

Temple Emeth

Bulletin

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

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Iyar/Sivan 5766 May 2006

It's Never Too Early to Focus on February 2007...especially if it's the Temple Emeth Intergenerational Tour of Israel led by Rabbi Sirbu



Photos by Ilene Anesini, Phyllis Burman, Judith Bitterman, Suzanne Keusch, Eva Sandrof and Carla Silver from the August 2005 Emeth trip



It gives me great joy to announce Temple Emeth's next congregational trip to Israel will take place February 15-25, 2007.

Here are just a few of the exciting new stops on our itinerary: a jeep ride in the Negev desert, dinner in a Bedouin tent, Havdalah on the beach in Tel Aviv, and a free day to spend in the Red Sea resort of Eilat. We will also repeat some of the best stops of our first trip, including a visit to Masada and the Dead Sea, an archaeological dig where we will uncover artifacts from the days of the Maccabees, and home hospitality for Shabbat at the Reform congregation in Mevasseret Zion. Moreover, our schedule includes time for B'nai Mitzvah to take place during our stay in Israel. This trip has been designed as an intergenerational experience. Our activities will be geared to people of all ages, plus we will form bonds of friendship with one another and with the Land of Israel that will endure long after we return.

In the Torah, when Jacob has his famous dream about the ladder to Heaven, God says, "The ground on which you are lying I will give to you and to your offspring." When Jacob awakes, he replies, "How awesome is this place!" I believe our journey to Israel together will fulfill God's promise and recreate Jacob's awe.

You can view our itinerary online at www.emeth.org. For more information contact ARZA World Travel at www.arzaworld.com or 888-811-2812 or speak to Rabbi Sirbu.

Join us February 15-25, 2007

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Bulletin Deadlines</u>		<u>Mid-Month Mailing Deadlines</u>	
	<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
May	April 6	May 1	May 3	May 16
June	May 11	June 1	June 1	June 15
Midsummer			July 18	July 28

From the Editors - in order to make sure everyone's article/blurb/ important announcement, makes it into the Bulletin, we have to insist they are no longer than half a page. *Remember, flyers are for the mid-month mailing and should be sent to Sandra Rumayor at srumayor@emeth.org*

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 Rates for Ad Size 2" x 3 1/2"

	Member	Non-Member
1 Month	\$ 50	\$ 75
5 Months	\$225	\$350
10 Months	\$300	\$450

For additional information, call (201) 833-1322

Message From the Rabbi

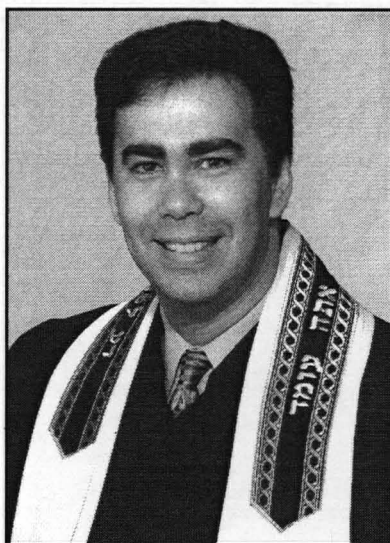
The month of May always contains all or part of the Omer, the seven weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. The Biblical basis for the Omer is found in Leviticus 23, as we are told to bring a grain offering and count seven complete weeks. Religiously, this was intended to link Pesach and Shavuot with a clear implication: though we received our freedom on Pesach, our redemption was not complete until we made the covenant with God at Mount Sinai on Shavuot seven weeks later. Thus keeping track of the Omer enables us to reenact the anticipation the Israelites must have felt until they received the Ten Commandments.

Over time, the Omer evolved into a period of semi-mourning because of a plague that struck the students of Rabbi Akiva in the Second Century CE. Traditional Jews, therefore do not get married, get haircuts, or listen to music during this time.

There is one notable exception: Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day in the counting of the Omer. This was the day the plague ended, or at least diminished significantly. Today it has become a mini-festival, popular for weddings, concerts, picnics and other joyous events.

Lag B'Omer has also become associated with

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the mysterious Talmudic sage who, according to tradition revealed the Zohar, the primary book of Jewish mysticism. According to one source, Lag B'Omer is the day that Rabbi Shimon revealed the Zohar to his students. According to another source, it is his yahrzeit, and it was his specific wish that his yahrzeit be observed with torches and song.



Rabbi Steven Sirbu

In Israel today, some make pilgrimages to Rabbi Shimon's grave on Lag B'Omer. Ultra-Orthodox fathers will commonly bring their three-year-old sons for their first haircut. Even among secular Israelis, it is popular to light bonfires on Lag B'Omer.

In the United States, most of the lore and customs regarding Lag B'Omer have been lost, although counting the Omer has had a resurgence among Reform Jews. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) website keeps track of the Omer and even has an "Omer Counter," which can be accessed by going to

<http://urj.org/holidays/baomer/>.

