

Temple Emeth

Bulletin

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

Volume 77 Number 4

www.emeth.org

Tevet/Shevat 5784

January 2024

Temple Gala - June 1, 2024

Save the Date!

Celebrating five women who are

Lighting the Way



Cynthia Massarsky
Devotion Award



Nickie Falk
Past President



Linda Poskanzer
Devotion Award



Hildy Dillon
Heal the World / Activism Award

Gala 2024

Help us keep the light burning!
Help Wanted / Needed / Appreciated
This evening of well-deserved
recognition for a Fabulous Five
needs YOUR assistance! Please
look inside for the Gala Help
Wanted Ad on page 6, and sign on to
join us in creating a magical event!



Karyle Goldstein
Heal the World / Activism Award

TEMPLE EMETH

1666 Windsor Road Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

www.emeth.org

Main Office # 201 833-1322



SINCE 1947

RABBI Steven Sirbu ssirbu@emeth.org
CANTOR Ellen S. Tilem cantoret@yahoo.com
RABBI EMERITUS Louis J. Sigel z"l



TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR Suzannah Mercado smercado@emeth.org
BOOKKEEPER Maryanne Tursi mtursi@emeth.org
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Alison Reiser areiser@emeth.org



PRESIDENT Michael Goldberg president@emeth.org
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Marc Chelemer firstvp@emeth.org
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT Lisa Eig secondvp@emeth.org
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT Stacey Butler thirdvp@emeth.org
SECRETARY Marty Breznick secretary@emeth.org
ASSISTANT SECRETARY Marsha Sobel asstsecretary@emeth.org
FINANCIAL SECRETARY Alan Winters financialsecretary@emeth.org
ASSISTANT FINANCIAL OFFICER Paula Dillon asstfinancialofficer@emeth.org
TREASURER Gary Richards treasurer@emeth.org

EDITOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, LAYOUT, GRAPHIC DESIGNER & ADVERTISING:

Barbara Balkin bulletin@emeth.org

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Marion Wolf and Judy Fox

From the Editor - Flyers are for the weekly or mid-month email and should be sent to Suzannah Mercado at smercado@emeth.org cc: areiser@emeth.org

<i>Bulletin Deadlines</i>			<i>Mid-Month Mailing Deadlines</i>	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
September	August 18	September 1	September 10	September 16
October	September 18	October 1	October 12	October 17
November	October 18	November 1	November 9	November 14
December	November 18	December 1	December 12	December 18
January	December 18	January 3	January 10	January 16
February	January 18	February 1	February 11	February 19
March	February 17	March 1	March 8	March 13
April	March 17	April 1	April 9	April 16
May	April 18	May 1	May 8	May 15
June	May 18	June 4	June 10	June 17

Material for the Bulletin is welcome and essential for the success of the publication, but it is necessary to honor the deadlines as listed. For the Bulletin, submit all material by 8:00 p.m. on the date of the deadline. Please submit all material by email to Barbara Balkin at bulletin@emeth.org and use Times New Roman font, 12 pt. in a Word document file. For Mid-month mailings, all materials are due by 4:00 p.m. 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	\$ 75
5 Months	\$250	\$350
10 Months	\$330	\$450

For additional information, call (201) 833-1322

Message From the Rabbi

The Hebrew year 5784 will be the first in Temple Emeth's recent history when we do not celebrate any of our young people becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah. It is a reflection only of the changing demographics of our area, not the love we have for our young people or the commitment we have for Jewish education.

Our collaboration with Temple Sinai for Religious School is off to a strong start. In addition to offering classes on Hebrew and Judaica, the program also includes electives and a wonderful opportunity to learn Jewish music with guest composer Sheldon Low. The three Sunday workshops they had in the fall with Sheldon Low will culminate in a collaborative service on Friday, January 5 at 7:30 at Temple Sinai, at which our students will sing the music they learned with him.

