

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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www.emeth.org

Kislev/Tevet 5779 December 2018

**Temple
Emeth**
invites you
to the

19th Annual Chanukah Dinner

Bring your menorahs, candles, and friends!

Friday, December 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

All new 2018 Temple members are invited as our guests

Enjoy a Kosher meal followed by a Music Service at 8 p.m.

RSVP by December 1st

RSVP for the Chanukah Dinner ~ see page 7
For more information or to volunteer contact:
Kendall Seidenari at kdoll143@gmail.com

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School Office # 201 833-8466



ssirbu@emeth.org
cantoret@yahoo.com
dfriedman@emeth.org

rrudnick@emeth.org
mtursi @emeth.org
ehanan@emeth.org
bshater@emeth.org

president@emeth.org
firstvp@emeth.org
secondvp@emeth.org
thirdvp@emeth.org
secretary@emeth.org
asstsecretary@emeth.org
financialsecretary@emeth.org
asstfinancialofficer@emeth.org
treasurer@emeth.org

Barbara Balkin bulletin@emeth.org

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Marion Wolf and Judy Fox

<i>Bulletin Deadlines</i>			<i>Mid-Month Mailing Deadlines</i>	
<i><u>Month</u></i>	<i><u>Deadline Date</u></i>	<i><u>Publication Date</u></i>	<i><u>Deadline Date</u></i>	<i><u>Publication Date</u></i>
October	September 15	October 1	October 12	October 17
November	October 15	November 1	November 9	November 14
December	November 14	December 1	December 12	December 18
January	December 15	January 2	January 10	January 16
February	January 15	February 1	February 11	February 19
March	February 15	March 1	March 8	March 13
April	March 15	April 1	April 9	April 16
May	April 15	May 1	May 8	May 15
June	May 15	June 3	June 10	June 17

Rochelle Rudnick at rrudnick@emeth.org cc: ehanan@emeth.org

For additional information, call (201) 833-1322

Message From the Rabbi

The American Jewish community is still coping with how to understand the murder of eleven Jews at a synagogue in Pittsburgh in October. Was this, the deadliest hate crime against Jews on American soil, merely the act of an individual consumed with hatred toward Jews and immigrants? Or did it emerge from an atmosphere of increased hostility against Jews and other minorities which has been well documented over the last three years? How do we reconcile the fear of having been targeted with the comfort of having the support of peace-loving people of all walks of life attend vigils across the country?

There are no easy answers. But to help us process this tragedy, I would like to share with you some of the words I offered following the attack.

The week after the attack, Temple Emeth hosted a Solidarity Shabbat Gathering and participated in the #ShowUpForShabbat initiative. At the event, held in the sanctuary, we unrolled our Holocaust Torah completely, sang songs of comfort, read the names of the eleven victims, and offered memorial prayers.



In preparation for unrolling the Torah, I highlighted four verses which I found fitting for the occasion, each with a few sentences of commentary:

The first was Genesis 1:27: “God created the human being in His image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.” Violence will cease to consume us only when we see every other person as a child of God, each with a spark of God nestled in their soul, each deserving of the dignity and honor we would offer directly to God.

The next was Exodus 23:9: “Do not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt.” It is this verse and dozens of similar verses that motivate Jewish advocacy for refugees. Tree of Life

Congregation and Temple Emeth both have an affiliation with HIAS, and both observed National Refugee Shabbat on October 19th. Our mandate, we know now, is not just to advocate for refugees, but to educate about them, to make sure everyone understands that most are women and children fleeing famine and violence, simply seeking a better life on these shores and ready to contribute to the society that welcomes them.



Rabbi Steven Sirbu

The next verse was Leviticus 19:18: “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your kinsfolk. Love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” Our country is bitterly divided, and the deep divisions can easily lead to hatred. Hatred can lead to murder. The Torah wants us to abandon vengeance and grudges, and pursue a path of love. It is perhaps the most difficult commandment in the entire Torah, but we know now more than ever how important it is to pursue.

Finally, I quoted Deuteronomy 25:17-19—“Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey after you left Egypt, how undeterred by fear of God, he surprised you on the march, when you were famished and weary and cut down all the stragglers in your rear. You shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!” In keeping with the previous verse, the Torah is so unaccustomed to holding a grudge, that the main place it tells us to hold a grudge is contradictory. We are simultaneously to blot out the memory of Amalek and not to forget. I chose this verse, not because we need to be told not to forget. Rather, I chose this verse because it describes why Amalek is chosen for this vilification. Amalek attacks the stragglers, the weakest in the community. Looking at the list of victims, most were either elderly or disabled. They posed no threat to anyone. But they were the targets because the terrorist, like Amalek, was cowardly and without conscience.

The tragedy in Pittsburgh may get us to think differently about online hate speech. It may cause us to be more vigilant about who tries to enter our building. But it cannot change our core values as described in these verses.

