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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Volume 60, Number 2

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Cheshvan/Kisley 5767 November 2006

Passing the Baton

Life is like a relay race we go along and set the pace

We do our part, we do our best but someone else must do the rest The toughest part is how to know When should we stay? When should we go? When we go, as go we must, let's do it with elation And give our hearts, our love, our trust to the coming generation The joy we've had in sprinting on can truly be replaced Let's take our joy in watching how the race is raced Our religion makes it easy...with the Covenant we're blest With mezzuzah's carrying some words while we create the rest As we pass the Covenant and watch our children grow We hand them life's baton as well and cheer them as they go.

The congregation mourns the passing of longtime member and editor of the Temple Emeth Bulletin for over twenty years, Bob Spiewak, who died on September 27, 2006. He was famous for his column, "Trouble With Grandfathers"... here are two of his favorites.

Shalom Is

Shalom is paddling a canoe beneath a sunlit sky Gliding along a shimmering lake as the puffy clouds flit by Shalom is watching a sun rise over a purple hill And seeing a rainbow of flowers and hearing a cardinal's trill Shalom is helping your children grow with pride in how they've grown And knowing when to let them go and build lives of their own Shalom is knowing what's important and focusing your thoughts On life's smiles and dimples, not on frowns and warts Having respect for others and expecting the same for you Avoiding blame or giving shame or getting in a stew Focus on where you'd like to be instead of where you've been And find a way to get there, now's the time to begin Shalom is handling your problems and seeing the bad times thru Fighting the battles as they come, not getting the best of you Shalom is taking pride in yourself and liking who you are Knowing your skills and accepting your faults, we can't all be a star Shalom is enjoying every day, making each moment last Living in the present while savoring the past



Photos courtesy of Scott Spiewak, Karen Rappaport and Carla Silver

TEMPLE EMETH =

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RABBI EMERITUS			
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Bulletin Deadlines		Mid-Month Mailing Deadlines		
Month	Deadline Date	Publication Date	Deadline Date	Publication Date
October	September 14	October 1	October 3	October 15
November	October 12	November 1	November 1	November 15
December	November 9	December 1	December 1	December 15
January	December 14	January 2	January 2	January 16
February	January 11	February 1	February 1	February 14
March	February 8	March 1	March 1	March 15

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	\$ 55	\$ 82.50
5 Months	\$247.50	\$385
10 Months	\$330	\$495
For additional in	formation, call	1 (201) 833-1322

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Message From the Rabbi

The great poet Judah HaLevy pined for the land of Israel when he wrote, "My heart is in the east, but I am in the farthest-most west." As Jews, our hearts are in the east, but we are blessed because we can do more than write about Israel. We can get on a plane and go there.

In fact our congregation is going to Israel from

February 15-25, and there is still room for you to join us. As the deadline to register for our Intergenerational Tour of Israel draws near, I want to share some thoughts that I hope will inspire you to say, "I'm in!"

This summer's war between Israel and Hezbollah was tragic and frightening. I'm sure that some people who are interested in the trip have since hesitated because of security concerns. I hope I can ease some of those concerns and show you that Israel is safe.

First of all, our itinerary for this trip has always been routed through the south of Israel. Traveling to Israel in

the winter time gives us the unique opportunity to explore the desert, to dip our toes in both the Dead Sea and the Red Sea while avoiding the 100-plus temperatures that frequently occur in the summer. Thus the northernmost point on our travels will still be about an hour's drive away from where the southernmost missile hit this summer. In fact, many of the places we will visit were the very places to which Israelis from the north fled to seek refuge.

Next, you should know about the professionalism of our guide and tour operator. Our guide, Muki, was so popular with the last Temple Emeth group that we requested him a year in advance for this trip. Working in concert with his office and the Israeli authorities, he will have the authority to alter our itinerary at any time in order to keep us safe.

And I am proud to say we will be flying El Al Airlines. As you know, El Al has always been at the

forefront of aviation security. By scrutinizing both passengers and luggage, El Al has maintained a sterling reputation for air safety.

But deciding whether to join our trip is about more than security. I hope you will sign up because of the solidarity it will show with Israelis who, even if they don't live in the North, were shaken by the sum-

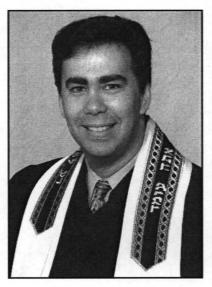
mer's violence. Our fate and theirs are linked, and nothing represents this better than traveling to Israel. Sure, they appreciate the fact that we are contributing to their tourism economy, but even more, they appreciate the chance to tell us their stories and to hear from us that we believe all Jews are responsible for one another.

