Temple Emeth

Volume 59, Number 1

Elul/Tishri 5765/5766 October 2005

Bulletin

Temple Emeth of Teaneck, New Jersey An Affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism Serving Reform Congregations in North America

1	HIGH HOLY DAY 5766 - 20		X
۶	EREV ROSH HASHANAH Family Oriented Service Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	MONDAY OCTOBER 3 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	
H A P P	ROSH HASHANAH First Day Morning Service K-7 Grade Parallel Program Children's Service Tashlich ROSH HASHANAH Second Day	TUESDAY OCTOBER 4 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5	S H A N
Y N E	EREV YOM KIPPUR Family Oriented Service Kol Nidre Service	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5 10:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	A H
W Y E A R	YOM KIPPUR DAY Morning Service K-7 Grade Parallel Program Study Session Children's Service Afternoon & Yizkor Service Neilah - Concluding Service	THURSDAY OCTOBER 13 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	T O V A H
	EREV SUKKOT Religious School Consecration SUKKOT	MONDAY OCTOBER 17 7:30 p.m. TUESDAY OCTOBER 18 10:30 a.m.	
	EREV SIMCHAT TORAH SIMCHAT TORAH Yizkor	MONDAY OCTOBER 24 7:30 p.m. TUESDAY OCTOBER 25 10:30 a.m.	

♦ TEMPLE EMETH

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	Bulletin Deadlin	nes	Mid-Month M	failing Deadlines	
Month	Deadline Date	Publication Date	Deadline Date	Publication Date	
October	September 8	September 22	September 28	October 12	
November	October 6	October 20	November 3	November 15	
December	November 10	November 24	December 1	December 14	
January	December 8	December 22	January 2	January 17	
February	January 12	January 26	February 2	February 15	
March	February 9	February 23	March 1	March 15	
April	March 9	March 23	April 3	April 14	
May	April 6	April 20	May 3	May 16	
June	May 11	May 25	June 1	June 15	
Midsummer			July 18	July 28	

Material for the bulletin is welcome and 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 submitted by **8:00** p.m. on the date of the deadline.

Please submit all material by e-mail to sandifk@aol.com and Barbara Balkin - dkrm505@yahoo.com

We cannot guarantee publication of items submitted on paper.

For Mid-month mailings, all materials (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.

The Temple Emeth Bulletin is published monthly from September through June

Advertising F	Rates for Ad S	size 2" x 3 ¹ / ₂ "
	Member	Non-Member
1 Month	\$ 50	\$ 75
5 Months	\$225	\$350
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Message From the Rabbi

On our congregational Israel trip in August, our first stop on our first full day was at the Reform Movement's world headquarters in Jerusalem. Our first speaker was Anat Hoffman, the director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC). She spoke to our group about the fractious relationship between religious and secular in Israel, and about the 60 lawsuits the IRAC files annually in order to break the stranglehold that the Orthodox establishment has on

religious expression in the country. (Her talk was so engaging that most of our group didn't even realize that outside the windows at the back of the room was a spectacular view of the walls of the Old City.)

Anat Hoffman left us with a message and a mandate. The message was that the pluralism of American Judaism is desperately needed in Israel. Our mandate was to register and vote in the World Zionist Organization (WZO) Congress election.



Anat Hoffmann with Rabbi Sirbu

The World Z i o n i s t Congress known to many

as the "Parliament of the Jewish People"—is the governing body of the World Zionist Organization. Its members meet in Jerusalem to debate critical

political, religious and educational issues affecting the Jewish people. Perhaps more importantly, they allocate funding for many important causes in Israel that compete for limited resources.

The American delegation of 145 is second in size only to Israel's, and 4 years ago, the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) achieved a tremendous victory with 42% of the vote. This representation has translated into results for our movement worldwide in the following ways:

Giving Reform Jews a strong voice in critical decisions in Israel;

Training for Israel's next generation of Reform rabbis;

Reform Jewish programming on six continents;



Rabbi Steven Sirbu

Supporting the important work of the IRAC; and (drum roll please)

Almost \$2 million in annual funding to Israeli Reform Judaism.

Registering to vote is easy if you are eligible. You must be Jewish; be at least 18 years old on June 30, 2006; be a permanent resident of the United States; and accept the Jerusalem Program, an affirmation of the ideals of Zionism. I registered online in less than five minutes. Just log on to www.votereformiudaism.com with

> your credit card handy. There is a \$7 processing fee, \$5 for full-time students. If you prefer to send your registration in by postal mail, you can pick up a paper registration form from the Temple office. Registration is open until February 15, 2006, but there's no reason to wait.

> When you register you will be asked if you want to vote on line or by mail. When the voting period begins on November 15, all you have to do is vote for ARZA. It's that easy!

> You will hear more about the WZO election over the High Holy Days, as Temple Emeth is commit-

ted to registering every one of our eligible members. A committee is currently in formation to ensure that everyone understands the importance of this election to the institutions of Reform Judaism and the principles of religious pluralism. If you wish to join the committee, please contact chairwoman Gloria Barsky or me. We will be happy to put you to work.

As this year fades into the next and 5766 approaches, we have many challenges to face. The suffering in the wake of hurricane Katrina, the ongoing problems of poverty here and around the world, and the quest for peace in the Middle East that seems so elusive are just a few examples. The solutions to these problems must be long-term and comprehensive, and as Jews we are up to the task. But it's also nice to know that a simple act, such as registering and voting in the WZO elections can make a big difference.

Shanah tovah—may this be a year of health and peace for all.

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Message from the Cantor - Shalom From China

I write this article two weeks before our long awaited departure date which we have recently

found out is September 24th. In my last bulletin article I announced that we would travel to China to adopt a baby girl. Since then I have received an incredible amount of support - letters and phone calls full of good

wishes for which Peter and I are extremely grateful. I was especially touched as many of you shared stories of similar difficulties which later turned out to be great blessings.