No matter what adversity we face, we will always affirm the divine image in every human being, empathize with the stranger, promote love in our community, and oppose the desecration of God that comes through senseless violence. As we mourn this loss and debate its implications, let us never stray from these ideals.

From the Religious School

“Make space in your life for things that matter, for family and friends, love & generosity, fun & joy.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

A great Hasidic Master used the candle lighting of Chanukah as a time to focus on increasing the “light” in our world. On Chanukah, (this year the first candle is on Sunday evening, December 2 - 24 Kislev) we light candles in hopes of rekindling the lights of our tradition within ourselves and sharing that light with the world.

The *Midrash* (a legend based on the Torah) tells a story that when God created the world, God wanted to paint everything with a special kind of light so that the world would shine with goodness. The light was so powerful it had to be stored away in a huge jar. But when God opened the jar it tipped over and shattered. The sparks of light flew out and all of us are meant to find these shards of light and use them to fix the world – *Tikkun Olam*. Our Religious School is proud to offer our students and families many opportunities to fulfill the *Mitzvot* of kindness, friendship, and sharing Chanukah joy and light.

On Wednesday, December 5 grades 3 – 7 will gather for our annual “Chanukah in The Hall” celebration. Students will then travel to Holy Name Medical Center to perform Chanukah music as part of the Music &

Mitzvah program which was initiated and is taught by Cantor Tilem, accompanied by Adam Kohane.



Dora Geld Friedman

This Chanukah season, we can all spread the light of the world by participating in activities with friends and family.

Light the “Chanukiah”- Menorah - each night of Chanukah and tell stories of heroism and courage.

Prepare meals and bake Chanukah goodies with your children.

Play dreidel and sing Chanukah songs.

Give gifts to others including the homeless and elderly.

Celebrating Jewish holidays together helps us all claim our Jewish heritage and shape our children’s Jewish identity in a positive and meaningful way.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Saturday, December 8 “Chanukah Family Fun” for children ages 3 – 6 with a parent or grandparent from 9:30 – 10:45. Free admission but RSVP required. 201.833.8466 bshter@emeth.org

B’vracha,
Dora Geld Friedman



Students help close the Temple garden on November 18th.



Mora Dora showed students the Museum exhibit posters about the 70th Anniversary of Israel.

Temple Emeth Religious School invites you to “**Chanukah Family Fun**” for a morning of music, stories, dance, and crafts on **Saturday, December 8, 2018** at 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. for children ages 3 – 6 with a parent or grandparent. Bring a friend! **FREE ADMISSION – RSVP REQUIRED – 201.833.8466**

Temple Emeth Religious School invites you to “**Chanukah Spin & Sing**” on **Sunday, December 9, 2018** from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. for children in grades K – 7. Come and enjoy dreidel games, sing, dance, and eat lots of latkes. **FREE ADMISSION – RSVP REQUIRED 201.833.8466**



Message from President Amy Abrams

Welcome to December, a snowy, dark month with lots of points of light! For us, it starts off with Bazaar on December 2, a full day of fun and craziness that also serves as one of our major fundraisers. We continue with Chanukah, bringing light and joy to our Social Hall with the Chanukah Dinner, where all our menorahs glow brightly together along the front of the stage.

I hope all of you reading this were able to attend our Town Hall Meeting on November 18. We had an extensive discussion of security, with many helpful questions and suggestions. If you were unable to come and still have questions about our security procedures, please feel free to call or email me. For the second part of the meeting, Nickie Falk led us in some very productive small group meetings to analyze the Temple's challenges and opportunities. All of the suggestions will be presented to the Board as consideration of where the congregation would like to see us focus in the near future. I will keep you advised if any strong consensus emerges.

We ran so short on time at the Town Hall Meeting that we never actually got to our financial update! I can tell you briefly that we are generally on budget as far as expenses go, although we may be stretching our maintenance and capital budgets a little after we complete a few security updates and pay for the few extra times that we expect to need off-duty police. As last year, the capital reserve is behind in its funding by about \$40,000, although we did receive a very nice donation to it. Last year, however, we only met our reserve goal after additional income from TEEF and the generous bequest from June Moss Handler. This shortage should not affect us negatively this year, but again, the purpose of the reserve is to anticipate upcoming capital needs, so please do consider this as you review your pledges.

I am pleased to say that our receipts are in good order. Pledges are 61% paid as of the end of the first quarter. The total of pledges made increased by 1-1/2%. We have 12 new members since July 1 and now have a total of 344 households.