And, of course, every journey to Israel involves the emotional experience of seeing the land of God's promise to our ancestors. It is about learning the history it preserves and the diversity of religious practices that it

nourishes. This is why we will spend time in both ancient Jerusalem and modern Tel Aviv, and why we will worship in Reform synagogues and enjoy a meal in a Bedouin tent.

While this kind of trip is life-changing for any Jew, it means that much more to share it with the members of your religious community and your rabbi. That is why I hope you will travel with me and your fellow Temple members in February. (And please don't tell yourself that if you miss this one, you'll catch the next trip real soon. Our next Temple trip will not be until Summer 2009 at the earliest.)

You can see our detailed itinerary at www.arzaworld.com, or speak with one of our travel agents by calling 888-811-2812. As always, I am available to answer your questions if you call me at 201-833-1322. The deadline to sign up for our trip is November 27. If not now, when?



Rabbi Steven Sirbu

From the Cantor

Credit...Where Credit's Due

A few weeks ago I was privileged to visit many members of our Temple Emeth family who were hospitalized or homebound during the High Holy Days. On the second day of Rosh Hashana those who would not have had the opportunity to hear the call of the shofar were given that chance. I

don't know how to blow the shofar, but my husband who is the ba'al tekiya (shofar blower) in our family, and our children came along. We were given a gift that day. We were blessed with the opportunity to perform a mitzvah.

What an amazing feeling to be able to share a gift, given by God, with those who truly need it. Each of us is given gifts we can share with others. However, inherent in giving and sharing, is a choice. We can take credit for

ourselves, or give credit where it's due, namely to God, who gave us these gifts.

How simple it would be for any of us to take all the credit for our accomplishments, especially if we know we are performing mitzvot. The greater challenge is to see God's hand in what we are doing for others. Every human being has a choice - whether to see the obvious reality on the surface, or look deeper and notice the hand of God hidden behind the visible.

Even in our daily work, we can easily think we are simply talented in a particular area, good at whatever our chosen profession might be. The challenge is to remember that our special set of gifts is

given to us by God. If we each take the time to look back at the way our lives have played out, we will recognize moments during which there was a crossroads and we made a choice, even when we may not have made it through, but yet, lived another day.

Using the example of the shofar, we can see that knowing how to blow the shofar may or may not seem like such a great gift. But for my husband, the gift was that

God allowed him to live through a serious illness and to blow shofar even with some difficulty breathing...and the greatest gift...to be able to blow shofar for so many in their times of need.

Acknowledging God's involvement in the outcome of each situation is a choice open to us at all times. We can be thankful for these gifts in our lives every day and remember to give credit where credit is due.



Cantor Ellen Tilem

JOIN TEMPLE EMETH'S JR. CHOIR ETZ CHAYIM

All first through seventh graders are welcome!!

Rehearsals are WEDNESDAY EVENINGS from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m.

Contact Beth Pascarello at BMPIM60@aol.com or Nancy Sharp at NANCY.SHARP@verizon.net



Message From the President

It is a beautiful day and I almost ruined it. The sun was shining brightly, the air smelled fresh and there was not a cloud in the blue sky. I decided to take a walk. As I walked through the streets of Teaneck, I felt a little pebble in my shoe and it began to bother me so much that I could hardly concentrate on the beauty of the day. I was turning this wonderful moment into an annoyance.

Sometimes, that's how it is in Temple life- We

have so many good things going for us as a community and yet we focus on the annoyance of an incident that may have happened rather than all the good things — our caring, the good we do, the interpersonal relationships we have and what we share with each other at the Temple. I hope you have time to reflect on all the good.

After my early morning walk, I sat in synagogue at The Guttman family

Auf Ruf on Simchat Torah. I reflected on how I had met Jackie and Howard 10+ years ago on a day just like this at a Temple visit to the Weiss Ecology Center and we discussed our feelings about God and Synagogue. Now years later, on this Shabbat I reflected on the *eilu d'varim* prayer that we recite and its importance:

These are the obligations without measure

whose reward is without measure
To honor father and mother,
To perform acts of love and kindness,
To attend the house of study daily,
To welcome the stranger,
To visit the sick,
To rejoice with bride and groom,
To console the bereaved,
To pray with sincerity,
To make peace where there is strife
And the study of torah is equal to them all, because it

leads to them all.

I hope that I, like you, can live up to these obligations to the best of our ability.