Seven of our students are also participating weekly in Etz Chayim, our junior choir. As the collaboration with Temple Sinai took shape, we worked to establish a dedicated rehearsal time and space so our children could continue to experience the joy of Judaism through music. Etz Chayim, now under the direction of Tom Mustachio—with a shout out to teen advisor Emma Feuer—practices on Tuesday afternoons at 5:30. They will perform a special piece written by Sheldon Low at the service on January 5. They will also sing at services in late January (see below) and early February.

To maintain the connection of our young families to the

Temple and to create intergenerational relationships, the Temple this year created a series of programs under the banner of Emeth Kesher—Emeth Connection. In November, we hosted a Havdalah and game night, and in January we have a Tu B'shevat activity planned. In March, Emeth Kesher participants will have a unique chance to deliver Shalach Manot as part of our annual community Purim fundraiser.

Finally, though we do not have any official B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies planned for this year, I am pleased that the teens of ETC Mitzvah are still scheduled to

lead a B'nai Mitzvah Learner's Service on January 27 at 10:30 a.m. This is a chance for the teens to continue to use the skills they learned during their B'nai Mitzvah process, and for members of the congregation to come and support their continued involvement in Temple life. And for the first time, this annual service will include the sweet singers of Etz Chayim!

I'm proud that Temple Emeth is working proactively to create programming, collaboration, and opportunities for our members of all ages to feel the warmth of our congregation and the wisdom of our tradition. Change is often difficult, especially when demographic change coincides with war in Israel and an increase in antisemitism in the United States. But our core values to create and sustain a vibrant Reform congregation remain the same, and I thank the hard-working volunteers and staff who give of their time and talent toward this vision.



Rabbi Steven Sirbu



Religious School students prepare for their special Shabbat performance with Sheldon Low at Temple Sinai on January 5.

Photos by Stacey Butler

Message from President Michael Goldberg

Gayle and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. May you meet or exceed all of your New Year resolution goals.

Something to Think About

Below is an Alternative Haftarah Reading: "From Everyday Holiness" by Alan Morinis, for Malachi 1:1-2:7 (Parshah Toldot).

When asked how he had had such an impact as a great sage and leader in the twentieth-century Jewish world, the Chafetz Chaim answered, "I set out to try to change the world, but I failed. So, I decided to scale back my efforts and only try to influence the Jewish community of Poland, but I failed there, too. So, I targeted the community in my hometown of Radin, but achieved no greater success. Then I gave all my effort to changing my own family, and failed at that as well. Finally, I decided to change myself, and that's how I had such an impact on the Jewish world."

If this intrigues you, please join us on Wednesdays at noon in the Temple Library or Zoom, for our weekly "Lunch and Learn" lead by Rabbi Sirbu.

I was awed when Rabbi Rick Jacobs included a variation of these words in his opening remarks at the URJ150. Please see below for more about the URJ150.

Thank You

Thank you to our Chanukah Dinner co-chairs **Beth Pascarello** and **Damary Zaken**, and their committee, for planning and organizing a well-attended event honoring our new members who joined since 2019.

Thank you to **Barbara Balkin** and **Beth Pascarello** for leading the efforts preparing the most informative Temple Emeth Programs Brochures. These fall, winter, and spring brochures provide the dates, times, and details of our upcoming Temple programs. This definitely should be affixed to your refrigerator for easy reference!

Thank you to **Judy Distler** and **Steve Clark** and their committee for coordinating the **New Year's Eve Celebration at Emeth** which included champagne and dessert, games, activities, surprises, and most important – friendship.

Upcoming Events

January 27 – Trivia Night

February 24 – One Book One Synagogue Shabbaton – with the author, Moriel Rothman-Zecher

March 3 – Gilda and Robert Glazer Memorial Concert

March 21 – Shalach Manot Packing

March 24 – Shalach Manot Delivery

March 29-31 – Scholar-in-Residence

April 14 – Bazaar

URJ150

Gayle and I attended the Union of Reform Judaism's 150th Anniversary Celebration (URJ150) in Washington, DC. from December 15th to 17th.