One woman told me of her brother who broke his leg on September 10th, a few years ago, just one day before that terrible incident in our country's history. He could not go to work the next day. He worked in an accounting firm in the World Trade Center. He is still with us today. A man told me that seven years ago he was mugged while

walking down the street in Manhattan. He of course believed that this was a curse. He asked God why this would happen to him. During that attack he was thrown to the ground, his eyeglasses shattered. When he went to get the glasses replaced, his ophthalmologist found the early stages of glaucoma and it was addressed immediately. That man can still see today. Stories like these remind us that God is with us each and every day



- that miracles occur in our lives - if only we choose to see them.

I have shared Rosh Hashana with this congregation for the past eleven years. As I hold my new baby during Rosh Hashana services at the Chabad House in Guanzhou, China, I will be thinking of you all. I will

> truly miss you and look forward, God willing, to be back on our bimah to join with you in Yom Kippur worship. I truly want to thank Marc Klausner, who will serve as Cantorial Soloist during Rosh Hashana. With his beautiful voice and spirit, he will lead you in prayer and song along with Rabbi Sirbu. I would also like to thank our incredibly dedicated and talented choir, Kol Emet, under the direction of Jaqueline Guttman. They bring to our High Holy Days the stirring melodies of years past and the future

of Jewish music.

As you begin these High Holy Days, I encourage you to continue searching for the blessings in your life and trust in God's plan for each of you. My family joins in wishing you Shana Tova U'm'tuka, a year filled with sweetness and blessings!

> Shana Tova U'm'tuka, Cantor Ellen Tilem



Meet Rabbi Robin Nafshi

Rabbi Robin Nafshi, a Bergen County native, received her ordination from HUC-JIR this past May. While in rabbinical school she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Rabbi Nafshi used her law degree to work as a legal author and editor in California, where she lived before beginning her studies at HUC. During her time in California, she served as a lay leader in her Reform congregation and was on the board of the URJ's Pacific Central Region. Rabbi Nafshi is passionate about teaching — in the classroom, on the bimah, in one-on-one conversations, and everywhere else. She looks forward to a wonderful year getting to know as many congregants as possible.

Message From the President

And so we begin a New Year and, as President, I look forward to seeing you at our High Holy Day Services. I hope you will introduce yourself to me if we haven't met and if we have, bear hugs are acceptable!

It is written in Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:10 " a community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone". The President is only one of many volunteers here at Temple Emeth. I am lucky to have an organization of many dedicated men and women. It really does "take a village" to run this place! I have been asked on several occasions to describe Emeth's structure. It is the mem-

bership of our congregation who is fully in control and decides our course of action. As specified in our Constitution, the congregation meets as a whole at least once a year, usually in May (this year we also met in July) to review the activities and contracts, vote on the budget, elect officers and members of the Board of Trustees. During the year, our 50 member Board meets monthly, getting reports from clergy, the Temple Administrator, the President and Committee Chairs. The 10 member Executive Committee (eCom) is a subdivi-

sion of the Board, working to ensure the implementation of decisions. Executive Committee members have specific functions as detailed in the Constitution and serve as liaisons to the many Temple committees and affiliated organizations. It will, as necessary, make sure that the day-to-day operations of the Temple are running smoothly.

I have asked eCom members to provide a brief family description so that the congregation could get to know them a bit better. This month I present your 3 Vice Presidents.

Bill Graizel is our 1st Vice President. He has served 7 years on the Board, and 5 years on the eCom. He has had significant involvement with the Finance Committee, TE Endowment Fund, wine tasting events and our overflow shelter, and is currently liaison from the eCom to the Ritual, Membership and Outreach Committees. He is a Real Estate Broker in Manhattan, and loves tennis and rock and roll. Bill's wife Lynne works as a customer service rep for an educational publisher. Lynne has run numerous Temple events but her current passion is The College Kids Committee. Lynne and Bill have 2 children, Amanda and Dana. Amanda is a senior at Clark University where she is a sociology major with a concentration in holocaust and genocide studies. Before leaving for college, Amanda was very active in such Temple activities as The Caring Community, the Temple's overflow shelter and was a TA in the Religious School. Dana is a senior at Teaneck

High School where she has been named to the National Honor Society. Dana is co-president of EMTY, and a member of Temple Emeth's Board of Trustees. For the past 2 years she has coordinated the meal preparation for the Temple's overflow shelter. This year Dana looks forward to being a TA in our Religious School.

Madelyn Wolf, our 2nd Vice President, has been a member of Temple Emeth since 1996. She had previously been on the Religious School Committee and was also involved in Youth Group programming.

> Madelyn has worked on "all things food related" for Temple Emeth events including the Congregational Seder, Dinner Dance and Gala. Madelyn lives in Leonia and runs a market research consulting firm, Premium Solutions. Her husband, Mark, is the market research director at Guardian Insurance. Their son, Ben, a past president of the Temple Emeth Youth Group, is currently in his junior year at Duke University. Their son, Michael, serves as the programming vice president

of the Youth Group and is a junior at Saddle River Day School. Both Ben and Michael attended Religious School at Temple Emeth and Bergen Academy of Reform Judaism, were confirmed at TE and have spent many summers at URJ Camp Harlam.

Rhona Herman is our 3rd Vice President. Her husband Eric is a dermatologist. They have 3 children: Samantha, Philip and Alexis. All three attended ECC and Religious School at TE. They attended BARJ and all participated in confirmation at TE. Samantha graduated from Tufts and is now in her second year of medical school at UMDNJ. Philip And Alexis are both currently juniors at George Washington University in DC.

Rhona has a law degree but does not currently practice. She works in Eric's medical office. She has had numerous jobs at TE, serving as a member of the ECC Committee, co-chair of the Religious School Committee and Temple Emeth Board secretary for several years.

In the months ahead you'll meet the rest. My family, Joy, Jessica and Jenna, join me in wishing you a healthy, happy and sweet New Year ahead.