In previous years, we have typically experienced an end of year surge in payments of dues and pledges. Last year we had many prepayments of this year's pledges due to the change in the tax laws. This year, we are not sure what to expect. If you are over 70 and have an IRA, you may have some tax-saving options discussed elsewhere in this Bulletin. In any event, please make every effort to continue paying your pledge according to the schedule you committed to, as we base our projected payment abilities and budget considerations on the projected cash flow from your payments. If you have any problems meeting your pledge, you can of course contact our Financial Secretary, Michael

Robinson. Early payments, or pledge increases, or additional donations, are of course welcome at any time!

So. Back to December. We actually have two very different events during Chanukah. First, our annual Chanukah Dinner welcoming new members is on December 7. It sounds like lots of jelly donut and dreidel-playing fun this year, so please join us there, bring your menorah, and light your candles with the whole community. The stage with all the menorahs lit is always a wonderful sight to see. Immediately after dinner will be our December Family Service (I get a lollipop for my birthday this month!). Notably, Cantor Tilem will be leading our youngest choir from her Music and Mitzvah classes at Holy Name Medical Center the preceding Wednesday, warming up for their Temple appearance at the Family Service and bringing joy to those who are hospitalized during the holiday.

Second, Rabbi Sirbu will be leading a group to Port Jervis, New York, where we will commemorate a lynching that occurred there in 1892 and collect soil, which our Alabama Temple Trip will deliver to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery. There our local soil will

be added to that surrounding the memorials for victims of lynching nationwide. This trip will be a solemn and moving introduction to the civil rights themes our Alabama trip will highlight, and also offer a chance for any of you who are unable to attend that trip to be a part of this emotional experience of learning more about the history of racial violence in our country.

In that vein, I also remind you that we will be hosting Joseph J. Levin Jr., co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, on January 12 as one of our One Book One Community events. Mr. Levin should be a fascinating speaker. As an added incentive, we will enjoy lunch cooked by volunteers (contact Lynne Graizel if you're interested) from the Southern Jewish cookbook, Matzo Ball Gumbo. The OBOC book this year is Among the Living by Jonathan Rabb. It is the story of a 31-year-old Holocaust survivor who emigrates to Savannah to live with his remaining family. You will want to read this one before the author speaks at the culminating event in the spring.

But I digress again, and now I'm short on space. The rest of December holds the usual incredible variety of programming that Temple Emeth always offers. Adult Ed classes, Book Group, Movies, a Flute and Violin Music Service on December 21, and Shelve and Schmooze in the Library on December 16. I encourage you to peruse the calendar, find something that interests you, and come meet some new people. I hope to see you there!



Amy Abrams

Amy Abrams



**Temple Emeth, in collaboration with
The Legacy Museum and the
National Memorial for Peace and
Justice**

**Racial Justice Field Trip to Port
Jervis, NY - Soil Collection Project**

Sunday, December 9 from 12:00-5:30 p.m.

When our congregational trip arrives in Alabama in February, we will visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Both highlight the forgotten history of racial terror lynchings. At least 4,400 people were lynched between 1877 and 1950. The Museum and Memorial display soil collected from sites where lynchings took place. Community groups collect the soil as a way of acknowledging this history and sanctifying the sacrifice of the victims. Lynchings were not confined to the South. One took place in 1892 in Port Jervis, NY. On December 9, our Temple Emeth community will travel as a group to Port Jervis to that lynching site to collect soil. In February, we will present it to the staff of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), the organization that runs the museum and memorial.

Our journey to Port Jervis will begin with a short educational program and lunch at the Temple. We will then ride by bus to Port Jervis where we will conduct a brief "Ceremony to Commemorate History and Sanctify Holy Ground", after which we will return to the Temple. Upon our return, we will light Chanukah candles together. All participants will be asked to spend at least 30 minutes reviewing the EJI website section on lynching, <https://eji.org/racial-justice/legacy-lynching>, prior to the December 9 trip. In addition, copies of EJI's Report on Lynching in America are available to be borrowed. This trip is open to all Temple members. The cost is \$40 per person, which includes lunch, transportation, a snack and a donation to the EJI. Please register for the trip by submitting the form below with payment to Temple Emeth. Please leave it with the office or place it in the Social Action Committee mailbox. RSVPs must be received with payment by Monday, December 3rd. For more information, contact

Lynn Chaiken at lynn.chaiken@gmail.com or

Rabbi Steven Sirbu at ssirbu@emeth.org.

Port Jervis trip RSVP

-----PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY-----

NAMES _____

_____ will join the December 9 trip.

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is payment of \$40 per person by check or please charge my Mastercard or Visa

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. date _____ Security Code _____



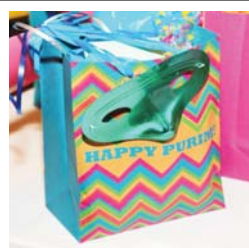
Join Temple Emeth Viewpoints for a discussion following a special screening of this new independent documentary:

"TRANS"

"Trans" is a documentary that takes the viewer into the transgender world through the stories and lives of seven different individuals. It has won the Best Documentary Award at five different independent film festivals. This program is free and open to the community. You just have to let us know that you're coming. RSVP your name to Viewpoints@emeth.org or just give us a call at 201.833.1322



Shabbaton, Saturday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m.