We as a Temple are far from perfect. But we are a special place. Jim Collins in a book called "Good to Great" conducted a management study of how great organizations triumph over time and how long-term sustained performance can be programmed into the "DNA" of an enterprise. His research identified what

distinguishing universal characteristics cause an organization to go from good to great. Our synagogue is one such organizational community that has the two key determinants of greatness. First, we have the right people on the "bus". Before we have even figured out where to drive the bus, we recognize the importance of ensuring that the right people - all of you - are seated for the journey. Second, to find a path to greatness we have confronted the

facts of our current fiscal reality. With our 3-year strategic planning process, we have engaged in an honest and diligent effort to find the truth of our situation and because of that, the right decisions have and continue to be self-evident. By confronting our current reality, we have taken the steps, according to Collins, to ensure the transformational change that will not only sustain us, but also move us from good to great. I look not simply to motivate you to contribute to the process, (of course I hope you will) but I urge you to forget that annoying little pebble. Think of the good things here at Temple, engage in dialogue, live by the obligations of the Torah, challenge each situation head-on and build a culture where we all can be heard and work together for the good of the Temple Emeth community.

B'shalom, Dan Firshein President

From the Religious School

Blue Prints for Ark Building

When the earth became corrupt before G-d, G-d instructs Noah to build the ark as a sanctuary to save his family and humanity. Among the details of how to build the ark, Noah is instructed, "V'tzohar taase lateva," – "Make an opening for light in the ark."

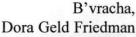
What meaning can this building detail have for us as individuals and as families? What lesson can we learn from G-d's "building instructions" to Noah? In Temple Emeth Religious School, our students in grades K-7

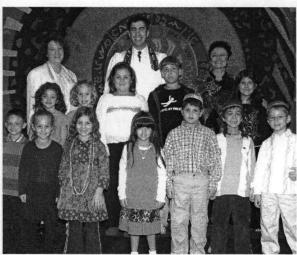
are given the "blueprints" of building their own "ark". In the study of Torah, each grade, from K-7, learns Jewish values and ethics, law and history. All of our students encounter

Torah through "story", midrash, challenging questions and even some provocative answers. Through family education, prayer, song and dance, each student has an opportunity to participate and contribute to a "conversation" that is ancient and yet fully alive.

The "tzohar" opening for light that Noah built into the ark is a reminder to us that a secure and safe "ark" must have a source of light. This light illuminates and makes holy our life in the ark. The Torah is our light – an eternal source of truth. It is the basis for all

we are – it is our spiritual guide. All of us share the responsibility to make the world a better and holier place. At Temple Emeth Religious School, we help our students to hear the call of "Kedoshim Tihyu" – you shall be a holy community. So let's build our ark with joy. We have all the tools we need.





Consecration students at Sukkot

From the Early Childhood Center

As is our tradition in the Early Childhood Center, the children are getting ready to experience the Torah portion of Noah through a variety of activities. This child friendly portion is an opportune time to integrate a Judaic theme with secular concepts. In preparation for the last Shabbat in October, the children

explore science, math, literary and art concepts surrounding the themes of water, animals, colors, shapes and pairs. Water tables are filled with items to test sinking, floating and dissolving; collages are made with pairs of items; different geometric shapes are used to form the bodies of different animals; pairs of objects and shapes are used for patterning; the children

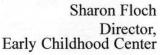
hunt for paired patterns in their clothes and picture books; puppet pairs are used to reenact the story; movement lessons use only body parts that come in pairs, and each class learns at least two songs about Noah.

In a community effort, each class also focuses on one aspect of the story and contributes an artistic rendition on that theme. The result is a beautiful mural which you will see hanging in the hall at the top of the ramp. It is no small task to create flood waters out of watercolors and scraps of blue, or to think of the pairs of animals that were on the ark and recreate them. And, as always, our mural contains the radiant rainbow – the

symbol of God's promise to never again destroy the world.

Central to the Noah story, and our focus on it, is the dove, the universal symbol of peace. It is, indeed, a symbol which can be made meaningful to even our youngest children. At the ECC, depending on age, we think and talk about what it means to be peaceful—in our world, in our community, in our school

and within ourselves. It is a concept well worth reflecting on, and dedicating ourselves to defining and sharing the peace within us all.



Membership Committee Chanukah Dinner

Please join us!

You're invited to

Temple Emeth's 7th Annual Chanukah Dinner* Friday, December 15, 2006 6:15 p.m. Dinner

Music Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m. Bring your menorahs, candles and friends!

Children ages 4 and under are free All new 2006 Temple members are invited as our guests

> Adult Members: \$15.00 per person Children ages 5-12 \$7.00 per person

This event is sponsored by the Membership Committee. For more information, contact Shana Janoff (201) 541-0151 or Jill Kantor (201) 461-5976

*In the spirit of the holiday, please bring a can of food or non-perishable food item to donate to the Center for Food Action.