The program included traditional and modern prayer experiences, uplifting music, and inspiring speakers, including URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Douglas Emhoff, Second Gentleman of the United

States. There were communal Shabbat dinners as well as Temple leadership study and learning sessions. An Evening of Solidarity with Israel was added featuring Knesset Member Gilad Kariv and internationally renowned Israeli singer/songwriter David Broza.

Temple Emeth is proud to be part of the Union of Reform Judaism, a movement with such an illustrious history, helping to shape our understanding of Torah and prayer, serving as a Jewish voice for social justice, offering nation-

al and international programs for our youth, and so much more.

Highlighting Tom Mustachio, Temple Accompanist

We are blessed to have such an accomplished pianist, accompanist, director, and singer, the one-and-only Tom Mustachio, share the Bimah during services and special events. In addition to accompanying Cantor Tilem and our cantorial soloists, Tom accompanies Kol Emet and is the director and accompanist of Etz Chayim.

On his "day job" Tom is the fulltime Minister of Music at Glen Ridge Congregational Church, directing six choral and handbell choirs. He also serves as the Artistic Director for the Glen Ridge Community Concerts. For ten years, Tom was the Accompanist at Temple Beth Or.

Tom earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton NJ, majoring in Music Education & Piano Performance, with a minor in Voice. He also holds a Masters of Music degree from Westminster Choir College in Choral Conducting.

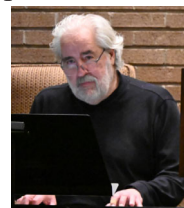
Tom twice won the "Outstanding Music Director" award in the Twin Cities, for music directing productions of "Hair" and "West Side Story" and he partnered with the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization of New York to create the score (vocal arrangements, dance arrangements, and orchestrations) for the new world premiere stage version of Irving Berlin's Easter Parade. Tom enjoys cooking, eating what other people cook, and reading. He takes pride in jet skiing once and remaining upright the entire time. Thank you, Tom.

Please reach out to me with your questions and concerns.

All the Best,
Michael Goldberg, President

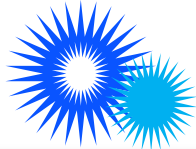


Michael Goldberg





**WHAT MAJOR EVENT TAKES PLACE
AT 8 P.M. ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27?**



A:←

TRIVIA NIGHT AT TEMPLE EMETH

**Come alone or with a team of 6 to 8
Only \$18 per person
Prizes - Refreshments
Reservations due by January 19th
[Emeth.org/event/trivia](https://emeth.org/event/trivia)
201.833.1322**

Save the Date



**Rabbi Louis J. Sigel Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
March 29 - 31, 2024**

with

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

author of *Putting God on the Guest List* and soon to be published
*Tikkun Ha'Am—Repairing our People: Israel and the Crisis of
Liberal Judaism*

Adult Education Mini University: Starting January 9 on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.

“Our New Reality After October 7,” with Rabbi Steven Sirbu

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 30 and February 6 (make-up date February 13) at 8:00 p.m.

The October 7 attack on Israel and the war that followed has upended many of our assumptions about Israel, antisemitism and American Jewish identity. This class will combine history and current events to help understand how we got to this point. We will also discuss the safety of Jews in the current political climate, and how pro-Israel activism has changed. Bring your questions and your opinions, but remember each class lasts only 60 minutes.

Yiddish Class Meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

in the library and on Zoom.

Come join our Yiddish class with instructor David Braun

Use this link to join on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89573268791?pwd=YUtoSThYaENXSvZRVzVxR0hhS0NMZz09>
Meeting ID 895 7326 8791 Passcode 559981 For audio only, dial 929 205 6099

★ HELP WANTED ★

Job descriptions available on request.
**Benefits: No pay and no signing bonus,
 but unlimited appreciation and kudos!**

**No experience required -
 Email your interest, please,
 to: Gala@emeth.org
 or call the office.**

Here's a Who's Who (thanks to all!!!) -
Many more are welcome.