Whether you count the Omer or not, this period is a great example of how Jewish history is preserved in ritual, of how religious observances evolve over time, and of how legend and lore enrich our traditions.

Message From the President

1. *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*
2. *A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*
-Ecclesiastes 3

Every year, winter seems to go on and on - day after day - getting up for work in the dark, facing the bitter cold - more snow, more rain, more gray skies. But spring is here in all its glory! The flowers have begun to bloom. The sun is shining and I've put away my winter coat. Yes! What a difference! Spring inspires me to use exclamation points!!!

Spring has arrived at Temple Emeth too, and I hope you feel like I do. Read the Bulletin, the mid-month mailings, e-mails and Bima announcements because there is so much going on and I want you to join us! A few examples:

Hug and kiss our Religious School teachers (especially Debbie Rutz - who's completing her last year of teaching with us) at our Faculty Recognition Service on Friday night, May 5th.

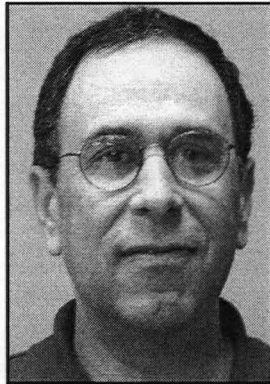
THE GALA!! Saturday night May 13!! We've made this event more casual this year. Good food, entertainment, a little gambling, prizes, raffles. Bring your friends! If you're sitting on the fence, c'mon already - I can assure you a good time: call me, e-mail me. Oy, have I got a deal for you!

Temple Emeth wouldn't be Temple Emeth without the volunteers who tutor, teach, cook, setup, bake, build, drive, install. This means you! Thank you so much! If you've given your time and energy in any way, the Board of Trustees is sponsoring an Oneg in your honor. Join us at the Shabbat Installation of TE Leaders and Volunteers - Friday night May 12.

In the April mid-month mailing, I announced the date of the annual Congregational meeting - it's

Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. I hope you'll come and help strengthen the Temple Emeth community. We'll use this opportunity to get to know each other a little better. I'm asking everyone to bring an item (a photo, a piece of art, a religious object) that has a specific meaning, relates to your Jewishness or to your relationship with Temple Emeth.

At this meeting, we will have an opportunity to review the year, ask questions, discuss and approve the nominees for 2006-2007 Board of Trustees, vote on the Rabbi's contract and review the proposed budget.



Synagogue financial management is among the most challenging topics we face during the year. Why does it cost so much? In most congregational budgets such as ours, a very high percentage of expenses are fixed, but we are meeting our current responsibilities. Under the guidance of Steve Packles, Jeff Etzin and the Finance Committee, we will be presenting a strongly balanced budget. It

is through you the congregation achieves its vision, mission and goals: to create and sustain a well run, spiritually fulfilling congregational community.

Finally, we all experience the different seasons as we go through life - from childhood to adulthood, caring for aging parents, watching our children grow and aging a bit ourselves. This month we had the delight of watching Jenna, our younger daughter, choreograph and perform in a modern dance program at her college. Our older daughter Jessica moved into her own apartment. In this season, we have experienced sadness as well. I want to thank everyone for their support during the Shloshim period for Joy's dad. We feel blessed to have you as friends and to be a part of the Temple Emeth family.

B'shalom,
Dan Firshein
President

From the Religious School

“Hatikvah – The Hope”

In the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel, there is stated a clear and heartfelt mission – to live in peace within the nation and in the region. This essential idea of peace, **shalom**, has always been part of our tradition and liturgy since time immemorial.

“Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem;
may those who love you be at peace.
May there be well-being within your
ramparts, peace in your citadels.
For the sake of the house of Adonai
Our God; I seek your good.”

Psalm 122



In Temple Emeth Religious School, we are connected to Israel as a “family” from K-7th grade. We sing Israeli songs and we pray in Hebrew. Throughout the year our student-led T’filah (services) articulate all our fervent hopes for peace, shalom. Our 5th and 7th grades learn about Israel

through Torah, while our 3rd grade learns about the “modern miracle” of the birth of the State of Israel. Our 5th grade students have established a pen-pal connection to Naharia – Bergen County’s Sister City. Mora Gila is spearheading this friendship between the two cities and our 5th grade. The 4th grade connects its study of “prophets” to places in Israel that are now vibrant centers of modern life and culture. We continue to give tzedakah to Israel-based organizations. “Israel” infuses our curriculum in every grade. We study, celebrate, and are proud of our “Israeli connection”. We hope to cultivate in our students and our Religious School families an eternal bond to our culture and religion – a connection through space and time. We never lose hope and we always pray for

peace.

“Oseh Shalom...hu yaaseh shalom...” “May the one who causes peace to reign in the high heavens...let peace descend on us...”