Temple Emeth Gift Shop

GET READY FOR HANUKKAH

Come see...many new Hanukkah items in stock. Menorahs, Candles, Toys, Gifts and so much more! (all at great prices!)

Remember, we also carry mezzuzahs, wine glasses, Shabbat candlesticks, gift items and cards for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, sympathy and new baby.

Also – energy efficient bulbs for sale \$2.00 each Car magnets and bracelets for Darfur for sale.

Supermarket gift cards are available for purchase in \$100 increments by check, cash or by using a credit card (with a \$200 minimum).

Gift shop hours:

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and always available through the Temple office. Questions? Call Pam at (201) 722-0405 Please return the form and payment to the Temple office no later than December 5, 2006

Temple Emeth Chanukah Dinner December 15, 2006

Name		
Telephone		
Yes, I know you no	ed help and I'd lik	e to volunteer to:
set up	serve	clean up
Adult member	ers @ \$15 per pe	erson
Adult non-me	embers @ \$18 p	er person
Children ages	s 5-12 @ \$7 per	person
	s 4 and under (fi	
	members (free):	
Adults	Children	
Total amount enclo	osed \$	



Laura Kirsch, Chair Lucy Brody, PR

One of Temple Emeth's premier annual fundraisers is just around the corner.....and we need your brains, brawn and bargains to make this another successful event.

BARGAINS:

We still need new merchandise and gently used clothing, costume jewelry, housewares, gifts and the like. Have tickets for a play, music or sporting event? They'd be perfect for the silent auction. Ask your local merchant for discount coupons - it's great p.r. for them and we sure could use their services or merchandise. Uncomfortable about asking? Contact chairperson Laura Kirsch at 201-343-5955 or lkirsch@kirschandkirsch.com.

BRAWN:

For many, this is a one-day commitment - volunteering at the Food Court (tasting allowed), chairing or helping to run a booth.

We need volunteers to show up for an hour or so on a Sunday morning to help sort the mountain of donations. We also need 'schleppers' who have access to vans/suvs or station wagons to pick up stuff.



Bazaar Committee: Pauline Hecht, Sheryl Cooper, Marion Wolf, Lynn Chaiken, Laura Kirsch and Carla Silver

Contact Sheryl Cooper at 201-487-8885 or joelandsheryl@gmail.com, or Lynn Chaiken at 201-692-0038 or lynn chaiken@yahoo.com.

BRAINS AND MORE BRAWN:

We also need brains and brawn to help set up and price items. That will happen the week before December 10th. Date to be announced...and as an added incentive, refreshments will be served!

We need you to volunteer December 10th, the day of the big event. If you haven't signed up, please do so by contacting Marion Wolf at 201-385-8945 or marionewolf@yahoo.com. You can also complete and return the form found in the midmonth mailing.

If everyone pitches in, we can once again have a financially successful Bazaar - money that goes for the Temple's operating expenses.

We thank you for any help you can provide.

ROSH CHODESH

Temple Emeth Women! Save this Date:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th

Rabbi Nafshi will return for her second Rosh Chodesh discussion with us. Watch for more information in the next mid-month mailing!

TEMPLE MEMBER!



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Services and S'machot

13 Cheshvan 5767 Friday, November 3 Shabbat Lech Lecha
3rd-4th grade Dinner at 6:15 p.m.
Family Service at 7:30 p.m.
followed by Israel Oneg

Saturday, November 4

Torah Portion: Genesis 12:1-17:27

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

20 Cheshvan 5767 Friday, November 10 Shabbat Vayera Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

The Oneg is sponsored by Karen Sacks and John Kooistra in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Hillary Kooistra

Saturday, November 11

Tot Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

BAT MITZVAH OF HILLARY KOOISTRA

Torah Portion: Genesis 18:1-22:24

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37

27 Cheshvan 5767 Friday, November 17 Shabbat Chayei Sarah
Pot Luck Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Music Service at 8:00 p.m.

The Oneg is sponsored by Deborah and Kenneth Rutz in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jeffrey

Saturday, November 18

Shabbat Worship at 10:30 a.m.

BAR MITZVAH OF JEFFREY RUTZ

Torah Portion: Genesis 23:1-25:18

Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31

4 Kisley 5767
Friday November

Friday, November 24

Shabbat Toldot Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 25

Torah Portion: Genesis 25:19-28:9

Shabbat Service at 10:30 a.m.