Shana Tova, Dan Firshein



From the Religious School

"Z'man Simchateinu - The Season of Our Joy"

Our midrash teaches us that Avraham and Sarah had a tent with four "doors"- one door that opened in each direction North, East, South, and West. No stranger who came by would have to look for a way into their home. Every stranger was greeted with a smile and a blessing.

What then does it mean to receive all people with gladness and joy? The above reminds us that we must take the initiative in showing our "smiling face" as we welcome and greet each other. It is our responsibility not only to be joyful, but to help spread the joy.

At Temple Emeth, the Religious School year is under way as we are in the midst of our joyous festival season. Our students in grades K-7 are learning and experiencing the sights, sounds and fla-

vors of this unique and inspiring time. Grades K-3 'made shofars and heard the awe-inspiring sounds of renewal. Grade 5 created a special project integrating holidays, symbols, synagogue and Israel. Grade 4 also made their own shofar and learned how the shofar is connected to Torah and values. All of our students will snack and sing in the sukkah and chant special blessings for the lulav and etrog. Sukkot, in particular, provides our religious school community with a unique opportunity to show appreciation and thankfulness for all of our blessings.

We thank our returning faculty - Rabbi Sirbu, Cantor Tilem, Michael Baer, Stuart Bernath, Wendy Filowitz, Ilana Hed, Jill Kravitz, Debbie Rutz, Nancy Lederman-Scher, Gila Sherry, Penny Soussa, and Eve Yudelson for their hard work and cooperation during the first week of school. We welcome our new teachers, Shoshana Ishayik and Rabbi Robin Nafshi.



TODAH RABAH TO:

Marc Chelemer for initiating, creating, and teaching Torah Trope every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. This is an enrichment class open to all in grades 5-7. Marc is a passionate teacher of Torah and the mysteries and

magic of Torah chanting.

Karen Sachs for enriching our assemblies and classrooms with the sounds of Jewish music and prayer.

Mark Klausner for providing our Hebrew school with help wherever and whenever it is needed. His knowledge and tireless efforts enriches us all.

We welcome back Barbara Sabella who was greatly missed last year. We

especially thank her for her incredible finesse and special talent for performing under stress. Her tact and wisdom inspire us each day.

Our heartfelt thanks to our synagogue staff; Marion Schechter, Mary Espiritu, Sandra Rumayor and Carol Geller for helping us stay organized and keeping us on track. We thank our custodians who always say "yes" and do everything with a smiling face.

It is truly a blessing to see all the happy and eager students back at school. What a wonderful Jewish adventure awaits us in the coming year.

> B'vracha, Dora Geld Friedman

Visit the Temple website at www.emeth.org

From the Early Childhood Center

Great Beginnings......

As we begin the year 5766 at the ECC, we are immersed in all the excitement new beginnings offer. It is a perfect opportunity for us to assess our mission as partners in the early years of the children we are so fortunate to teach. Together we review the year and make plans for the children to enjoy, learn and grow together. However, this is only scratching the surface. As in a tapestry of many colors, we try to weave into the tangible program, the less obvious strands of life lessons.

One of the most prominent of these lessons has to do with the very goal of preparation. Often we focus mainly on creating situations where the children will have positive experiences to keep them happy. However, we would be remiss to suppose that this would be enough to help them through less positive times. In fact, thorough preparation involves helping a child plan for changes and new events that we know may be stressful and difficult. When we talk about readiness skills we include helping children learn to recognize and verbalize feelings and fears. This is not done to teach them to avoid pain and anxiety, but rather to give them the tools to help prevent them from becoming overwhelmed and traumatized by unforeseen events. We can't protect our children from all of the difficulties



life has in store. We <u>can</u> help them to enjoy new situations, master difficult ones, and learn from all of them.

It takes all the different strands of the tapestry to make our children strong, balanced and beautiful.

Shanah Tovah,

Sharon Floch





The Book of Proverbs tells us "It is a tree of life for those who hold it fast." Temple Emeth celebrated the installation of its new Tree of Life in the main hallway at a special ceremony on Friday, September 9th.

Israel - A Journey to Remember

Can you remember the feeling you had when you went to one of your children's (or grandchildren's) first play, dance recital, soccer or baseball



game? Hold that thought. Now try to remember what it felt like when you missed one of those events, only to hear about it second hand. There's nothing like the feeling of being there.

That's the best reason I can come up with for visiting Israel. There is such an emotional pull when you see, hear, touch and experi-

ence the country for yourself.

Twenty seven of us, led by Rabbi Sirbu began our trip August 22nd, leaving Newark Airport late that night.



Some of us had been to Israel before, many had not. The trip was arranged by ARZA, with much input from the Rabbi. We arrived late the next day (a 10 hour flight plus a 7 hour time difference), met our guide Muki and recited the *Shehechiyanu* at a beautiful

panoramic overview site of Jerusalem.

We began our trip in earnest the following morning – meeting representatives of the Israeli Reform Movement, including

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the Executive Directors of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center. We learned about the budding reform movement in Israel and its struggle to survive, let alone grow. We learned that Orthodox Judaism has an 'outsized' say in how the government resolves religious issues, and that many Israelis feel there are only two choices: be Orthodox or be secular. In large part, Reform Judaism is not on the typical Israeli's radar screen, but the World Union, with the help of the American and European reform movements is trying to change that. It's training more and more reform Rabbis and sending them throughout the country to educate and create new congregations from scratch. Even if they are successful, it is a difficult financial and bureaucratic struggle to secure a building of their own in which to congregate and worship.



Next stop, the Knesset, where we met Avshalom Vilan, a member of Israel's Parliament. Our visit came during the aftermath of the gut wrench-

ing disengagement of Israeli settlements from the Gaza strip. Mr. Vilan, as well as Dr. Reuven Hazan, a Senior lecturer of the Political Science Department of the Hebrew University, gave us their views of the current political realities of Israel's struggle for peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians.