Gala Chair - Judy Distler
 Ads, Solicitation / Follow-up - Lisa Eig
(Madmen and women needed to help get ads)
 Ad Journal graphics/Photography/Plus! - Barbara Balkin
 Auction - Merri Adler-Ross
 Decorations - Joy Firshein (expert in the field!)
 Honoree Liaison - Shana Janoff
 Catering - Elaine Pollack
 Tickets / seating - Steve Chaiken, Elaine Pollack
 and Marsha Sobel
 PR - Jacqueline Guttman and Carla Silver
 Emcee - Larry Silver
 Kitchen Cabinet - Steve Clark, David Fox, Carlene
 Fleishman, Marsha Sobel, Jacqueline Guttman



Fun and Games Day



The next Fun and Games Day at Temple Emeth will be held on Wednesday, January 10th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (and continuing on the second Wednesday of every month).

If you play Canasta, Bridge, Mahjong, Scrabble, Chess or other games we will have tables and chairs set up in the social hall for you to play with your family and friends. It's absolutely free for Temple members (and for non-members who play at their table). Cost is \$5 for non-members.

Come with a full table to play (and if not let us know and we will try to fit you in at a table). Bring your games, cards and sets. Coffee, tea and water will be provided and feel free to bring your own refreshments.

Call the office at (201) 833-1322 to register for December 13th.

Any questions? Contact Caryn at gameday@emeth.org





Duets Service with speaker Jordan Katz from the American Friends of Magen David Adom on December 1st.



Chanukah Dinner and Service on December 8th - lighting the Chanukiyot, welcoming new members, a story by Rabbi Sirbu, singing by Etz Chayim and Amanda Eastman.



FREE CONCERT

A free concert of music by Leonard Bernstein will take place at Temple Emeth on

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Robert and Gilda Glazer Fund (late members of Temple Emeth) the concert will feature "Halil," a nocturne for Flute, Piano, and Three Percussionists, as well as other Bernstein works.



The entire community is invited, and refreshments will be served.

CARING COMMITTEE

Do you have medical equipment available? The Paul S. Lazar Caring Committee is compiling a list of medical equipment that Temple members have available to lend to fellow congregants as needed. If you can help, please contact us at caring@emeth.org



Growing Through Grief

Cantor Tilem leads "Growing Through Grief," a bereavement support group for those who are struggling with grief after the loss of a loved one. Group members are welcome to bring friends or relatives who are working through loss. Please email or call Cantor Tilem before attending to be sure that group fits your unique needs.

Meetings will be
Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.
January 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Sirbu Wednesdays, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Learn is a weekly conversation on ideas that challenge us to think deeply. This year, we are studying the Biblical prophets and their message of justice, and modern texts that continue the legacy of the prophets. Our textbook is "Prophetic Voices: Renewing and Reimagining Haftarah." This book, published by CCAR Press not only explores the meaning of the Haftarah portions, but the context of the Haftarah itself. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the Temple office; it is also available as an e-book. Every six weeks or so, we set our books aside and discuss a topic from current events. You bring your lunch, and we provide the learning...and the coffee.

Click on link below to join on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84261140680?pwd=TFZ4VlpsMlhCMlI2bzIzUE9HZlU3Zz09#success>

Meeting ID 842 6114 0680

Password 686599

For audio only, dial 929 205 6099

Rent and Rave!

Have you seen the new cards (brought to you by the Madmen - and women - of the Marketing Committee) that are advertising Emeth as a space to rent? We have a state-of-the-art kitchen, huge ballroom, ample parking, and the youth lounge for smaller events. Consider Emeth if you're planning a party (discounted rates for members), and spread the word! Call the office for details (dates, rates, etc.)



