. There is so much going on, that it is difficult to do it all. B'yachad breakfasts with Rabbi Sirbu, Renaissance programs, Adult Ed programs, all sorts of special events, and the list goes on and on.

At the last B'yachad breakfast, which was very well attended by Temple Emeth's mature membership, I indicated that we were missing a younger segment of our congregation. These breakfasts have topics that should include all of our membership. If you would only take a few moments to review the topics, you would clearly see that it is for all audiences. The fee is only \$5.00, which includes breakfast. This merely defrays the cost, and if anything is left over it eventually goes to the temple for one thing or another.

The next event is December 21st at 10:30 and the topic is "CAN YOU TAKE THE TRUTH". Flyers have already gone out, and additional flyers and information are on the ledge by the office window. We have already had 60 responses, and have a cut-off at 100. So, I would highly recommend that you get your reservations in NOW!

Within the next few weeks you will be receiving the B'yachad programming for the second half of the year. It will be quite exciting, and I look forward to seeing more of you at each event. We will also be co-sponsoring with the Renaissance group a night of comedy with two nationally known comedians, scheduled for February 29, 2004.

In addition to being the president of B'yachad, I'm also the chairperson of the environmental committee. We are planning on a Tu B'Shvat Seder, a Hackensack River cruise, a nature walk, and hopefully a family outing.

For those of you who are not familiar with B'yachad, we are men, women, and children who are dedicated to enhancing the social, religious, educational, and charitable functions of Temple Emeth. As you can see, there are lots of activities for everyone. We welcome your involvement or participation in any of these events.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone who has supported B'yachad events, and those of you that have assisted me in making my job easier, and it is a joy to know that in my own small way I can give something back to this beautiful place, Temple Emeth.

Shalom,

Elliot

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Here's what some of our college kids are doing:

Deborah Silver, daughter of Temple President Larry and Carla is a Senior at Ithaca College. Deborah is majoring in therapeutic recreation and minoring in Dance. In September Deb spent 6 days in Atlanta at the American Therapeutic Recreation Associate Annual Conference where she co-presented two sessions: one on Mentoring and the second on an Interdisciplinary Program called the Center for Life Skills.

In her spare time Deborah is choreographing 4 dance pieces. One of the pieces is an alternative version of The Nutcracker which will be performed in December, the other a dance to the music of "The Wall" by Pink Floyd which will be performed in the Spring.

Joseph Rosenbaum, son of Marlene and Edward, is in his 3rd year at Hampshire College. Joseph's school doesn't have majors, instead they have concentrations -- and his is in bioethics. Joseph was recently elected to student government (Community Council).

Amanda Graizel, daughter of yours truly and Bill, is a sophomore at Clark University. Amanda is preparing for her first trip to Israel in late December. She is an active member of the Scarlet Key, President of Hughes dorm, the head of internal relations for SARC (student alumni relations committee). Amanda is also a MAD (Make a Difference Scholar for her community service at Temple Emeth). Along with roommate Sandy (another MAD scholar) they are working with a group to create a section of Mitzvah Corp. on the Clark campus for the summer of '04. In her spare time, Amanda works at the Clark Fund.

P.S. Winners of our "Did you pay attention in Religious School Quiz" -- ROSH HASHANAH version was a tie -- Alexis Herman, freshman at George Washington University and Jessica Firshein, Junior at Wesleyan University. Congratulations!!

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BULLETIN BOARD

This is the debut of 'Bulletin Board', a column designed to keep you-up-to-date on highlights and key decisions voted on by the Board of Trustees.

One of the major items on the October 9th agenda was the extension of Cantor Tilem's current contract. Since the Cantor exercised her option for a 3rd year, it was up to the Board to either accept or reject it. Members overwhelmingly voted 'yes'. Her contract expires at the end of June 2005.

In other matters - an update from the **Financial Secretary** shows there are 452 members, 33 new families have joined and 55% of dues have been paid.

Annual Giving has received \$40,000 in donations thus far this year.

Adult Education programs are going great and the classes are all filled to the rafters.

Mark your calendar:

Institute of Living Arts will sponsor the **Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus**

Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 PM.

Annual Chanukah Dinner -

Friday, December 19th - 6: PM

Rabbi Sirbu's Installation and Musical Service- Friday, December 19th- 7:45 PM

B'Yachad Breakfast will feature a discussion by Rabbi Sirbu entitled

"Can You Handle the Truth?"