B’vracha,
Dora Geld Friedman

From the Early Childhood Center

A Developmentally Appropriate Exodus

By now most of you will have already experienced the retelling of the Story of Exodus. In many ways this story parallels the birth and growth of young children in their early childhood years. If we begin with our existence in Egypt, we know that in this foreign land (body) we swelled from the original extended family of Joseph and his sons to thousands, much like a baby who grows from a microscopic size to quite a few pounds at birth. Our passage through the narrow channel of the Red Sea allowed us to make a physical departure, much as the baby frees itself by passing through the birth canal. Although we were finally free, the only “language” we used was crying to have our most basic needs met – water and food. At only seven weeks old



we received the Ten Commandments – the rules by which we were expected to live our free lives. However, we spent the next 40 years exploring (in a giant sandbox) our inner selves and learning how to internalize these laws. Much like Moses’ appointment of ministers to help him, our teachers join parents in establishing the most basic rules for social interaction and growth. And just as we revisit the story of Exodus each year, we can easily refer back to the lessons we learned in our earliest years to appreciate the importance of sharing, taking turns, listening to each other and enjoying the company of our peers.

Sharon Floch,
ECC Director

REFLECTIONS ON ROSH CHODESH

by Sandi Klein

I know about Beruriah. I was introduced to this woman of the Talmud for the first time on Wednesday evening March 29th. She was the focus of Temple Emeth's first ever (in recent history) celebration of Rosh Chodesh.



I was fortunate to be among 40 bright, articulate, enthusiastic women of all ages who spent two hours, sitting in a circle in the Youth Lounge, participating in a fascinating and lively discussion skillfully navigated by Rabbi Nafshi. We heard the voice of Beruriah through several texts - one more fascinating, more thought-provoking and more challenging than the next.

Seems everyone had an opinion about what she teaches us today, what she taught the Rabbis of the Talmud (YES...THIS WOMAN TAUGHT THOSE MEN) and how she is viewed in history.

There was plenty of food for thought that night, and for those hungry for more - there are the May 3rd and May 31st sessions with Rabbi Nafshi. After that? Well....that remains to be seen, but 40 women showing up on a Wednesday to deepen their connection to Jewish life...speaks volumes. It would be a shame not to make Rosh Chodesh a permanent part of the fabric that is Temple Emeth.

Many thanks to Eva Sandrof who put the Rosh Chodesh wheels in motion. Many thanks to Rabbi Nafshi who made us think, and who made us feel comfortable expressing those thoughts. It really was a wonderful evening.

KALLAH

by Bev Lazar

An uplifting and fulfilling as well as food-filling time was had by all at Kallah 2006 at the Pearl River Hilton. Our Kallahniks gathered for an inspirational and thought-provoking weekend led by Rabbi Sirbu. We were fortunate to have Rabbi Nafshi lead the Saturday morning Shabbat service and a morning session as well. We were equally as fortunate to have Marc Klausner's beautiful voice lead us in song at Sabbath Services. We were delighted to have Rabbi Rebecca Sirbu as our Kallah Skallah.



The title of Kallah Skallah is given to a Temple Member or guest who is willing to share his or her expertise on any topic of Jewish interest. It involves leading a 90 minute discussion on Saturday afternoon. For example, in the past we discussed Jewish music, Ketubot, the history of the Jewish people in New York, and held a Yiddish singalong.

The weekend was a big success and we eagerly look forward to next year's Kallah.

The dates are

FEBRUARY 9th through 11th, 2007.

Mark your calendars.

The position of Kallah Skallah is still open for next year. We hope that someone will volunteer to lead our Saturday afternoon session.

We hope to see you at Kallah 2007.

You cannot imagine what you've missed until you've been there!

Come Be Part of "Girls in the Hood" When Sisterhood Returns to Temple Emeth

Join us at 8:00 p.m. on May 4th when we hold a planning meeting to bring back a sisterhood to Temple Emeth. We hope a sisterhood will provide the arena for each Emeth woman to grow, make new friendships, and have fun in a Jewish atmosphere. *This isn't your mother's sisterhood; it's evolving.*

WHY SISTERHOOD? Sisterhoods have always been the collective presence, voice and strength of Jewish women within the structure of the congregation.

WHO IS THE SISTERHOOD WOMAN? The Sisterhood woman is mother, wife, daughter, sister, grandmother. She is bright; she is resourceful; she is fun-loving. She is dedicated to Jewish values and ideals.

WHAT DOES SISTERHOOD NEED? Sisterhood needs the talented, educated woman with her informed outlook, fresh approach, and leadership potential. Sisterhood needs women with energy, zest, and the desire to get involved, work to accomplish new goals, and enjoy one another's company. Sisterhood needs the support of all women in the congregation, even those with little time to spare.

WHY DO WE NEED SISTERHOOD? Sisterhood can provide a collective identity for women of Temple Emeth. It will provide us with a place to come together and enjoy one another's company.