Services and S'machot

24 Tevet 5784
Friday, January 5

Shabbat Sh'mot
Family Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai at 7:30 p.m.
Religious School Sing-Along with Sheldon Low

Saturday, January 6

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

Torah Portion
Exodus 1:1-6:1

Haftarah
Isaiah 27:6-28:13

2 Sh'vat 5784

Shabbat Va-eira

Friday, January 12

Shabbat Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.
NCJW Reproductive Rights Shabbat
Guest Speaker Rabbi Rebecca Schorr, Editor
The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate

Saturday, January 13

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

Torah Portion
Exodus 6:2-9:35

Haftarah
Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

9 Sh'vat 5784

Shabbat Bo

Friday, January 19

Shabbat Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 20

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

Torah Portion
Exodus 10:1-13:16

Haftarah
Jeremiah 46:13-28

16 Sh'vat 5784

Shabbat Shirah

Friday, January 26

Shabbat Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.
Kol Emet Sings

Saturday, January 27

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.
B'nai Mitzvah Learner's Service

Torah Portion B'shalach
Exodus 13:17-17:16

Haftarah
Judges 4:4-5:31

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 20th of Tevet 5784	2 21st of Tevet 5784 5:30pm - 6:30pm Junior Choir Rehearsal @ Youth Lounge	3 22nd of Tevet 5784 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ Library 8:00pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	4 23rd of Tevet 5784 7:30pm - 9:00pm Officers Meeting @ ZOOM	5 24th of Tevet 5784 7:30pm - 8:30pm Religious School Service-in-Song with Sheldon Low @ Temple Sinai	6 25th of Tevet 5784 9:00am - 10:00am Torah Study (Hybrid Learning in Youth Lounge and on Zoom) 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ Sanctuary
7 26th of Tevet 5784 9:00am - 11:30am Religious School @ Temple Sinai	8 27th of Tevet 5784	9 28th of Tevet 5784 4:00pm - 5:30pm Religious School @ Temple Sinai 8:00pm - 9:00pm Mini University: "Our New Reality after October 7," with Rabbi Steven Sirbu @ Youth Lounge	10 29th of Tevet 5784 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ Library 1:30pm - 4:30pm Fun & Games @ Social Hall 8:00pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	11 1st of Shevat 5784 5:00pm - 6:00pm Growing through Grief with Cantor Tilem @ Museum 7:30pm - 8:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting @ Youth Lounge	12 2nd of Shevat 5784 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Evening Service - NCJW Reproductive Rights Shabbat	13 3rd of Shevat 5784 9:00am - 10:00am Torah Study (Hybrid Learning in Youth Lounge and on Zoom) 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ Sanctuary
14 4th of Shevat 5784 9:45am - 10:45am Social Action Committee Meeting @ Library	15 5th of Shevat 5784 6:30pm - 8:30pm MLK Birthday Celebration @ Sanctuary	16 6th of Shevat 5784 4:00pm - 5:30pm Religious School @ Temple Sinai 8:00pm - 9:00pm Mini University: "Our New Reality after October 7," with Rabbi Steven Sirbu @ Youth Lounge	17 7th of Shevat 5784 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ Library 2:30pm - 3:30pm Book Group @ Library 7:30pm - 8:30pm Strategic Planning Implementation Meeting @ ZOOM 8:00pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	18 8th of Shevat 5784 5:00pm - 6:00pm Growing through Grief with Cantor Tilem @ Museum 7:30pm - 8:30pm Israel / ARZA Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm Viewpoints Committee Meeting @ ZOOM	19 9th of Shevat 5784 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Evening Service @ Sanctuary	20 10th of Shevat 5784 9:00am - 10:00am Torah Study (Hybrid Learning in Youth Lounge and on Zoom) 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ Sanctuary
21 11th of Shevat 5784 9:00am - 11:00am Religious School Tu B'shevat Program at Emeth @ Social Hall	22 12th of Shevat 5784	23 13th of Shevat 5784 4:00pm - 5:30pm Religious School @ Temple Sinai 7:30pm - 8:30pm Book Conversation with Laura Meckler, author of Dream Town, hosted by RAC- NJ @ ZOOM	24 14th of Shevat, Erev Tu BiSh'vat 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ Library 8:00pm - 9:15pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Sanctuary	25 15th of Shevat, Tu BiSh'vat 5:00pm - 6:00pm Growing through Grief with Cantor Tilem @ Museum	26 16th of Shevat 5784 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Evening Service - Kol Emet Sings	27 17th of Shevat 5784 9:00am - 10:00am Torah Study (Hybrid Learning in Youth Lounge and on Zoom) 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service - B'nai Mitzvah Learner's Service @ Sanctuary 8:00pm Trivia Night
28 18th of Shevat 5784 9:00am - 11:30am Religious School @ Temple Sinai	29 19th of Shevat 5784	30 20th of Shevat 5784 4:00pm - 5:30pm Religious School @ Temple Sinai 8:00pm - 9:00pm Mini University: "Our New Reality after October 7," with Rabbi Steven Sirbu @ Youth Lounge	31 21st of Shevat 5784 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ Library			