That afternoon we visited the Western Wall along the



Temple Mount, the same wall that survived the destruction of the first and second Temples. Think of it. There we were, standing in the Old City of

Jerusalem, the same city originally built by King David 3,000 years ago. There we were standing astride the Western Wall, part of the Temple originally built by King Solomon, where Jews have come to pray for 3,000 years. Some of us wrote our personal prayers on small pieces of paper and wedged them into the cracks in the Wall as is now the custom of many Jews.

And that was just the first day!



Over the next week, we visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. We floated in the Dead Sea and refreshed ourselves under

a waterfall at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. We climbed Mount Masada. (Well actually, most of us took the cable car, but a few of us were actually crazy

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enough to climb the famous snake path in the 100 degree heat). There were visits to the Israel Museum to view the Dead Sea Scrolls, King David's

Citadel, a museum of the history of Jerusalem, the graves of Theodore Herzl, Yitzhak Rabin and Gold Meir at Mount Herzl. We strolled (and shopped) the Arab and Jewish markets in the Old City and Ben Yehuda Street in the new city. We walked through the Dan Nature Reserve, an oasis of thick forest greenery

that stands in stark contrast to the desert scenery we saw in other parts of the country. We visited the ancient city of Safed, a center of Jewish mysticism. We toured the ruins



of the important Roman city of Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea. We got down and dirty in a cave participating in an archaeological dig, where some were lucky enough to find interesting pieces of pottery. We planted trees in a Jewish National Fund forest.

And there was more. We visited Kehilat Mevasseret Zion, a reform congregation and attended Friday evening Shabbat services there. We met their Rabbi, the first woman Rabbi in Israel, who spoke about her difficulty to be accepted in Israel and about her congregation's long struggle to build a synagogue there. We had dinner at the homes of several congregants. We participated in a Tzedakah project at a food packing plant. We drove along the Trans-Israel Highway for a close up view of the *Security Fence* along the separation zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories and had a discussion with a member of Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies about Israel's security issues. We



stayed at a beautiful kibbutz guest house in K'far Blum in the Upper Gallilee, took a Jeep tour in the Golan Heights and learned about the battles which took place there during the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars. We had an afternoon in Tel Aviv to stroll along the beach promenade or



Dizengoff Street, or visit the Museum of the Diaspora, which tells the tale of the paths Judaism has taken away from Israel and the stories of those who made Aliyah from all over the world. We visited an absorption center which had been used to help orient the influx of Russian Jews a decade or two ago, and is now used principally to do the same for Ethiopian Jews.

Special moments? There were a few. Rabbi Sirbu led us on a short walk from our Jerusalem hotel as Shabbat ended to an outdoor city overlook where we celebrated with a lovely Havdalah service. We went to the Schindler (Ein Zeitim) forest, near Safed, to accompany Beverly and Sy Lazar for a brief ceremony commemorating the forest grove dedicated to the memory of their son, Paul Steven. There was our farewell dinner in Tel Aviv, where we said goodbye and thank you to Muki, our guide, Haim, our bus driver, and Elie, the



ARZA cameraman who accompanied us on most of our trip and filmed it for posterity. And, of course, there was the camaraderie among the 25 Temple

members (plus two friends) who made this trip together. We had a great time traveling, hiking, learning, seeing, eating, shopping, participating and just sharing and being together.

It was a long and sad flight home as we arrived back in Newark early on the morning of September 1st. We brought back our many wonderful memories. Thank you Rabbi Sirbu, for the opportunity to take this trip

with you. And as for the rest of you, what can I say? Go to Israel and experience it for yourself.

> B'Shalom, Larry Silver



HOW TEMPLE EMETH CAN HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Option 1.

Participate in the Union's Gift Cards project: (http://www.urj.org/relief/giftcards)

Many people do not want to give to a general relief fund but prefer to give a tangible gift. You can help meet these needs by donating money directly to Temple Emeth's Hurricane Relief Fund. Proceeds of this fund will be used to purchase gift cards that can be distributed through local shelters or to evacuees through the Union of Reform Judaism.

We will purchase gift cards for one or more of the following retail establishments:

- Costco - Home Depot - Lowe's - Toys R Us - Target

The Union will give the gift cards to Rabbis, who in turn, will distribute them to the evacuees.

Make checks out to Temple Emeth - Hurricane Relief Fund. Send attention: Maddy Wolf

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS BY OCTOBER 24th.

If you have questions or need additional information, please e-mail hurricanerelief@urj.org

or contact

Maddy Wolf at 201-585-0393 or Eva Sandrof at 201-837-2241

LET'S SEE HOW MANY CARDS WE CAN BUY!

Option 2.

Tzedakah boxes will be available on Rosh Hashanah outside the sanctuary. All contributions collected between now and Thanksgiving will be donated to the URJ hurricane relief fund.



Take home a Tzedakah box and help those in need.

EMPTY YOUR POCKETS, GIVE WITH YOUR HEART? When full, they can be returned to the Social Action mailbox, and exchanged for an empty box.

Option 3.

To contribute to the fund, go to **hurricanerelief@urj.org** or send a check to the Union for Reform Judaism, Att: Development Dept., 633 Third Ave., New York 10017, NY. If you pay with an American Express credit card, American Express will waive all fees and make an additional \$1.00 contribution for every payment made through them.

WATCH THE TEMPLE BULLETIN BOARD FOR ADDITIONAL AID OPTIONS AS NEEDS ARISE

The Social Action Committee

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library Update:

Going Around in Circles By Marion Wolf

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION

I've been thinking about Simchat Torah, and my head is spinning! I've been wondering about the origin of this joyous holiday and what makes it unique. A good place to find answers is our own Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library, where Philip Goodman's <u>The Sukkot/Simchat Torah Anthology</u> is just one of many valuable resources.