Sunday, December 21st 10:30 AM

Rhona Herman - Secretary

Sandi Klein - Assistant Secretary

WINE 102

WINES OF SOUTH AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA

January 31, 2004 - 8 pm

Please join us on at Temple Emeth's second annual **WINE TASTING AND DESSERT PARTY.**

Last year's well attended event - Wine 101 - featured an introductory lecture and discussion on the art of what to look for when selecting and tasting wine. We now hope to broaden our knowledge of wines with an annual series of discussions on the wines of various parts of the world. This year's topic will be the wines of South America and Australia.

The wines of South America (mainly Chile and Argentina) are quickly becoming the wine world's worst kept secret. A good climate for grape growing, improved winemaking techniques and moderate prices are creating some of the best wine values in the world. Australian wines have already earned an outstanding worldwide reputation.

A variety of fine wines will be available for tasting, along with discussion of differences between them. Attendance at Wine 101 is not a prerequisite!

Dessert and coffee (along with some more wine, of course) will be served.

This promises to be a fun evening. So reserve early and bring your friends.

YES, I'M/WE'RE EAGER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WINES FROM SOUTH AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIA.

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Is this a fun temple, or what?

CONTRIBUTIONS

Page 17

ADULT EDUCATION

Ruth & Peter Adler:

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

In honor of the birth of Eli Matthew Borowitz, grandson of Grace & Irving

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Esther & Milton Mendelsohn

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, grandson of Tsilla Thumim

In honor of the 80th birthday of Rabbi Sigel

Teri & Fred Binder:

In memory of Max Hirschfelder, father of Dennis

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

In honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

In honor of the marriage of Susan Silberman to Ari Dornbusch, daughter of Sybil Silberman

ARZA

Gloria & Marvin Barsky:

Sending get well wishes to Elaine Hertzog

Sending get well wishes to Muriel Kaplan

Sending get well wishes to Gloria Jerome

In memory of Ruth Wenger, sister of Ken Heller

In honor of the birth of Aden Jacob, new grandson of Janice & Larry Lipsitz

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Marc Klausner in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah, new granddaughter of Jackie & David Cohen

Judy & David Fox:

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, grandson of Tsilla Thumim

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In memory of Irene Packles, mother of Steve Packles

Marion Schechter, Sandra Rumayor, Tsilla Thumim &

Carol Geller in memory of Irene Packles, mother of Steve Packles

Lucy & Don Brody in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Bev & Sy Lazar:

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, new grandson of Tsilla Thumim

Lynne & Bill Graizel

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, new grandson of Tsilla Thumim

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN cont.

Sue & Phil Keusch:

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah Tilem

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, grandson of Tsilla Thumim

Lotte & Marion Wolf in gratitude to Rabbis

Rebecca & Steven Sirbu

Micki & Mike Grunstein:

Thanking Rabbis Rebecca and Steven Sirbu for the open house

In honor of Rabbi Sigel's birthday

In honor of the birth of Robin Leah, new granddaughter to Carol & Howard Kaplan

CANTORS DISCRETIONERY FUND

Enid & Sid Broder:

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Ruth Meissner & Family

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Micki & Mike Grunstein:

In gratitude to Cantor for the wonderful High Holy Day Services

Dione Danis & Ben Ward

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Barbara & Paul Kaufman

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Estelle & Bob Spiewak in memory of Margie Aerenson

Joan & David Paul in memory of Margie Aerenson

Anne Rosenthal in memory of Margie Aerenson

Sue & Phil Keusch in memory of Margie Aerenson

Lynne, Bill, Amanda & Dana Graizel in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Lotte & Marion Wolf in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah Tilem

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Micki & Mike Grunstein in gratitude

for the basket sent to the Elder Grunsteins

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Sandy & Herb Loft in honor of the birth of Aden Jacob, new grandson of Janice & Larry Lipsitz

KALLAH FUND

Bev & Sy Lazar

Wishing Good Health Always to Carlene Fleishman

In memory of Johanna Ross, cousin of Carlene Fleishman

In memory of Ruth Wenger, sister of Ken Heller

In honor of the birth of Eli Matthew, new grandson of Grace & Irving Borowitz

LIBRARY FUND

Shirley & Kenneth Heller:

In honor of the birth of Jaydon Binder Smith, grandson of Teri & Fred Binder

In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Lenore & Martin Berck

In honor of the marriage of Susan Dornbusch, daughter of Sybil Silberman to Ari Dornbusch

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In gratitude to the Caring Committee

Lorraine & Jerome Fisch

In honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

In memory of Margie Aerenson

INSCRIBED LIBRARY BOOKS

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June Handler in memory of Margie Aerenson

Bunny & Nat Ritzer in memory of Margie Aerenson

June Handler in memory of Boris Bierstein

Dora & Yossel Friedman

Sandy & Herb Loft in honor of the 1st birthday of their grandson, Daniel Ettinger

Janis & Jim Warren in honor of Sara Warren's 21st birthday

Gloria & Marvin Barsky in memory of Margie Aerenson

Eleanor & Myron White in memory of Alice El-Tawil

Bev & Sy Lazar in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

MUSIC FUND

Marc Klausner in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah Tilem

Fran Butensky in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah Tilem

Nancy & Joe Boonin in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Irving & Grace Borowitz in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Janice & Larry Lipsitz in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

MUSIC FUND cont.

Bev & Sy Lazar

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah, new granddaughter of Jackie & David Cohen

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah, new daughter of Cantor Ellen & Peter Tilem

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Milly & Murray Beer in memory of Margie Aerenson

Loretta Weinberg in memory of Margie Aerenson

Micki & Mike Grunstein in gratitude to Rabbi Sirbu for High Holy Days Services

Judy & David Fox wishing good luck to Rabbi Steven & Rebecca Sirbu in their new home

Leeds & Album Family in memory of Shirley Cohen, mother of Deena Sandell

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Morah Dora, Barbara Sabella & The Religious School Staff in memory of Irene Packles, mother of Steve Packles

LOUIS J. SIGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Milly & Murray Beer in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Shirley & Ken Heller in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th

Loretta Weinberg in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th
Enid & Sid Broder in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Cynthia Victor in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Sydell & Sy Yegelwel in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Laura & Dan Kirsch sending birthday wishes to Rabbi Sigel

Enid & Sid Broder in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Anne, Roger & Donald Rosenthal in honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Deborah, Jim and Zach Veach in honor of Loretta Weinberg being re-elected to the State Assembly

TEMPLE EMETH FUND

Judy & Bob Eichinger in honor of the birth of Leila Devorah Tilem

Diane & Howard Winer:

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Carla & Larry Silver:

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

Karen Rappaport & Phyllis Burman

In honor of Rabbi Sigel's 80th birthday

Sydell & Sy Yegelwel:

In memory of Shirley Joan Kalish, sister-in-law of Audrey & Norman Muehsam

Sending get well wishes to Muriel Kaplan

Muriel Pader in memory of Rose Tarshis

Stuart Littwin in memory of his beloved wife, Phyllis

TEMPLE EMETH BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Bea & Alan Westin:

In honor of the marriage of Susan Silberman to Ari Dornbusch

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Philip Breslow

In honor of the birth of Robin Leah Falkow, daughter of Debby & Howard Falkow and granddaughter of Carol & Howard Kaplan

In memory of Ruth Wenger, sister of Ken Heller

In honor of the birth of Ely Matthew Enisfeld, new grandson of Grace & Irving Borowitz

In memory of Irene Packles

In honor of the birth of Shimon Hayim, grandson of Tsilla Thumim

In memory of Margie Aerenson

In honor of the birth of Leila Devorah

In honor of Mark Guttman being accepted to Cantorial School

In gratitude to Janis & Jim Warren for framing an art piece for the Temple

Judy & Gidon Yablonka in memory of Irene Packles

Barbara & Paul Kaufman:

In honor of the engagement of Jeremy Westin to Vanna Freesman

In memory of Margie Aerenson

Joan & Mort Rubenstein in memory of Margie Aerenson

Janice & Larry Lipsitz in memory of Margie Aerenson

Micki & Mike Grunstein in honor of the birth of Aden Jacob Levy, new grandson of Janice & Larry Lipsitz

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Marilyn Herzog	Micki & Mike Grunstein
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Morris Manberg	The Manberg Family
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