CAN YOU FIT SISTERHOOD INTO YOUR WORLD? We live in a complex world. Most women are working full or part-time. Family structure is changing. Sisterhood is a way of belonging, of being part of a group. It will provide a network of support and friends within Temple Emeth.

Questions? Call Nickie Falk (201) 444-7519 or Lynne Graizel (201) 833-8403.



SOCIAL ACTION by Eva Sandrof

Engaging in acts of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is one of the three guiding tenets, in addition to Torah (study) and avodah (worship), of Judaism. Unfortunately there is much in the world that needs repairing.

At Temple Emeth, the Social Action Committee is the conduit through which members become aware of opportunities to volunteer in many different ways to help the less fortunate and to advocate for social justice.

This past year, Temple members helped victims of Hurricane Katrina with tremendous member support, raising over \$10,000 which was directly distributed to victims through the URJ Katrina fund. We also donated needed supplies to help fill a truck which was sent to Mississippi by local Reform Temples.

Temple members raised funds to continue our involvement in the IRF Turn a New Leaf program, paying the rent for the Transitional Teaneck apartment through August. The single mom is completing her studies as a radiation technologist and hopes to be employed and independent by then. She has been a full-time student at Bergen Community College, working many hours as a checker at a local supermarket, while caring for her 7 year old son. She does not have a car, using only public transportation to get to school and work. By providing a roof over her head, we really did make a difference in her life!

At our recommendation, Temple Emeth joined the Bergen County Temporary Sanction Committee, a coalition of Bergen County congrega-

tions providing humanitarian support and advocacy for asylum seekers in the Elizabeth Detention Center.

There will be opportunities for Temple members to become involved with either asylum seekers who are "paroled" in the community (ESL tutoring, vocational guidance, legal help, etc.), or those who remain in Elizabeth. This is also an opportunity to mobilize efforts to change the conditions and circumstances under which asylum seekers are treated.

In the future, we will again host homeless people at the overflow shelter in Temple Emeth on Sunday nights in February and March. We will also continue our food drives for the Center for Food Action, and Passover food drive for needy Jewish families. Mitzvahs of the month, will continue to provide articles such as toiletries, hats, gloves and socks, etc., for homeless people in Peter's Place, a shelter in Hackensack. We also contributed to the annual Chanukah Toy Drive sponsored by the local Jewish community. As in the past, Temple members were most generous with their donations.

Additionally, each year, over 70 volunteer hosts and cooks staff the Family Shelter in Englewood. They also serve and cook at the CAP soup kitchen three times during the year.

We will again be sponsoring Environmental Action Day which offers opportunities to individuals and families to participate in cleanups, plantings, and related activities at local environmental centers.

Unfortunately, the situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate, Temple members traveled with other Jewish congregations in Bergen County to Washington D.C to join a rally to stop the genocide in Darfur. We also provided Passover Seder readings and prayers relating to the situation.

In the next year, we hope to become involved in more advocacy projects, to try to affect the root causes of some of the ills facing our world.

Join the Social Action Committee and help us in these endeavors. Watch the bulletin board for meeting dates.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Speaker Highlights the Plight of Asylum Seekers at the Elizabeth Detention Center

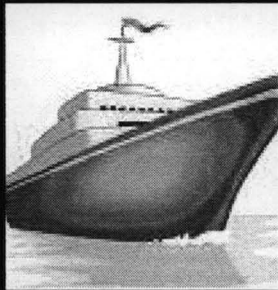
Dr. Joseph Chuman, the leader of the Bergen County Ethical Culture Society, was the speaker at Friday night services on April 14th. He spoke stirringly about the work of the Bergen County Temporary Sanctuary Committee, which now includes Temple Emeth as a member. He recounted the history of immigration to the United States, noting that many of us can trace our families' reasons for coming here to the desire for freedom or escape from persecution. Nowadays, those who are fleeing persecution and are seeking freedom or asylum, are virtually imprisoned in facilities like the Elizabeth Detention Center, without recourse to legal or humanitarian assistance. We can help in many ways. First, however, we will have the opportunity to visit the Detention Center. Please contact Eva Sandrof at evasan1@msn.com or 201-837-2241, or leave a note in the Social Action mail box if you wish to do so. A date and time will be arranged in the near future.



GALA UPDATE

by Cynthia Massarsky

In our zeal to bring a fresh, new fundraiser to our Spring Gala, we neglected to tell you that there's much more to this year's event than just a casino! In fact, you'll be happy to know you can still support this year's biggest fundraiser by joining us on May 13th. There will be plenty of excitement onboard, as the social hall is transformed into the H.M.S. Emeth! Just like you'd find on any other cruise, we'll have scrumptious food and great conversation - with the opportunity to mill around and enjoy the ocean breeze, because you won't be tied to a table and a formal sit-down dinner. There will be "Duty-Free Shopping" at affordable prices, a photographer, and lots of other entertainment including Chess, Checkers, Clue, Scrabble, Monopoly, Hearts and Gin Rummy. What's more, you'll receive a stack of free chips with your ticket to use in the raffle. You can win great prizes - vacation packages, jewelry, theatre tickets, restaurant gift certificates, and lots more. And, a lucky couple will even have the opportunity to dine with "Hesh" and his wife, and learn the inside scoop on the HBO hit, "The Sopranos!" For those of you who want to try your hand at the casino tables, you'll have loads of fun, too. Casino newcomers and veterans can enjoy lots of specials and "easy wins." And what's more, unlike Atlantic City or Las Vegas, our casino is smoke free!