Simchat Torah is not mentioned by name in the Torah or the Talmud. We are told three times (twice in Deuteronomy and once in Leviticus) to rejoice in the festival of Sukkot. We are never told how to rejoice. So how did Simchat Torah, the culmination of Sukkot become the celebration we know today? For a long time after the completion of the Talmud many congregations used a threeyear cycle to read the Torah. But when in the early Middle Ages, the Babylonian tradition of reading the entire Torah in an annual cycle took hold, Simchat Torah came to be. Jews marked the conclusion of one Torah cycle and the beginning of the next with hakkafot, circuits around the synagogue. Participants would carry the Torah scrolls, singing and dancing. Their observance had a lot in common with medieval marriage rites. In fact, the person who read the last verses of Deuteronomy was called hatan Torah, the Bridegroom of the Torah, and the one who read the first lines of Genesis was the hatan B'reshit, the Bridegroom of Genesis (nowadays we can have a kallat Torah, a Bride of the Torah, or kallat B'reshit).

Why is this night different from all other nights? For one thing, although we at Temple Emeth are accustomed to reading Torah on Friday nights, throughout the Conservative and Orthodox world Simchat Torah is the only time when the Torah is read at night. During the rest of the year, one Torah is taken from the Ark, carried by one person around the *shul* once in a simple processional. On Simchat Torah we take out all of our scrolls, give many people the honor of carrying them, and make seven joyous, boisterous *hakkafot*.

Consider all the cycles and circles involved. Sukkot and Simchat Torah bring to a close both the cycle of pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) and the cycle of High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot). Our cycle of Torah readings ends with the death of Moses and begins anew with the creation of the Earth, reminding us of the circle of life and death. And how do we read our Torah? We roll the scroll. To celebrate our love of Torah, we wrap our arms around the Torah, we circumambulate the sanctuary in hakkafot, and we dance around the Torah scrolls doing the hora or some other circle dance. That's a lot of circles! So you see...

I've been thinking about Simchat Torah, and my head is spinning!

Temple Emeth Renaissance Group

10th Anniversary

Fall Foliage Land Cruise to Scenic Hudson River Valley

Sunday, October 23, 2005

Includes:

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery Tour & Tasting Room Lunch at picturesque Allyn's Restaurant, Millbrook, NY Val-Kill, historic Hyde Park home of Eleanor Roosevelt

Cost is \$60 for Renaissance Group members, \$70 for guests. Includes transportation, lunch, tours, snacks and gratuities.

Deluxe Motorcoach will leave Temple Emeth <u>promptly</u> at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Reserve early as space is limited.

For more information, contact Barbara Kaufman, 201-385-8433, BKaufmanNJ@aol.com Elaine Pollack, 201-385-2085, elaine33@optonline.net

Return reservation form below to the Temple Emeth office by October 17th

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Yes, I/we want to see New York State in all its fall finery on Sunday, October 23, 2005. Please make checks payable to the Temple Emeth Renaissance Group.

PHONE		E-MAIL		
ENCLOSED IS	@\$60 Renaissanc	e members, \$70 guests	\$	
	DUES	@ \$10 per person \$	\$	
		TOTAL	\$	
MY/OUR LUNC	H CHOICE IS	Salmon Chicke	n	

Services and Smachot

27 Elul 5765

Shabbat Nitzavim Shabbat Service at 8:00 pm

Friday, September 30

Shabbat Service at 8:00 pm

The Oneg is being sponsored by Julie Weisman and Stephen Friedmam in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ariel Friedman

Saturday, October 1 Shabbat Worship at 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Friedman

Torah Portion: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

5 Tishri 5766

Friday, October 7 Fa

Shabbat Vayelech Family Service at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 8 Tot Shabbat at 9:30 pm Shabbat Worship at 10:30 am Torah Portion: 31:1-30 Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

12 Tishri 5766

Shabbat Ha'azinu

Friday, October 14 Shabbat Service at 8:00 pm The Oneg is being sponsored by Karen Rappaport and Phyllis Burman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Kristina Rappaport

Saturday. October 15

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 am

Bat Mitzvah of Kristina Rappaport Torah Portion: Exodus 33:12-34:26 Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18-39:7

19 Tishri 5766Shabbat Chol Hamoed SukkotFriday, October 21Pot Luck Dinner at 7:00 pmService at 8:00 pm

The Oneg is being sponsored by Jacki and Ron Arams in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Alexander Harris Arams

Saturday, October 22

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 pm

Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18-39:7

Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Harris Arams

Torah Portion: Exodus 33:12-34:26

26 Tishri 5766

Shabbat Bereshit

Friday, October 28 Shabbat Service at 8:00 pm The Oneg is being sponsored by Wendy Kosakoff and David Kohane in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joshua Kohane

Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Kohane

Saturday, October 28

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 am

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:11

Torah Portion: Genesis 1:1-6:8

October 2005 27 Elul 5765 - 28 Tishre 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						27 EL Nitzavim Shabbat Ends: 7:28 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Friedman
28 ELUL 0:00 am Caring Community Meeting	XErev Rosh Hashanah 16:14 ECC CLOSED 6:30 pm Family Oriented Service 8:00 pm Rosh Hashanah Service	4 XRosh Hashanah - Day 1 First Day Yom Tov Ends: 7:23 10:00 am RH 1-Morning and Parallel Services 4:00 pm Children's Service	5 I ☆ Rosh Hashanah - Day 2	8:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting Nov. Bulletin Deadline	4 TISHRE 116:08 7:30 pm Family Service	5 TISH Vayelech Shabbat Ends: 7:16 9:10 am Torah Study 9:30 am Tot Shabbat 10:30 am Shabbat Service
6 TISHRE 9:00 am 6th grade Family Ed. Day	7 TISHRE 10 Columbus Day 6:00 pm Etz Chayim Rehearsal	7:00 pm Strategic Planning Meeting	12 C Erev Yom Kippur 16:00 6:30 pm Family Oriented Service 8:00 pm Kol Nidre Service	13 10:00 am Yom Kippur Morning and Parallel Services 1:00 pm Study Session 2:00 pm Children's Service 3:15 pm Afternoon, Yizkor and Concluding Services	11 TISHRE 15:57 10:30 am Membership Committee Meeting 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	12 TISH 15 Ha'azinu Shabbat Ends: 7:05 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service E Mitzvah of Kristina Rappar
13 TISHRE 0:00 am B'yachad Sukkah Building Holiday Family Fun	1 / 115:52 10:45 am Speak, Laugh and Enjoy Yiddish 7:30 pm Erev Sukkot Service/ Religious School Consecration	15 TISHRE 15 TISHRE 15 TISHRE 15 TISHRE 15 TISHRE 15 TISHRE NO ECC OR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30 am Sukkot Service	16 TISHRE 7:30 pm Kol Emet Rehearsal	20 5:30 pm ECC Dinner 8:00 pm Book Club meets in Library	18 TISHRE 18 TISHRE 115:46 7:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner 8:00 pm Music Service	19 TISH 222 19 TISH 10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Alexander Ara
20 TISHRE 9:00 am Rabbi Sirbu speaks to Religious School Parents Falking to Your Kids About God 2:30 pm Renaissance Trip	XHoshanah Rabbah	22 TISHRE 25 25 25 25 22 TISHRE 22 TISHRE 22 TISHRE 10 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	23 TISHRE 26 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 7:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah and Beyond w/ Dora Friedman 7:30 pm Kol Emet Rehearsal	24 TISHRE 7:30 pm B'Yachad Bridge	25 TISHRE 25 TISHRE 115:37 8:00 am Shabbat Service	26 TISH 29 Bereshit IShabbat Ends: 6:46 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Kohan
27 TISHRE 9:00 am 6th grade B'nai Mitzvah Orientation 0:00 am Caring Committee Meeting 1:00 pm ECC Book Fair Set Up	9:00 am ECC Book Fair 10:45 am Speak, Laugh and Enjoy Yiddish					

GOOD & WELFARE

Condolences to...

Frances Rudnick Levin on the loss of her beloved mother, Dolores Joan Rudnick.

The congregantion mourns the passing of long time member, Jack Weissberger, beloved husband of Barbara Weissberger

Mazel Tov to....

Ada Mae Stein on her 92nd Birthday Bobbie and Harvey Lewis on the birth of their 1st grandson, Nicholas Ethan Lewis, son of Virginia and David Lewis.

Linda and Ron Klempner, on the birth of their grandson

Peter Tilem on the marriage of his brother, Matthew Tilem to Jill Rubin.

Get Well Wishes to..... Mildred Wineburgh Susan Rappaport Bob Spiewak Grace & Irving Borowitz

Welcome to Membership... Norma Berke Lolita, Joseph and Autumn Seidman Elaine and Julian Hyman

Thank you to... Mary Hauptman, for sponsoring the Oneg on August 26th in honor of her 70th birthday.

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Erev Sukkot Consecration Service Monday, October 17 7:30 p.m.

Sukkot is a festival of joy and thanksgiving. At Temple Emeth we emphasize these themes by consecrating our new religious school students and presenting them with miniature Torahs to symbolize the importance of a Jewish education. In honor of this sacred beginning, our Director of Education, Dora Geld Friedman will tell one of her favorite stories.

Following the service, everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to shake the lulav and smell the etrog. Then all children and their parents are invited to learn about Camp Harlam, Temple Emeth's official summer camp.

Erev Simchat Torah Service Monday, October 24 7:30 p.m.

On Simchat Torah, we celebrate God's greatest gift to the Jewish people: the Torah. Accompanied by Temple Emeth's Simchat Torah band, we will dance and march and sing. We will hear the final words of the Torah and then, in a cycle that never ends, hear the first words of the Torah.

As always, the children will receive Simchat Torah flags to wave during the service and yummy candy to enjoy when the service is over. Don't miss out on this final festival of the fall!

TEMPLE EMETH COLLEGE KIDS

By Lynne Graizel

This month's guest writer: Manda Graizel

Everyone's college has something that makes it unique whether it's an interesting department or the fact that they are known as the best of something special. In the case of Clark University, one of the things that makes us unique is that we're the only school in America (and possibly the world) that offers a Ph.D. program in Holocaust and Genocide studies. As a result of having this department at the graduate level, Clark has created a concentration (interdisciplinary minor) for its undergrads.

And so, at the end of my sophomore year I found myself handing in my major/minor declaration stating that I was going to be a Sociology major with a concentration in Holocaust and Genocide studies. And again, it was early Fall when I found myself sitting in a class being told about a once in a lifetime experience. It was an opportunity to go where the Holocaust actually happened.

I immediately started campaigning so that my parents would send me on this trip - and my persistence paid off. At the end of the school year, I was among 15 other students with 2 professors and a TA who went to the Czech Republic and Poland.

The first few days were spent in Prague studying about the Jews who had lived there for centuries and a general overview of the city's rich history. The next week was spent in Terezin, a former garrison town that had been turned into a ghetto by the Nazis, and the town that many Jews went to before they were condemned to concentration camps.

When we were in Terezin we actually lived within the ghetto walls. The dormitory run by the museum was an old barracks that had been built in 1780. It had been used to house Jews during the Holocaust. The same held true for the mess hall. During our week in this tiny town we attended lectures given by professors and museum staff who have dedicated their lives to studying and teaching about the Holocaust.

After Terezin we drove to Poland where we stayed in Krakow for the remainder of the trip. We toured the Jewish quarter, saw Oskar Schindler's factory and visited Plozow, a camp on the outskirts of the town. After that first introductory day we braced ourselves for spending the next 2 days; one in Auschwitz I, and the second in Auschwitz II (Birkenau). This was the most emotionally draining part of the trip.

I had been studying the Holocaust in great depth. However, there is a tremendous difference between words on a page and seeing what I saw. Everyone who leaves after touring Auschwitz has at least one image that will stick with them forever. For some it's the room full of eyeglasses, for others it's the crematorium or the gas chambers. For me it was the room of prosthetic limbs. I thought how few people had artificial limbs in the '30s, and yet the room held countless arms and legs. That keep reminding me of just how many people where sent to their deaths.