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

November 2006 10 Cheshvan 5767 - 9 Kislev 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			10 CHESHVAN 6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets 7:30 pm Kol Emet meets	Thursday 11 CHESHVAN 2 ECC Book Fair/Toy Sale 8:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah	114:30	4 13 CHESHVA
			7:45 pm ECC Back to School Night ECC Book Fair/Toy Sale	Class	7:30 pm Family Service	9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service
5 14 CHESHVAN	6 15 CHESHVAN	7 16 CHESHVAN	8 17 CHESHVAN	9 18 CHESHVAN	10 19 CHESHVAN	11 20 CHESHVA
UJA - Federation Mitzvah Day 9:00 am Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners Class 11:00 am Blood Drive 11:00 am NEW Hike 3:30 pm Temple Emeth sponsored film at 519 Cedar Lane	10:45 am Yiddish Class	Mini University 7:30 pm Lit. from a Jewish Perspective 8:40 pm Prophets and Kings	6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets 7:30 pm Kol Emet meets 7:30 pm Website Comm. Mtg.	NO ECC 8:00 pm Board of Trustees	3 3 4:22	Vayera Shabbat Ends: 5:31 9:10 am Torah Study 9:30 am Tot Shabbat 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Hillary Kooist
12 21 CHESHVAN	13 22 CHESHVAN	14 23 CHESHVAN	15 24 CHESHVAN	16 25 CHESHVAN	17 ^{26 CHESHVAN}	18 27 CHESHVA
9:00 am Praybook Hebrew for Beginners Class 10:30 am Byachad Breakfast	10:45 am Yiddish Class	Mini University 7:30 pm Lit. from a Jewish Perspective 8:40 pm Prophets and Kings	ECC Priority Registration 12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets	8:00 pm Book Group at home of Susan Barnett 8:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner 8:00 pm Music Service	Chaye Sarah Shabbat Ends: 5:25 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service Bar Mitzvah of Jeffrey Rutz
19 28 CHESHVAN	20 CHESHVAN	21 30 CHESHVAN	22 1 KISLEV	2 KISLEV	24 3 KISLEV	25 4 KISLE
	10:45 am Yiddish Class		NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Thanksgiving Day BUILDING CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	Shabbat Ends: 5:21 9:10 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Service
26 5 KISLEV	27 6 KISLEV	28 7 KISLEV	29 8 KISLEV	30 9 KISLEV		
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	10:45 am Yiddish Class	Mini University 7:30 pm Lit. from a Jewish Perspective 8:40 pm Prophets and Kings	12:00 pm Lunch and Learn 6:15 pm Etz Chayim meets	8:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class		

Good & Welfare

The congregation mourns the passing of beloved member **Bob Spiewak**, and sends condolences to his wife, Estelle

The congregation mourns the passing of beloved member **Sid Broder**.

Condolences to ...

Howard Lieberman on the passing of his father, Joseph Lieberman

Mazel Tov to ...

Our Administrator, Marion and her husband
Seymour Schechter on the birth of granddaughter, Lilli Shayne Greenstein, daughter
of Deena and Eddie Greenstein

Dru and Ted Greenwood on the engagement of their son, Benjamin to Emily Stuart

Sandy and Herb Loft on the birth of their granddaughter, Lili Sophia, daughter of Emily and Steven Wagshal

Arlene and Dennis Hirschfelder on the marriage of their son Adam to Jennifer Traeger

Get Well Wishes to ...

Sandie Ekhause Harold Katz Mort Rubenstein Abe Badian Angela Clark Shirley Rosenzweig

Visit the Temple website at www.emeth.org



Israel - ARZA

Dear Rabbi Sirbu and the Members of Temple Emeth,

Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers during and following the trying days of the war in northern Israel this summer during July and August. Those who sent emails to members of our Congregation provided sources of support and empathy for us. We found your support inspiring and were very moved by your concern for our community. We drew strength from the solidarity with our community that you expressed.

We will always be grateful to you for the generous donations that were sent to support our Congregation and we welcome all of our new Overseas Members from Temple Emeth.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Israel Horowitz on behalf of Congregation Emet V'Shalom Nahariya



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Temple Emeth College Kids By Lynne Graizel

Two more Teaneck High grads have joined the College Kids since last month's Bulletin. They are: Geordan Bernard, son of Flip and Larry, attends Michigan State University. Geordie played soccer for Teaneck High.

Ryan Gerber, Peggy and David's son, is at The College of New Jersey, where btw (by the way for you non-IMers) his sister Nicole is a Senior. Ryan was a tennis player and member of the band at THS.

Also joining the College Kids are: Ben Persky, son of Barbara and David, a freshman at Rhode Island School of Design.

Twins Joel and Ben Farhi are off to college too. Joel is at Rutgers, while brother Ben is at Champlain College in Vermont where he can study and snowboard!

Sometimes members of our congregation ask if the college kids appreciate the little notes, packages and articles we send them. Well, they do. Here's one of the many thank yous we've gotten over the years from kids who love to keep connected to Emeth.