So don't delay!

***Purchase your passage on the
H.M.S. Emeth today by sending your
check to Temple Emeth.***

**Tickets are \$90 now through May 7 and
\$108 at the door.**

For more information, call

Cynthia Massarsky at 201-871-3159.

Summary of Minutes from the April 6, 2006 Board Meeting

President Dan Firshein opened the meeting by updating the Board on the many upcoming activities at our busy Temple. He kept us apprised about repairs to the Cantor's office and shared the names of the negotiating committee members for the Temple Administrator's contract. He said Toby Chaiken, co-president of EMTY, has been elected as the president of NFTY-GER.

This was the last official board meeting for the following members: Barbara Balkin, Marion Wolf, Peter Adler, Fred Binder and Steve Chaiken. Dan thanked them all for their service to the community. Michael Robinson, Financial Secretary, reported that dues are 82.1% paid as of April 6; membership stands at 437.

Marc Chelemer had explored the possibility of solar power through an organization called Greenfaith. He reported the State of New Jersey changed its rebate program, effectively collapsing it for the time being.

Larry Silver reported on the feasibility study, which is part of the upcoming Capital Campaign to be held in the fall. The committee is discussing a "wish list." Maddy Wolf and Marc Chelemer are organizing a special Shabbat to thank our many volunteers. Wendy Kosakoff is collecting names for the Temple Emeth honors list, to be handed out at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on May 12.

Steve Packles presented the budget for next year. Due to a large operating surplus from a highly successful ECC, a decision was made not to raise dues for next year and to reduce the capital assessment from \$165 per family to \$100.

Jeff Etzin presented a proposal, approved by the Board, to attract to membership new religious school families. We will offer free enrollment for the 2006-07 school year to children of new member families enrolling in grades K-2. These families would join Temple at the incentive rate of \$995 for their first year.

The meeting closed with reports from committee chairs, which included dates of upcoming events, Adult Ed classes, and a report from the Annual Giving Campaign - \$83,000 was raised this year.

Wendy Kosakoff, Assistant Secretary

Services and Smachot

8 Iyar 5766

Friday, May 5

Shabbat Achare Mot-Kedoshim

Family Service at 7:30 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat honoring Debbie Rutz

The Oneg will be sponsored by Sharon Kalman and William Waldman
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sara Waldman

Saturday, May 6

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

BAT MITZVAH OF SARA WALDMAN

Torah Portion: Lev 16:1-20:27

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

14 Iyar 5766

Friday, May 12

Shabbat Emor

Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

Installation of Officers and Trustees

The Oneg is being sponsored by Lia and Glenn Album in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Zoe Album

Saturday, May 13

Tot Shabbat at 9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

BAT MITZVAH OF ZOE ALBUM

Torah Portion: Lev 21:1-24:23

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

22 Iyar 5766

Friday, May 19

Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai

Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

The Oneg is being sponsored by Andrea and Alan Winters in honor of the
B'nai Mitzvah of their sons, Daniel and Jeffrey Winters

Saturday, May 20

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

B'NAI MITZVAH OF DANIEL AND JEFFREY WINTERS

Torah Portion: Lev 25:1-27:34

Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

29 Iyar 5766

Friday, May 26

Shabbat Bemidbar

Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 27

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion: Number 1:1-4:20

Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18-42

A Kiddush sponsored by Art Lerman will follow services,
in honor of the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