**SHALACH
MANOT
2019**

**It's beginning to feel a lot like...
Watch your mail for the annual**

Shalach Manot Mailing!

Help stuff the mailing on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., at a non-Temple location (we'll tell you where!—call the numbers below)

And mark your calendar now:

Thursday, March 14, 2019 - Packing Shalach Manot - 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Temple

Sunday, March 17, 2019 - Delivering Shalach Manot at your convenience all over Bergen County

New Members are especially encouraged to help—it's a fun way to meet new people! Community service credit available—great Bar/Bat Mitzvah project!

Any questions about these dates or about ordering Shalach Manot, contact Judy at jsfoxrk@aol.com or Eva at quitocutie@aol.com

SHALACH MANOT 2019

Social Action in Action

Temple Emeth members participate in the Family Promise Walk-In Dinner Program twice a year. In addition, for two weeks every year we work with Family Promise and Temple Emeth becomes a Family Shelter.

What is Family Promise? Family Promise is the only organization in Bergen County dedicated to providing shelter and support to working families who become homeless.

Thank You!

On October 23, we prepared and served 117 dinners and received this thank you from Margo Heller, Director of Volunteers, Family Promise:

"Thank you for volunteering at the Family Promise Walk-In Dinner Program this month. We hope you will pass this along and extend our appreciation to all of the volunteers who participated (or will be participating) with you. This program is vital to the homeless and hungry in our community, and we couldn't do it without you! We are so grateful for your time, your kindness, your generosity, your service, and the delicious, nutritious meals provided by the best volunteers in the world! Thanks to you, The Family Promise Walk-In Dinner Program has been running for over 27 years. In that time, over 1.2 million meals have been served!"

Thanks to all the Walk-in-Dinner participants (and there are a lot, between preparing the food and serving it!). **Special thanks to Karyle Goldstein and her family, who, year after year, organize the volunteers and the dinners and work very hard to make this happen. (They also are in charge of the High Holiday Food Drive!)**

Reminder

Join Us in December as Temple Emeth Becomes a Family Shelter

Be a part of our team of volunteers from December 16 to December 23, 2018. Our biggest need is for SLEEPERS (2 per night, 8:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.). Women, in particular, are needed. Comfortable beds provided! Post B'nai Mitzvah teens, accompanied by at least one parent may also sleep over. Teens can receive community credit on request. Temple Emeth parents are now encouraged to play with and/or read to the guest children. COOKS and SERVERS are also needed. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact Elaine Bergman, ejb1734@msn.com.

Next meeting is on December 9 at 9:45 a.m.



Kristallnacht
80th
Anniversary
Shabbat
with speakers
David Fox and
his sister
Barbara
Luciano
from Temple
Avodat Shalom



RSVP for Chanukah Dinner on

Friday, December 7, 2018

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

	setting up	serving	cleaning up
# Member Adults	_____	@ \$25 per person =	\$ _____
# Non-Member Adults	_____	@ \$30 per person =	\$ _____
# Children, ages 4-12	_____	@ \$10 per person =	\$ _____
# Children, ages 3 and under (free)	_____		
# of new or sustaining 2017 Temple members			
adults:	_____	children:	_____ (free)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

**For more information or to volunteer contact:
Kendall Seidenari at kdoll143@gmail.com**

Services and S'machot

23rd of Kislev 5779
Friday, November 30th

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

Saturday, December 1st

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.
Pulpit-Pew Dialogue on Judaism and Human Rights
Haftarah - Amos 2:6-3:8

Torah Portion - Vayeishev: Gen. 37:1-40:23

30th of Kislev 5779
Friday, December 7th

Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh
Family Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.
Emeth Joint Choirs Sing

Saturday, December 8th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion - Mikeitz: Gen. 37:1-40:23

Haftarah - Zech. 4:1-7

7th of Tevet 5779
Friday, December 14th

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

Saturday, December 15th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion - Vayigash: Gen. 44:18-47:27

Haftarah - Ezek. 37:15-28

14th of Tevet 5779
Friday, December 21st

Shabbat Va-y'chi
Flute and Violin Music Service at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 22nd

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion - Va-y'chi: Gen. 47:28-50:26

Haftarah - I Kings 2:1-12

21st of Tevet 5779
Friday, December 28th

Shabbat Sh'mot
Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 29th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion - Sh'mot: Ex. 1:1-6:1