From Laura Geisenheimer — Hi Lynne,

Thank you so much for thinking of us and sending us those cards. It's always great to get mail and holiday wishes. I hope all is well with you and the family and everyone at Temple. Shanah Tovah and have a great weekend.

The Children's Worship Committee

thanks everyone who helped during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur parallel programming this year, including our volunteer teachers:

Jodee Fink, Nancy Wolinsky, Jackie Arams, Merri Adler-Ross, Marla Levine, Beth Pascarello, Karen Kaplan, Vivian Gaits, Lillian Molnar, Amy Abrams and Ken Hoffman. We also thank our Torah readers, Leah Staffin, Josh Kohane, Hannah Miller and Arye Janoff, and our teen assistants, Alex Hoffman, Nick Hoffman, Margie Scher, Naomi Scher, Rachel Nagengast, Rachel Kaplan, Cheryl Kaplan, Samantha Kaplan, Samantha Ross, Sophie Hort, Scott Graber, Elizabeth Graber, Layla Janoff, Rebecca Dillon, Mollie Dillon. To those whose names are left out, we apologize and thank you as well. Yasher Koach.

Sandi Intraub, Student Rabbi Karen Sacks and Susan Schwartz Co-Chairs

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

WHAT WE DO - WHAT YOU CAN DO

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE IS COMMITTED TO ENABLING TEMPLE EMETH MEMBERS TO PERFORM ACTS OF TIKKUN OLAM, HEALING THE WORLD. TOWARDS THIS GOAL, WE OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5th - BERGEN COUNTY UJA MITZVAH DAY

Join over 1500 Mitzvah Day participants and take part in a community wide volunteer day. For more information about opportunities to volunteer, see www.ujannj.org. Temple Emeth will host a Blood Bank at the Temple and a Bone Marrow Drive at Holy Name Hospital that day. The only prerequisites for participation are energy and enthusiasm!

DECEMBER 23-30 - We will again staff the Family Shelter in St. Cecilia's Church in Englewood during Christmas week. The shelter temporarily houses up to seven families who are temporarily homeless. To be eligible for the program, one family member must be employed. Needed each night are 2 cooks/servers and 2 hosts/sleepers. The shelter is run year-round by the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless and churches & temples in Bergen County.

MITZVAH OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER – Thanksgiving foods for the Family Assistance Center at the Teaneck Armory. Help families who have members serving in the armed services in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I (We)can help	
Cook for the Family Shelter	
preferred date	
Host/sleep over at the Family Shelter	
preferred date	
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For more information, contact Eva Sandrof
at 201-837-2241

Wilford Weill Memorial Confirmation Essay Contest Winner "Between God and Evil" by Daniel Kohane

Perhaps the most pressing question and even challenge to any religion—especially modern Western religion—is: How can evil exist in a world ruled by a merciful, loving God? When debating this topic, one cannot ignore the most major occurrence of absolute evil in the recent past, the Holocaust. When juxtaposed to Hitler's slaughter, almost any other sin or evil seems tame; but how could such a horror as this occur in a world of God?

Elie Wiesel's Night gave the Holocaust a new level of lucidity for me. No longer were the words "death camp," "crematory," and "gas chamber" merely words. Rather, they call to my mind the images the book revealed. With my improved understanding of the Holocaust and the depth of its evils, I find that the question I have put forth must be asked and explored. Wiesel may not formally ask this question in the book, but, at least while is in the custody of the Germans, the answer "there is no God" becomes his reality. As a Jew who feels that a belief in God is fundamental to our religion, this answer is wrong by default. Therefore, I have come to three possible answers of my own: One, God turned His back on the world; Two, God was testing the Jews as he tested Abraham in Vayera; Three, God could not, for some reason, intercede. I find I am able to believe all of these in part, and perhaps each played a role in sustaining the Holocaust, but mostly, I believe the third explanation.

The first possibility I can see is that God turned his back on the world at the time of the Holocaust. The follow-up question, of course, is why? Could a "God of mercy" turn his back on the Jews or any massive number of human beings in such a situation? The most obvious answer is that the victims were all bad people who deserved to be tortured and cruelly murdered without a thought. That means every one of the six million Jews and six million others must have been pretty horrible people—in this life or a past life, if you accept reincarnation. That may suffice for some; I cannot accept it. In my view, no one-not even Hitler himselfdeserved to be put through the horrors of a death camp. That twelve million human beings earned themselves that fate is, to me, preposterous-and that number omits the survivors, who had to live that horrible life and came out scarred by the memory of it. Besides, as Night shows clearly, many of Wiesel's friends and acquaintances before and during his time in the camps were religious Jews. Wiesel himself attempted to study cabala a few years before his deportation. In fact, some even attempted to pray while staring at death in the camps. Therefore, I cannot see the Holocaust as a collective punishment against its victims.