May 2006

3 Iyar 5766 - 4 Sivan 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ^{3 IYAR} 10:45 am Speak, Laugh, Enjoy Yiddish	2 ^{4 IYAR} 8:00 pm Developments in Jewish Liturgical Music 8:00 pm Executive Comm. Mtg.	3 ^{5 IYAR} ✠Yom HaAtzma'ut 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets 7:30 pm Kol Emet meets 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh	4 ^{6 IYAR} 7:30 pm B'Yachad Dessert 8:00 pm Girls in the Hood	5 ^{7 IYAR} 7:37 6:15 pm Religious School Faculty Recognition Dinner Honoring Debbie Rutz 7:30 pm Family Service	6 ^{8 IYAR} ✠Acharei Mot - Kedoshim ✠Shabbat Ends: 8:48 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Sara Waldman
7 ^{9 IYAR} 8:00 am Tour of Jewish Newark 9:00 am Temple Open House	8 ^{10 IYAR} 10:45 am Speak, Laugh, Enjoy Yiddish	9 ^{11 IYAR} 8:00 pm Developments in Jewish Liturgical Music	10 ^{12 IYAR} 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets 7:30 pm Kol Emet meets	11 ^{13 IYAR} 7:00 pm Annual Congregational Meeting	12 ^{14 IYAR} ✠Pesach Sheini 7:44 10:30 am ECC Family Kabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Installation of Officers and Trustees, Special Oneg honoring Volunteers	13 ^{15 IYAR} ✠Emor ✠Shabbat Ends: 8:55 9:10 am Torah Study 9:30 am Tot Shabbat 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Album 7:30 pm Casino Night
14 ^{16 IYAR}	15 ^{17 IYAR} 10:45 am Speak, Laugh, Enjoy Yiddish	16 ^{18 IYAR} ✠Lag BaOmer	17 ^{19 IYAR} 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim	18 ^{20 IYAR} 8:00 pm Transitional Board of Trustees Meeting	19 ^{21 IYAR} 7:51 10:00 am Membership Comm Mtg. 7:00 pm Pot Luck Supper 8:00 pm Music Service	20 ^{22 IYAR} ✠Behar - Bechukosai ✠Shabbat Ends: 9:01 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service B'nai Mitzvah of Daniel and Jeffrey Winters
21 ^{23 IYAR} 9:00 am 7th grade Graduation and Moving Up Ceremony 10:00 am 7th grade Reception 10:30 am Caring Comm. Mtg.	22 ^{24 IYAR} 10:45 am Speak, Laugh Enjoy Yiddish	23 ^{25 IYAR} 7:00 pm Strategic Planning Mtg.	24 ^{26 IYAR} 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 7:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal	25 ^{27 IYAR}	26 ^{28 IYAR} ✠Yom Yerushalayim 7:57 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	27 ^{29 IYAR} ✠Bemidbar ✠Shabbat Ends: 9:08 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush
28 ^{1 SIVAN}	29 ^{2 SIVAN} Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	30 ^{3 SIVAN} 7:30 pm Adult Ed. Comm. Mtg. 8:00 pm Executive Comm. Mtg.	31 ^{4 SIVAN} 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Discussion 7:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal			

GOOD & WELFARE

Condolences to...

The congregation mourns the loss of long time member **Enid Broder** and extends condolences to her husband **Sid Broder** **Joy Firshein** on the loss of her father, Myron Sallovitz **Sandi Klein** on the loss of her father, Jules Fisherman **Carleen Fleishman** on the loss of her cousin, Robert Kaufman **Shana Janoff** on the loss of her grandmother, Sally Greenblatt **Isabel Stark and Harvey Gold** on the loss of their

brother-in-law, Stuart Ratner

Stan Klotkin on the loss of his beloved father, Max Klotkin

Laurel Kane on the loss of her beloved aunt, Lillian Bayer

Mazel Tov to...

100 Mazel Tov Wishes to **Beatrice Lewis** on turning 100 years old this month! Temple Emeth joins with your family in celebrating this special simcha.

Flora Braunschweiger on her 95th Birthday

Mazel tov to **Toby Chaiken** on being elected president of our regional youth group, NFTY - Garden Empire Region, for the 2006-07 school year.

Welcome to membership...

Inna Broveman, and **Ira Morrow** and daughter, **Marina Morrow**

Get Well Wishes to...

Sid Broder

Seymour Fleishman

Kenneth Fox

Phyllis Friedland

Marylou Goldstein

Mort Rubenstein

Bob Spiewak

Marilyn Taffet

Bea Westin

Temple Emeth is planning a June service to honor our graduating 12th graders. If you are the parent of a 12th grader, please call Vicky Farhi at 201-343-2506.



A PASSOVER THANK YOU



Thanks to everyone who helped set our beautiful tables and make this year's congregational Seder a big success:

Barbara Bias

Judith Bitterman

Jodee, Claire and Regina Fink

Jared Gagliardi

Adele Hirschmann

Muriel Kaplan

Jason and Hillary Kooistra

Ruth Pasvoll

Elaine Pollack

Simmie Portnoy

And of course: Marc Klausner and Richard Buchbinder (as well as guest soloists Laura Breznick, Elizabeth Graber and Hillary Kooistra) for their musical contributions and to Rabbi Sirbu,

who led us through the desert. Thanks especially to Socrates, Ramon, Hugo and Alfredo for all their hard work. Mazel Tov to Alana Gagliardi, who found the afikomen.

Karen Sacks



Photo by Grace Borowitz

Temple Emeth College Kids

By Lynne Graizel

Laura Breznick writes this month's column.

There was one program at Hillel that I was not pleased with. It was called "Rockin' With the Rabbi" and was meant to be a night where college students could speak to each other in an open forum with a Rabbi present to give us feedback from a Jewish perspective.