Haftarah - Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 23rd of Kislev 5779 Intro to NFTY-GER Weekend 9:00am - 10:15am Torah Study 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service - Pulpit-Pew Dialogue on Judaism and Human Rights
2 24th of Kislev, Hanukkah Intro to NFTY-GER Weekend 9:00am - 11:00am Religious School Classes 9:30am - 3:30pm Bazaar	3 25th of Kislev, Hanukkah 10:30am - 12:00pm Yiddish Class	4 26th of Kislev, Hanukkah	5 27th of Kislev, Hanukkah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 4:00pm - 5:15pm Religious School Classes Grades 3-7 4:45pm - 5:15pm Chanukah in the Hallway 5:15pm - 7:00pm Music and Mitzvah Sings at Holy Name Medical Center 7:45pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal	6 28th of Kislev, Hanukkah 7:45pm - 8:45pm Officers' Meeting	7 29th of Kislev, Hanukkah 4:09pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm - 7:30pm Annual Chanukah Dinner 7:30pm - 8:30pm Family Shabbat Service - Emeth Joint Choirs	8 30th of Kislev, Hanukkah 9:00am - 10:15am Torah Study 9:30am - 10:45am Holiday Family Fun 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service 2:30pm - 4:30pm Viewpoints Shabbaton: Screening of "TRANS"
9 1st of Tevet, Hanukkah 9:00am - 11:00am Religious School Classes 9:45am - 11:00am Social Action Committee Meeting 10:00am - 11:00am Adult Ed: "The Three Books of the Bible You've Never Heard Of" 12:00pm - 5:30pm Congregational and ETC Trip to Port Jervis	10 2nd of Tevet, Hanukkah 10:30am - 12:00pm Yiddish Class	11 3rd of Tevet 5779 7:45pm - 9:15pm Adult Education Committee Meeting	12 4th of Tevet 5779 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 4:00pm - 6:00pm Religious School Classes Grades 3-7 7:30pm - 8:30pm Viewpoints Committee Meeting 7:45pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal	13 5th of Tevet 5779 7:45pm - 9:15pm Board of Trustees Meeting	14 6th of Tevet 5779 4:10pm Candle Lighting 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Service	15 7th of Tevet 5779 9:00am - 10:15am Torah Study 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service
16 8th of Tevet 5779 9:00am - 11:00am Religious School Classes 9:00am - 12:00pm Shelve and Schmooze	17 9th of Tevet 5779 10:30am - 12:00pm Yiddish Class	18 10th of Tevet 5779 7:30pm - 9:30pm Movies that Mattered: "Avalon"	19 11th of Tevet 5779 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 4:00pm - 6:00pm Religious School Classes Grades 3-7 7:45pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal	20 12th of Tevet 5779 7:30pm - 8:30pm Book Group: "Among the Living"	21 13th of Tevet 5779 4:13pm Candle Lighting 8:00pm - 9:00pm Flute and Violin Music Service	22 14th of Tevet 5779 9:00am - 10:15am Torah Study 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service
23 15th of Tevet 5779 No Religious School	24 16th of Tevet 5779 Office Closed	25 17th of Tevet 5779 Building Closed	26 18th of Tevet 5779 No Religious School	27 19th of Tevet 5779 10:00am - 11:00am Shalach Manot Mailing	28 20th of Tevet 5779 4:18pm Candle Lighting 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Service	29 21st of Tevet 5779 9:00am - 10:15am Torah Study 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service
30 22nd of Tevet 5779 No Religious School	31 23rd of Tevet 5779 Office Closed					

For up-to-the-minute event information, additions, cancellations, or make-up classes go to www.emeth.org
A version of the calendar is online at <http://www.emeth.org/monthly-calendar>

Good & Welfare

The congregation mourns the loss of **Bradford Hoey**, son of **Janis and Donald Hoey** and brother of **Alexandra**.

Condolences to...

Helene and Mel Sandler on the loss of their nephew, **Jason Schulman**.

Norman Ivers on the loss of his mother, **Lillian Ivers**.

Mazel Tov to...

Meredith Alvaro Gebhart in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, **Allegra Florence Alvaro**, and Mazel Tov to her proud stepfather, **Pete Gebhart**.

Sandrine and Robert Kravitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jeremy Pierre Kravitz**. Mazel Tov also to the proud grandparents, **Brenda and Alvin Kravitz**, and proud aunt and uncle, **Jill Kravitz and James Kirsch**.

Get Well Wishes to...

Paul Woods

Wendy Filowitz

Welcome back members

Steve & Sharon Birke

"MOVIES THAT MATTERED" A Film Series Follow-Up to "The Jewish Experience Through Cinema"



2018-19 Movie schedule:

**Avalon (1990) - Tuesday,
December 18**

Our journey exploring the Jewish experience in cinema continues with our next MOVIE THAT MATTERED. It is the story of a Jewish immigrant family and its assimilation during the second half of the twentieth century. "AVALON" is often a warm and funny film, but it is also a sad one. The movie probes how the warmth and closeness of an extended family is replaced by alienation and isolation. Technology gets a lot of the blame. Join us on December 18 at 7:30 p.m. to see how it goes.