Another reason why God would simply allow this terror is because He works in "mysterious ways," and this is all part of His plan. Therefore, we humans cannot hope to understand why merciless slaughter and attempted genocide is necessary. Again, I cannot believe this, because I feel something as brutal as the Holocaust demands an explanation if done for a reason.

The last reason I can think of that would have God turn

His back on the world at this time was because he needed to use the Holocaust as an example. Was the world complacent? After the first world war-the "war to end all wars"-did it appear that nothing so wicked could ever happen? Were the Jews being forgotten or hated throughout the world? Was Fascism to be ignored unless this cruel example was made of it? Perhaps, if all of these things were true, then this Holocaust had a purpose that made it justifiable before God. This I might accept, but only very hesitantly. I am not well-versed enough in history to form an opinion on whether the slaughter of millions was needed to correct these problems-and as can be seen today, it has not done so completely. I cannot really imagine that the state of the world justified the Holocaust, but perhaps without it, the world and the Jews would have been lost. That is a tremendous "what if," though, and I feel that a better explanation, or at least an additional one, is necessary, and that whether or not God turned His back on the world, it was not the only thing that allowed the terror of the Holocaust to occur.

The second apparently reasonable conclusion is that God was testing or making an example of the Jews and the others who died. For precedent of this theory, we can cite the passage of the bible in which Abraham receives God's command to sacrifice his son. Here the text says that God is testing Abraham, in particular for his faith. Abraham did not back down until an angel informed him that the order was reversed. Perhaps God also needed to test the Jews for their faith during this time. Though no comparison appears to exist between the sacrifice of Isaac and the destruction of the Jews, Isaac was the only Jewish son of Abraham and therefore his entire posterity; with Isaac dead, the Jews would almost certainly not exist. However, the fire and the knife do not signify nearly as terrible a death as the concentration camps and the crematoriums, and in the Holocaust, the ones being tested were faced with death, rather than asked to kill as Abraham was. Perhaps because of these failures in the comparison, many men, including Wiesel, lose their faith—as well as their will to survive and their love for fellow humans, like Wiesel's father. Did they fail the test? Wiesel survived, while many of the faithful around him died. Therefore, I do not hold by this theory either.

The last, and perhaps most frightening, theory is that God is in fact *not* all-powerful—that He at least has limits to his powers on Earth. Perhaps, either simply because His powers do not extend so far or because of some deep mystical reason, God was unable to intercede in the events of the Holocaust—at least not until 1945. If it sounds unrealistic, it must be noted that God was similarly late in freeing the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Perhaps if God had interfered earlier some balance in the world would have been thrown off. In addition, perhaps God was kept from interfering by the presence of some great spiritual evil entity such as Satan, to whom Hitler is often compared. This may be the most frightening thought of all, because if true it means that Satan has

Confirmation Essay by Daniel Kohane (continued)

the power to halt God in almost anything. While the influence of some Satan may have existed, I don't believe that it was the preventative factor, because otherwise the Holocaust might never have ended.

I do believe, however, that the combined decision of nearly the entire world—the Nazis themselves as well as all of those who ignored the Jews and therefore condemned them-had, and has, the power to stop God. I believe that perhaps this, possibly in conjunction with other points I have mentioned, stopped God, or at least caused God to allow the suffering that was essentially willed by the world. I believe in free will, and nearly the entire world willed this death upon the Jews-for silence gives consent, and until the end of the war most of the world did not care for the destruction of the Jews. Thus, my belief is that the Holocaust was out of God's hands for so long because the world turned its back on the Jews, the gypsies, the homosexuals, and all others who were hunted down by the Nazis. In doing so it turned its back on goodness and, therefore, God. This is what stopped God from putting an end to the Holocaust; this is the reason so many evils were committed and so many people died: it is because nearly all of the world allowed them to, and therefore made them, .die. The will of a great majority of the world stopped the hand of God. On the one hand, this is a terrible thought-if the world becomes unbearably corrupt throughout, will God be unable to help us? On the other hand, it is somewhat beautiful to think of humanity as partners to God on Earth, with, as a whole, an equal, or nearly equal, say in what happens.

B'yachad

I have received some very nice comments from congregants on how beautiful the Sukkah looks. Thanks to the efforts of our chairperson, Martin Breznick, and his crew, Marc Chelemer, Ronald Arams, Art Lerman, Seth Kane and Michael Brummer that this was completed in spite of the horrible weather conditions on that day. I would also like to thank Joel and Diane Sturman for donating the Sukkah decorations. I'm quite fortunate to have the help and support of many people throughout the year for all of the B'yachad events. It is because of your devotion, B'yachad is a vibrant and very successful organization at Temple Emeth. Thanks to all of you for everything you do.