The trip was an amazing experience. I got to see things I had only read about. We saw some beautiful places in the Czech countryside and in Prague, but we also saw some very ugly, unspeakable sites that left their marks on world history, particularly, on the history of the Jewish people. This trip opened my eyes to all the groups that the Nazis persecuted. I feel as though I have come back more knowledgeable not only about the Holocaust, but in a way about myself. ... and I wouldn't change this experience for anything in the world.

MITZVAH PROJECT

By Kristina Rappaport

For my major Mitzvah project I have been finding ways to support the Bergen County Animal Shelter. I donated my share from the Temple Sunday morning bake sale to the Shelter. The Shelter staff has told me that they do not have the funds to buy toys or treats for the animals. As part of my project I am collecting treats or toys for dogs and cats to give to the Animal Shelter. During the week of October 9 there will be a basket in the Social Action Alcove for donations of dog or cat toys or treats. When you come to Temple that week please consider bringing a dog or cat toy to deposit in the basket. Thank you in advance for your contribution to my project.



ISRAEL TRIP PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thanks to all the photographers who contributed pictures to the article about the trip to Israel: Glenda Adelman, Ilene Anesini, Richard Carpenter, Martin Dubno, Vicky Farhi,



Jacqueline Guttman, and Carla Silver

There wasn't enough room for them all in this bulletin, but we are going to try to organize a museum exhibit during the year. Anyone with pictures from the trip who is interested in participating in an exhibit, please contact Barbara Balkin at dkrm505@yahoo.com

My Super Mitzvah Project

by Derek Baron Fearon

My Super Mitzvah Project was a letter writing campaign to ask 100 manufacturers to donate clothing, sports equipment, school supplies, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, videos and toiletries to JAFCO. JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping abused, neglected and abandoned Jewish children from birth to 18 to live in a peaceful and tranquil environment. It's located in Florida.

I chose this charity because for years my family has been involved in helping the organization, and I was looking to help children less fortunate than me.

I was surprised at the amount of time it took to contact 100 companies. It took many hours over many weeks. It was also more fun than I expected.

The best part of doing the project was finding the companies and imagining the many things that they would be sending to the children who need them so badly.

The connection of the project to the full Torah Portion of Re'eh is that there is a section of the portion on charity, and there is a direct line that strongly supports my mitzvah project. It says: "If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsman in any of your settlements in the land the Lord your G-d is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against

your needy kinsman." However, it does not come from my section of the portion.

Photo descriptions: There are photos of me investigating companies on the Internet, reading the JAFCO press kit, compos-



ing the pitch letter (which was later approved by JAFCO's Executive Director), signing 100 letters, fold-

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ing them, stuffing the envelopes, applying postage and return labels and sealing the envelopes. There is a photo of a female senior citizen and me. She is a very special family

friend, Marian Flagg, who is helping me fold the letters and stuff the envelopes. There is a picture of my father, Peter Fearon and me. My dad was extremely helpful in

obtaining some of the manufacturers' addresses. There is a picture of my younger brother Dylan Fearon, helping to seal some of the envelopes. As you can see, he is a Cub Scout and you can really count on them to help out! There is a picture of my mother, Marcy Fearon mailing the 100 letters. She helped me



with every step along the way and I thank her.

If any Temple Emeth members would like to contribute to JAFCO, the address is: 4200 University Drive, Sunset, Florida 33351.

In the end, I'm glad I did my Super Mitzvah Project it was very worthwhile.



Doin' Nuthin'

As I went down my front steps carrying my cane I became a barefoot teenager strolling down the lane With my bamboo fishing pole heading for the lake To fish? But no!

To see where my thoughts would like to go

What direction they would take

I found a log to have a seat

And take my small load off my feet

I thought about the peeping birds and puffy clouds above

And of the happiness of life and all the folks I love Doin' Nuthin' now and then is not a mistake It's good to sit down on that log when I need a break!

Reaffirming My Jewish Faith

by Confirmation Essay Winner Michael Wolf

At this age, most young adults question their religion, and God. However, this questioning can be seen as one of the highest forms of faith. When one questions God and God's ways, they acknowledge God's existence. When people have answers, and think they understand it all, that is when they are not faithful to God. At this time in our teenage lives, it is important to reaffirm our Jewish faith.

Due to its relevance to the topic, I have read the book *Night* by Elie Wiesel to help prove my point. This book deals with a Jewish teenager who is trying to reaffirm his Jewish faith during the Holocaust. I will also look at books written by Rabbis Lawrence Kushner, Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme, and Lawrence A. Hoffman to help others understand what I am trying to say, and to continue my own reaffirmation.

In the book *Night*, the main character, Elie, greatly questions his faith. He is forced to endure the hardships of the Holocaust and must survive harsh physical and mental torment. Throughout the early parts of the book, Elie does not lose his faith in God; however, his faith wavers after a young boy is hanged. One man in the book asks "Where is God now?" and Elie thinks to himself "Where is he? Here he is-He is hanging here on the gallows..." (Wiesel 62). This somewhat disturbing statement shows that in this moment God is dead to Elie. When Elie is able to answer the question, God disappears from his life.

People I know that are my age also question God, but not for reasons as extreme as Elie's reasons. Some teenagers begin to form their own opinions on the world, and they wonder how God fits into all of it. Some say, "If I can't see him, then how do I know he exists?" and others simply believe that anything explained by religion can be explained by science as well. There are also a few who make themselves busy with their lives and just "Don't have time for religion." Today's world is a place where some people put many things before religion and others systematically follow the beliefs they were taught as a child, which is not truly being faithful.

There are times when I wonder, "Where do I fall? In one of the many categories of non-religious teens, or as someone who is faithful in God?" Some people may not see me as very religious. I don't go to services on any regular basis, nor do I keep kosher. However, when I am at services I feel a certain connection to my religion. Also, one's belief in God is not to be based on how much they go to a house of worship, or how many rules of their religion they follow. As I ponder whether I believe in God or not, I look to see what others have to say.