**The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz (1974) -
Saturday, January 19**

White Palace (1990) - Tuesday, February 5

Liberty Heights (1990) - Tuesday, March 12

Keeping Up With The Steins (2006) - Tuesday, April 23

Defiance (2008) - Tuesday, May 28

Private Benjamin (1980) - Tuesday, June 18

POSSIBLE YEAR-END TAX BENEFITS for SOME

2018 is almost over and many of you are thinking about ways you can reduce your taxes before the year end. Here is a suggestion from which congregants **who are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA** may be able to benefit. Instead of making cash contributions to your favorite tax exempt organizations (including Temple Emeth), have the amount you wish to contribute transferred directly from your IRA to the organization's bank account. What does this accomplish? After age 70 ½, you are required to withdraw certain minimum amounts from your IRA, and this would normally be taxable income to you. If you qualify, a direct transfer under the above circumstances would not be taxable. However, it will also not be deductible if you are itemizing your deductions, as a cash contribution would be. So what's the big deal? If the above suggestion eliminates both the taxable income AND the tax deduction, what's the advantage? The advantage exists for some because under the new tax law, some of us will no longer be itemizing our tax deductions (including contributions) because the standard deduction (taken in lieu of itemizing) has been almost doubled and may now exceed the benefit of itemizing. As a result, for some people, the tax benefit of deducting a cash contribution will be reduced or eliminated, while the cash withdrawal from your IRA will still be taxable. By making a direct transfer from your IRA instead, you also eliminate the taxable income. Under the new law, a married couple with a low 6 figure taxable income will be at least in a 22% marginal Federal tax bracket. Thus under the right circumstances, you can save at least \$220 in Federal Taxes for every \$1,000 of contributions.

Please Note: If you believe you may benefit from this, you should **consult your tax advisor** as to the viability of the above suggestion. Temple Emeth is not a tax advisor and takes no responsibility if you implement this suggestion. If you ultimately decide to act on this with respect to your voluntary contributions to Temple Emeth, please contact our bookkeeper, Maryanne Tursi, with the date of transfer, amount, and identifying transfer number, so that we are aware of it and can look out for your IRA transfers

Save the Date

Rabbi Louis J. Sigel Scholar-in-Residence Weekend April 12 - 14, 2019

with Rabbi David Saperstein

Director Emeritus, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Senior Advisor to the URJ for Policy and Strategy, Former U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rachael Sugarman in gratitude to Cantor Tilem for her kind words and beautiful music

EMETH TEEN COMMUNITY FUND

Gayle and Michael Goldberg Mazel Tov to Jeremy Kravitz on his Bar Mitzvah
Mazel Tov to Allegra Alvaro on her Bat Mitzvah

ILANA HED RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Dora Friedman in memory of Bradford Hoey, beloved son of Janis and Donald Hoey, beloved brother of Alexandra Hoey

LIBRARY FUND

Janice Lipsitz in loving memory of her husband, Lawrence Lipsitz

MUSIC FUND

Betty Ann and Harold Marcus in memory of Betty Ann's mother, Sharma Breverman
Pam and Jeff Etzin wishing Dan and Joy Firshein Mazel Tov on their new grandson

PAUL S. LAZAR CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Fran Butensky in memory of Jeal Sugarman, husband of Rachael Sugarman
Judy and Bob Eichinger in memory of Bradford Hoey, son of Janis and Donald Hoey, brother of Alexandra Hoey

RABBI LOUIS J. SIGEL

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Barbara Balkin in gratitude to Judy Fox

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rachael Sugarman in gratitude to Rabbi Sirbu for his caring presence and help

RITUAL COMMITTEE FUND

Gayle and Michael Goldberg Mazel Tov to Janice Preschel on receiving the Wise "Younger" Woman Award

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Ann and Bob Levenstein in honor of Janice Preschel, WOW Woman of the Year
Carla and Larry Silver in memory of Jeal Sugarman, husband of Rachael Sugarman

STRAUSSMAN MEMORIAL YOUTH AWARD FUND

Brenda and Bill Weiss in memory of Jeal Sugarman, husband of Rachael Sugarman

TEMPLE EMETH FUND

Sydell Yegelwel in memory of Jeal Sugarman, husband of Rachael Sugarman
Geri Kaufman in memory of Jeal Sugarman, husband of Rachael Sugarman

TEMPLE EMETH BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Fran LaBarbera in memory of her mother, Minnie Shapiro