First we introduced ourselves and stated our major. When I told him my major was Vocal Performance with a pre-Cantorial Emphasis, he just stared at me. Then he questioned my boyfriend Alex who stated that his major was Jewish Studies and that he plans to become a Reform Rabbi. He then had the audacity to ask Alex (ignoring me) how he can approve of a woman, particularly your girlfriend, wanting to assume a leadership role.

After more insulting questions, he finally asked, "How can you call yourself a righteous Jew?" By that point, it took all of our restraint not ask him how he could consider himself a righteous Jew and be so insulting. However, that would have been pointless because it would not have changed his mind.

Eleanor, the head of the University of Hartford Hillel, apologized to me afterwards but did not say anything to the Rabbi. Luckily this Rabbi has not returned and I have continued to enjoy other Hillel events.

THINK STRAUSSMAN YOUTH FUND

The Straussman Youth Fund needs donors so it can continue to grow and provide scholarships for our young Temple members.

These scholarships offset the cost of URJ(formerly UAHC) summer camp NFTY Kallahs, NFTY National Convention and other URJ youth programming.

BARJ @ TWENTY

**BARJ is Honoring
DORA GELD FRIEDMAN
Temple Emeth Religious School Director
Sunday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

at

Temple Beth Or, Washington Township

Please join us for brunch as
The Bergen Academy of Reform Judaism
celebrates its 20th anniversary by honoring
Jewish leaders and educators from BARJ
affiliated synagogues.

Details to follow.

For more information, including ways in which to
make this event a success, please contact
Karen Kaplan: kaplan5@optonline.net or
(201) 568-5189.

POTLUCK SUPPER

All Temple Emeth members and guests are
welcome at the final **Family Potluck Supper** of
the season, **Friday May 19th at 7:00 p.m.**

Potlucks are free; all you have to do is bring
enough of ONE dish for 6-8 people.

Sign-up sheets (needed so we know how many
tables to set) are available at www.emeth.org, in
the hallway, and in your mid-month mailing.

Questions? Contact Karen Sacks

(kssacks@optonline.net) or

Susan Schwartz (Docsts@aol.com)

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library Update:

Chanting
Torah

By Judith Bitterman

ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

LEARNING TO CHANT THE TORAH

Are you curious about how the Torah is chanted? Do you want to learn how to do it? We have a new book in the library to help you do just that. It is *The Art of Torah Cantillation* by Marshall Portnoy and Josee Wolff. Divided into thirteen lessons, this book is designed to help the beginner learn the Torah melodies, called tropes. All you need to get started is a basic ability to read Hebrew, the willingness to learn, and some time to practice.

This extremely user-friendly book comes with a CD and the tracks are indexed in the book for ease of exploration. Both male and female voices are included on the recording and the melodies are kept in the mid-range, which should be comfortable for most voices. The Hebrew print is clear and large enough for almost anyone to read.

Beginning with the basic, common melodic combinations and the symbols that designate them, and working up to the more complicated and rare ones, this book includes lots of exercises for practice (also included on the CD) as well as clear explanations of how the tropes were developed and why they are the way they are. It explains how the position of the trope symbols within the words governs the placement of the accent on the word that is chanted.

Additionally, useful appendices are included and encompass such subjects as trope relationships, with a table showing the relationships and symbols; unusual Torah portions that utilize a special melody (like the Song of the Sea); names and verses of Torah portions, including special Shabbat portions, High Holy Day portions, and portions for the festivals; and, for those who read music, the melodies written out in musical notation. The book also includes a glossary and bibliography.

THE MILESTONE MEMORIES BOOK DEDICATION PROGRAM



This program was created in order to give Temple members an opportunity to mark a lifecycle event in a concrete way. For a minimum contribution of \$25, members can have a book become a permanent part of the Library's collection. A specially designed bookplate, with an inscription of your choice, is placed in the book, and an acknowledgement is sent to the recipient.

The Milestone Memories Book Dedication Program Form

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(As it will appear on the Book Plate)

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Please indicate type of library donation to be purchased.

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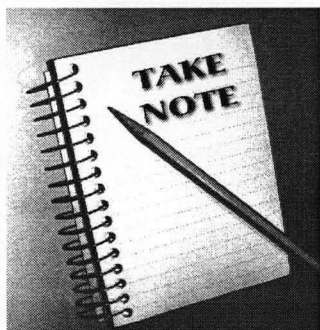
☐ Children's Book

☐ Video

☐ Audio Book

☐ Reference Book

Date: _____



- May 3 Rosh Chodesh 7:30 p.m.
 May 4 Girls in the Hood 8:00 p.m.
 Contact Lynne Graizel 833-8403
 or Nickie Falk 444-7519
 May 11 Annual Congregational Meeting
 7:00 p.m.
 May 12 Installation of Officers and Trustees
 Volunteer Oneg 8:00 p.m.
 May 13 Gala 7:30 p.m.
 May 19 Pot Luck Supper 7:00 p.m.
 Contact Karen Sacks
kssacks@optonline.net
 May 21 Seventh Grade Graduation 9:00a.m.
 May 29 Temple Office Closed for
 Memorial Day
 May 31 Rosh Chodesh 7:30 p.m.