In Lawrence Kushner's book God was in this Place and I. I did not know, he expresses his opinions on the human perception of God. Kushner focuses on a line from Genesis 28:16 in which Jacob says, "Surely God was in this place and I, I did not know!" According to Kushner, one cannot ask, "Who is God?" or "What is God?" Jacob, in his realization of God's presence, sees that no place, no matter how desolate, can be forsaken by God. God came to Jacob in a dream, but for those of us who are not receiving messages from God in our dreams, we must trust and understand that our limited language cannot define God. For those who require proof, they are basically being told that any proof cannot be expressed, and therefore will not exist. For those who believe blindly in their religion, their beliefs have not been hindered. For me, this does not strengthen my faith, nor does it weaken that spiritual connection to God that I experience at times.

In Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman's book, <u>The</u> <u>Journey Home: Discovering the Deep Spiritual</u> <u>Wisdom of Jewish Tradition</u>, he recounts his own experience and shares his views on finding spirituality. Spirituality, in my opinion, is similar, if not identical, to faith. Rabbi Hoffman explains spirituality as a very personal thing that has no formal definition. Spirituality must be found by each person individually and must be pursued differently, depending on the individual. This shows me that even if there is not a single person in the world that shares that feeling of connection to God during prayer, it is still a spiritual feeling for me.

In <u>Finding God: Selected Responses</u> by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme, they explain that there is not one fixed definition of God. God and the Jewish religion itself can be seen in many ways. The authors advise Jewish people to study all of the different common perceptions of God and Judaism, so they may create their own definition. They say that many atheists do not deny God, but the common and accepted description of God. This is very helpful to me. This, along with the other books, shows that one must come to their own conclusions about God and faith.

In <u>Night</u>, Elie Wiesel shows that one does not have to be completely devoted and faithful to their religion all of the time to still be accepted in that religion. Even if one questions religion and even goes as far as to forsake it, that person may return to their religion at any given point, and there is no reason for it to be held against them by anyone if they are faithful now. When Elie stopped asking questions, he may have stopped thinking of God, but he was able to return at a later point, which, in the end, was what really mattered.

In my own life, I have had a few experiences in which I felt more connected to God and Judaism. For the past six summers, I had attended Camp Harlam in Pennsylvania, a Jewish camp that is run by the URJ. Every week at Camp Harlam, we have Shabbat services. On Friday evening, it is a truly amazing experience. All the campers follow the tradition of wearing white to the service. On Friday evenings, we have services on what is known as "chapel on the hill." Just as the name implies, it located on a hill, which gives one a view of the entire camp. This view, along with the setting sun, is breathtaking. Of course, the sights are only part of the experience. The entire camp joining in prayer, mostly in the form of song, is an experience I will never forget. It is during these services that I feel closest to God.

I have been asked before if I feel anything special when I enter a sanctuary or look into the Torah. The answer is no. I do not associate a feeling with just any place in which I might pray. Even at camp, it is not so much the chapel on the hill itself, but more the experiences and memories that are tied to it that make it a very special place for me to be. The services in which a whole congregation joins in prayer, when everyone is confident of the words coming out of their mouth are the ones in which I feel most connected to God.

The authors of the different books I have turned to have shown me that religion, God, and faith are completely open to interpretation. There is no correct way to believe in God, nor is there a clear definition of being faithful. Some people may claim otherwise, but the explanations of faith and God that do exist are best viewed as guidelines to help those who are completely lost in their search for something to believe in. After reading the views of different authors and thinking about this subject matter several times over. I have come to the conclusion that one's faith in God cannot be made into a black and white situation. There are more options than, "I believe in God," or, "I do not believe in God." One may be confident or doubtful in their faith at any point in their life and as many times as they need and there should not be a problem with that. The question of faith cannot be answered by long discussions, or well-researched papers, but must be a personal journey one takes throughout their entire life. We must keep questioning to be faithful.

20

Renaissance Group

The Renaissance Group is celebrating its 10th Anniversary Year and we've put together a great series of programs and events to make this year a truly special one.

As one of Temple Emeth's most active and successful organizations, our group of "fiftysomethingplus" mostly empty-nesters plans social, cultural and educational activities for the more than 60 percent of our congregation in this age group. If you have not participated in the past, we hope you will take this opportunity to get together with your peers and enjoy some of our programs. Membership dues, at \$10 per person, help subsidize Renaissance Group events and are also used to fund special Temple projects. Paid-up members receive priority for reservations and trips.

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

Sunday, October 23, 2005, 10 a.m. – Fall Foliage Land Cruise to the Scenic Hudson River Valley with a tour of the Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, lunch at picturesque Allyn's Restaurant in Millbrook, and a visit to historic Val-Kill, the Hyde Park home of Eleanor Roosevelt. Look for the flyer and reservation form on page 12

Sunday afternoon, November 6, 2005 — Metropolitan Opera backstage tour at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Saturday, December 31, 2005, 8:30 p.m. —New Year's Eve "Chanukah Chappening" at the Temple, featuring professional entertainment and a light supper. This event will be hosted jointly with B'yachad.

Saturday, February 4, 2006, 7:30 p.m. — Game Nite at the Temple. Bring your playing cards, your Mah Jongg sets, your Scrabble boards, and your friends.

Sunday, March 26th, 2006, 2 p.m. — Square Dancing at the Temple.

Sunday, April 23, 2006, 10 a.m. — Bus trip to the New York Botanical Gardens including lunch.

June (date to be decided) – Dinner at a Russian restaurant in Brighton Beach, NY.

The Renaissance Group hosted its annual Shabbat Dinner before the Trachtenberg Lecture on September 23rd at which Rabbi Randi Musnitsky, Union for Reform Judaism Regional Director, honored the group on its 10th anniversary. Our Temple Emeth Renaissance Group is one of the largest and most active groups of the 35 in the URJ New Jersey/West Hudson Valley Region.

Co-Chairs: Barbara Kaufman, 201-385-8433, BKaufmanNJ@aol.com and Elaine Pollack, 201-385-2085, elaine33@optonline.net



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