YAHREZEIT FUND

Bunny and Nathan Ritzer in memory of Bunny's father, Julius Spielman
Glenda and Martin Adelman in memory of their mothers, Alice Sorsher and Pauline Adelman
Sue and Phil Keusch in memory of Isabel Hammel, mother of Sue Keusch
Francine Einiger in memory of her husband, Richard Einiger
Robbie Liblit in memory of her husband, Jerry Liblit
Robbie Liblit in memory of her mother, Helen Abrams
Deborah and Jim Veach in memory of Jim's father, James F. Veach
Ina and Michael Silverstein in memory of Ina's father, Joseph Farb



Solidarity Shabbat November 3rd
Honoring the eleven victims from Tree of Life
Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

HELLO BAZAAR BAKE TABLE CONTRIBUTORS

Greetings to all of you who have contributed to the Bazaar Bake Table in recent years and new members. Bazaar 2018 will take place on Sunday, December 2nd. We hope that you will contribute goodies, home baked or store bought, to our table. Every year we sell out everything you have donated! Let us know if you're able to help this year by replying to twbinder@aol.com, or by phoning Carlene at 201-836-0226. Let's make Bazaar 2018 our best yet!! Please be sure to label your donations with the name of the item and any important information e.g. "contains nuts," "sugar-free," etc. As always, the best time to deliver your baked goods is the morning of Bazaar, directly to the Bake Table. If you're bringing your items earlier, leave them in the Temple kitchen on the counter or in the refrigerator or freezer, clearly labeled Bake Table.



Thanks again!
Teri & Carlene

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library

Monthly News Update: *Among the Living*

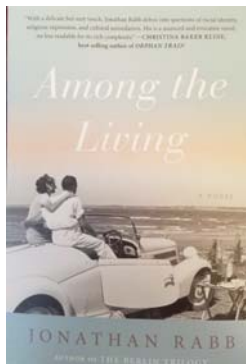
By Marion Wolf

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION



The Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library has acquired Jonathan Rabb's novel Among the Living. If you read this book, you won't be alone; it is the subject of this year's One Book One Community program.

Each year since 2012 the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey has picked a book to be the focus of shared conversations in synagogues and other Jewish organizations throughout the area. All these institutions offer programs exploring the book's themes. On June 6, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. there is a culminating event, when all are invited to hear the author speak and enjoy dessert. (The place for this year's event is yet to be announced). Participants involved in One Book One Community have found it richly rewarding—whether they've read about the Spanish Inquisition or hiding Jews in Warsaw's zoo during German occupation. Books have included both fiction and non-fiction, even a cookbook. Temple Emeth has been involved in One Book One Community since its inception. This year's title takes us to Savannah, Georgia,



where 31-year-old Yitzhak Goldah arrives in 1947 to live with his only remaining relatives, Abe and Pearl Jesler. Goldah has come from the concentration camps and has survived unspeakable horrors that the Jews of Savannah, who lived through the war in comfort, cannot even imagine. Their world is strange to Goldah, who is puzzled by the animosity between Reform and Conservative Jews and by the way that black people are treated. He finds himself identifying more with those who are oppressed than with his relatives. He becomes involved with a Sephardic woman—something not done!—and it seems as though he is about to make a fresh start. But then a woman from his past, another Holocaust survivor, arrives. They'd been engaged. He had thought she'd been killed by the Nazis, but there she is in Savannah. Emotionally she is a wreck. Yitzhak must decide what he owes to her and whether he should return to her.

Read Among the Living—find out what Yitzhak Goldah decides, and join the Jewish community's conversation.

B'yachad breakfast
with Sandi Klein
on
November 18th



Congratulations to Janice Preschel, presented with the WOW Woman of the Year award at the 2018 Teaneck International Film Festival which took place at Temple Emeth on November 4th.



Town Hall meeting on November 18th



CONTRIBUTION FORM

\$ _____ Enclosed (\$10 minimum) Fund Name _____

Contributed by _____

Send Acknowledgment to: _____

Address _____

Message _____

Use this form to send an acknowledgment for life cycle events to your friends and family and at the same time perform the mitzvah of tzedaka. Call the office with any questions.

Contributory Funds – contributions are deposited in the Temple Emeth Funds Account and drawn for use by the designated committee

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| • Beautification Fund | • Paul S. Lazar Caring Community Fund | • Children's Worship Fund |
| • College Kids Fund | • Emeth Teen Community Fund | • Environment Fund |
| • Abe Golomb Religious School Scholarship Fund | • Ilana Hed Religious School Fund | • Inscribed Prayerbook Fund (\$50 minimum) |
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Visit the Temple website at www.emeth.org

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at
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rrudnick@emeth.org

Our calendar is quite busy; please be certain to
book your event soon!



Planning an event, meeting or activity at the Temple? An on-line version of the "green form" for room reservations is now available at: <http://www.emeth.org/events/green.php>

Tree of Life

Located in the Temple lobby, the Tree of Life provides an opportunity to share life's special occasions with your Temple family. Loved ones, friends and members of the congregation are able to create permanent remembrances of their joyous events so that future generations can look upon our yesterday as having been filled with hopes, dreams and accomplishments. Order yours now! You will enjoy visiting the Temple and finding your leaf. To order, please call Rochelle in the Temple office at (201) 833-1322.