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 thought, or a gripe to share
 about life at Temple Emeth, tell it
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 to publish your letter in the Bulletin.
 Send letters and suggestions to:
 Sandi Klein at sandifk@aol.com*



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 Website at
www.emeth.org**

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Want To Get Involved? Only Have an Hour? Be an Usher! Be a Greeter!

When you enter Temple Emeth for services, someone is always there to say "Shabbat Shalom." When you enter the Sanctuary, another friendly face hands you a program or the announcements and welcomes you in. One of these people could be you!

Temple Emeth is always looking for ushers or greeters. What better way to meet fellow congregants, or to welcome friends and visitors?

If you'd like to usher or greet, please contact Marc Chelemer, Head Usher, at 201-569-4877 or via e-mail at marcchelemer@alum.mit.edu.

You'll be glad you did!
 Marc J. Chelemer

SAVE THE DATE Welcome Aboard: SHABBAT NOACH

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Governance Committee Report

by Laura Kirsch

Last July, the congregation adopted the Strategic Plan; a document reflecting the serious thoughts and proposal of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, which addressed membership and demographics, financial stability, and leadership and governance as the three areas critical to the continued growth and well-being of Temple Emeth. The process has continued this year under the Strategic Planning Implementation Team, and various committees have been working diligently to meet the goals adopted as part of the Strategic Plan.

In the area of governance and leadership, the Strategic Plan called for a review of the structure of the Executive Committee and the Board, the development of a streamlined, objective nominating process and the development of a plan to recruit and mentor future leaders. A Governance Committee was appointed to address these issues, among others, and to present its recommendations for change, if any, for adoption by the congregation. The committee includes Amy Abrams, Stuart Breslow, Martin Breznick, Bill Graizel, and Karen Rappaport.

The Governance Committee has been meeting over the past several months and plans to present its findings and recommendations to the congregation in the Fall of 2006. The committee has focused on the roles and interaction of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, taking into consideration the need for the Board to do its job as the overall policy and decision making body of the congregation in a productive and efficient manner, and for the Executive Committee to implement the decisions of the Board and deal with the day-to-day running of the Temple. Our discussions have focused on how the Board and Executive Committee currently function and how best to make sure that each of those bodies fulfills its proper function. To that end, the committee has had many thoughtful and occasionally heated discussions concerning the size and composition of the Board, the size and composition of the Executive Committee, and oft-expressed criticism that the Board is too big to function effectively.

While our recommendations in this area have not been finalized, the committee believes that a smaller Board and Executive Committee with shorter terms will better meet the goals expressed in the Strategic Plan. The committee is also working on the nominating process and will be considering the other areas of our mandate over the coming months. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

VOLUNTEER ONEG

Friday, May 12

The Board of Trustees invites all the wonderful people who have contributed their time, energy and talent during the past year to join us for a Volunteer Oneg on Friday, May 12th to thank you for your help.

Whether you have spent one hour or many, many hours volunteering at Temple,

THIS ONEG IS FOR YOU!

Please join us. Toda Raba!

B'YACHAD

Thursday, May 4th, 7:45 p.m.

Rabbi Steven Sirbu

will speak on:

"LEFT OF ORTHODOX AND RIGHT OF REFORM"

How Will Conservative Judaism Define The Middle Of The Road In The Next Generation?

For a century, Conservative Judaism has been the "middle" of the three major movements in American Judaism. But several factors, including intermarriage, egalitarianism, homosexuality and a general shift to the right in American religious life have left Conservative Judaism on shaky ground. Rabbi Sirbu will offer his predictions for the future of the movement. Please join us.

Coffee, tea, and pastries will be served.

RSVP NO LATER THAN MAY 1st

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Bev & Sy Lazar in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Packles

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Dillon

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Nan & Abe Badian in honor of the birth of Jack Dylan

Westin, new grandson of Bea & Alan Westin

Flora Braunschweiger in appreciation to Bev & Sy Lazar

Nat & Bunny Ritzer sending get well wishes to Seymour Fleishman

Bev & Sy Lazar in honor of the 95th birthday of Flora Braunschweiger sending get well wishes to Elinor Buchbinder

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Teri & Fred Binder in memory of Harry Binder continued good health to Joel Sachs get well wishes to Elinor Buchbinder get well wishes to Seymour Fleishman Mazel Tov on the birth of Jack Dylan Westin, grandson of Bea & Alan Westin continued good health to Howard Guttman Mazel Tov to Vicki Paul on her recent engagement, daughter of Joan & David Paul Mazel Tov on the Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Packles, son of Ann & Steve

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Bev & Sy Lazar in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Arye Max Janoff

Sending get well wishes to Bea Westin

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Jacqueline & Howard Guttman sending get well

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