Elliot W. Steinberg B'yachad President



November

- 1 & 2 ECC Book Fair and Toy Sale
- 3 3rd and 4th grade Dinner & Israel Oneg
- 5 UJA Federation Mitzvah Day
 Network of Emeth Women Nature Hike
 11:00 a.m. at Lorrimer Sanctuary
- 12 B'yachad Breakfast 10:30 a.m.
- 16 Book group
- 17 Pot Luck Dinner 7:00 p.m.
- 22 No Religious School
- 23 Building closed
- 24 Office closed
- 26 No Religious School

Sukkot celebrations





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Temple Emeth Renaissance Group

Metropolitan Opera Backstage Tour

All Renaissance members are invited to take a once in a lifetime tour of the backstage area of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York's Lincoln Center on Sunday, November 12th. Carpools will leave from Temple Emeth at 8:45 a.m. Tickets are limited and reservations must be made immediately. The guided tour and shared transportation will cost \$25 per person. If you wish to also enjoy lunch at Josephina's Restaurant across from Lincoln Center there is an additional \$25 charge per person. For more information, or to reserve your place, please call Co-Chairs Elaine Pollack at 201-385-2085, elaine33@optonline.net, or Barbara Kaufman at 201-385-8433, BKaufmanNJ@aol.com.

B'YACHAD BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 19, 2006
Rabbi Sirbu will speak on

A WING AND A PRAYER

Evangelical Christian Chaplains at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado have been accused of improperly proselytizing at campus events.

Jewish cadets say they are made uncomfortable while the chaplains claim their right to free speech. Congressional policy on the issue keeps shifting and the Supreme Court has yet to rule.

Addressing the underlying issues, Rabbi Sirbu will tell us where the major Jewish organizations

All B'yachad breakfasts begin with a short service at 10:00 am.

The breakfast starts at 10:30 am.

This RSVP must be filled out and returned by November 10, 2006. If you do not respond by this date, you will be welcome to attend the lecture, but will not be able to join us for the breakfast.

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Join the Network of Emeth Women on Sunday, November 5th at the Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary in



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for our first (VERY EASY) hike plus
(bring your own) picnic lunch.
Wear layers and comfortable walking shoes.
Come enjoy a walk in the woods with the

Network of Emeth Women

The event is free for members
(\$5 for non-members)

and will take place weather permitting.

If you plan to join us, please contact Sharon Schubert at SharonLSchubert@ aol.com

Call Sharon for last minute inquiries if the weather is inclement at (201) 692-1246

If you would like to carpool from the Temple, let us know, otherwise, meet us at the Visitor's Center at 11:00 a.m.

Directions to Lorrimer Sanctuary – 790 Ewing Avenue From Route 287 (North or South): Take exit for Rt. 208 South and follow directions below.

From Rt. 208 (North or South): Take the Ewing Avenue Exit. Go South on Ewing Avenue through a blinker and a traffic light (intersection of Franklin Lakes Road). Proceed 200 yds. to our driveway on the right side (approximately 1 mile from Rt. 208)

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Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting October 12, 2006

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday night, October 12th. Forty trustees plus the Rabbi were present. The meeting focused on finance, during which the Board:

Received final FY 2005-2006 budget-to-actual financial reports.

Approved a motion advanced by the Finance Committee to obtain a Temple Emeth Visa Card that will permit small purchases by the office staff, subject to strict approval guidelines by Temple officers and overall credit limits.

Approved the expenditure of funds to pay for both new window treatments in the Social Hall and upgrades to the security system as well as accounting for those non-budgeted expenditures.

Heard about the revamped program on selling supermarket Gift Cards (formerly referred to as "Scrip") for another year with new controls as well as incentives. We now accept credit cards for Gift Card purchases. The program must significantly outperform FY 05-06 levels in order to be maintained.

Heard that the Temple will be offering to employees of the synagogue a short-term disability plan that will cover them if they are not able to work at the Temple for a period of up to six months.

The Board also:

Learned about preliminary repair work on damaged portions of the sanctuary ceiling by a specialized contractor late in the year.

Heard updates from the Rabbi, the President, and from the heads of various Committees on numerous upcoming events in the next 30 days.

Board minutes are available in the Temple office. Board of Trustee meetings are open to any Temple member; they take place the second Thursday of every month.

Questions? Please contact the Secretary,
Marc Chelemer, at marcchelemer@alum.mit.edu.
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