Memorial Plaques

This is a wonderful way to honor your departed loved ones by purchasing a permanent plaque in our Sanctuary. It will evoke fond memories to see their names on our Memorial wall. When you purchase these plaques, one is permanently placed on the Memorial wall and the second larger one is displayed on the actual week of the yahrzeit. The cost is \$375 FOR BOTH PLAQUES. You may also buy and reserve plaques in advance. See Rochelle Rudnick in the office if you would like to make a purchase.

Minutes from the October 11, 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting

Rabbi's Report. Rabbi Sirbu noted that the trip to Alabama is over-subscribed. He is doing a preliminary training trip to prepare for the Congregation's trip. He also reported on the Camp Harlam presentation at the October 5 services, noting that while the service was well attended and the congregation enthusiastic, only one family attended the recruitment meeting.

Cantor's Report. Cantor Tilem focused on the new music program in the Religious School (which is replacing the prior junior Etz Chaim rehearsals). The program is called "Music and Mitzvah" and is connected to the school curriculum. Adam Kohane is acting as accompanist, using a guitar, which is very popular with the children.

Cantor Tilem noted that Adam Kohane is getting paid and she will need to find funding in the budget for him. She noted that with the changes in the program, Eric Clark is no longer acting as accompanist for the junior Etz Chaim rehearsals, so perhaps an adjustment can be made to his contract.

Administrator's Report. Rochelle Rudnick noted that repairs to the building are on-going. In particular, the stage floor (which had severe buckling) is being replaced. She got 4 bids, ranging from approximately \$7,700 to over \$10,000, and selected the low bid, Amazing Floors, at \$7,752. The flooring will be vinyl planks. The goal is to have the floor in condition to be walked on (even if not completely done) by November 1, when the Teaneck Film Festival starts.

Ms. Rudnick noted that the website with Shul Cloud is up and running. The administration staff is in the midst of a process of uploading trial runs of data, and training sessions. This process will take a few months. In the meantime, the old systems are still in place.

Ms. Rudnick also noted that thermostats in the Sanctuary and Social Hall sometimes get adjusted during services or events, and then are not restored to the scheduled setting. This causes unnecessary expense as the heat or AC is kept running over the weekend at a level that is not needed. She has begun training Board members on how to use the thermostats. Amy Abrams asked the board members to be aware of this issue when they were on the bimah.

Finally, she reported that the custodian Mike has retired. He was the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday custodian and the only one paid directly by the Temple. He has been replaced by custodians supplied by Nemco, who provides the other custodians.

Motion to Ratify Amazing Floors. After Ms. Rudnick completed her report, Amy Abrams moved that the Board

formally ratify the selection of Amazing Floors to replace the stage flooring with vinyl flooring at a bid of \$7,752. Michael Robinson seconded. There was no further discussion and the Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion of Yom Kippur Services. Rabbi Sirbu described the changes made to the Yom Kippur Services and invited comments from the Board. Discussion ensued.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports. Gary Richards reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday, October 8. The topics were (a) cleaning up the balance sheet, and (b) past due voluntary commitments. He invited anyone who was interested to come to future meetings. Michael Robinson reported on the status of the voluntary commitment collections. As of September 30, 64% of total commitments (including prepaid amounts) have been collected.

There is a total of approximately \$12,000 in past due commitments. He noted that compared to past years, essentially the same people are paying approximately the same amount they have always paid, but that collections are up.

President's Report. Amy Abrams gave her report, focused on three topics:

1. Committee Chairs and Board Liaisons. She asked each board member to talk to the chair of the committees for which they are liaison and ask the chair to prepare their reports in a timely fashion, and also to inquire about the committee's budget process, including what funds are needed and where they anticipate getting them.

There was an extended discussion of the funding of committees.

2. Town Hall Meeting. The next Town Hall is scheduled for November 18 in the morning. Ms. Abrams asked for suggestions on discussion topics.

3. Clergy Evaluations. Ms. Abrams noted that she will be circulating evaluation forms and urged Trustees to consider them carefully.

Other Business. Marc Chelemer reported that Marisol in her spare time at work has sorted all of the donations to date for the bazaar, saving the bazaar committee a tremendous amount of work and he wanted to thank her. Marc also noted that more donations are urgently needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Risa Rosenberg
Secretary

OPERA SHABBATON

Date: March 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Opera: **Carmen** composed by Georges Bizet with libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevy
New York Metropolitan Opera production starring Elina Garanča and Roberto Alagna.

Featuring lecturer David Rosenmayer

Reserve by March 15, 2019: \$20 March 16 - 22, 2019: \$25 At the door: \$30.



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