For updated information, visit the website at www.emeth.org

Good & Welfare

The congregation mourns the loss of member...

James Veach and sends condolences to his wife, Deborah, and their family.

Condolences to...

Paul Kaufman on the loss of his cousin, Barbara Taub.

Nancy Mednick on the loss of her friend, Coleman Kushner.

Matthew Weiner on the loss of his cousin, Mark Weiner.



Wendy Kosakoff, Adam Kohane, and Danny Kohane, visiting from Bali, joined Cantor Tilem in prayer and song on December 29th.

Social Action in Action

January Social Action Calendar

Mitzvah of the Month We are collecting for Never Alone Again Shelter

- Soap, shampoo
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Deodorants, razors, shaving cream
- Lip balm
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers, baby wipes, baby products
- New and gently loved toys
- Blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks



Join us on

Friday, January 12, 8:00 p.m.,
Reproductive Rights Shabbat NCJW

Monday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.,
MLK Birthday Celebration,
in person in the Sanctuary

On Tuesday, January 23 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., join Social Action and RAC-NJ for a statewide book discussion with Laura Meckler, an award-winning Washington Post reporter and author of the recently released book *Dream Town: Shaker Heights and the Quest for Racial Equity*. Reflect on what the Shaker Heights experience can teach New Jersey.

Register here:

<https://urj.tfaforms.net/901?id=701UG000000UxYv>

Our mission is to support, celebrate, empower, and advocate for LGBTQ+ families and their friends at every stage of their lives.

Families with loved ones who identify as LGBTQ+ have unique challenges and special opportunities. Rainbow Family Circle offers a welcoming space to explore questions, concerns, and hopes.

Participants will receive support from other families, as well as mental health professionals. Those who identify as LGBTQ+ and their friends are also welcome to attend to strengthen their relationships.

Rainbow Family Circle will provide opportunities to learn, meet new friends, and learn in a safe and inclusive setting. Meetings will be held the 4th Wednesday of every month in the Youth Lounge.



Wednesdays at 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, and June 26

For further information: 201.885.3522

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library

Monthly News Update: The Books You've Been Looking For
By Marion Wolf

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION



Two new books in the Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library have a lot going for them. Their authors have a proven track record—you probably have already enjoyed previous books by these writers. Both of these new books have received rave reviews.

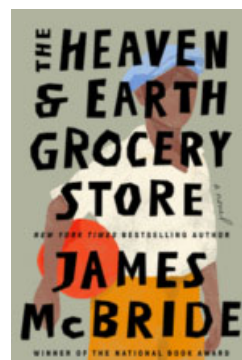
One of these books is not only a best-seller, it is even included on The NY Times 100 Notable Books of 2023. That book is James McBride's The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. Perhaps you know about McBride from his memoir The Color of Water (which told the story of his mother,



a white Jewish woman who married a Black man in the 1940s). Or maybe you've read The Good Lord Bird, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction in 2013 (it described John Brown's crusade to end slavery from the point of view of a newly freed teen). Or you may be a fan of Deacon King Kong (which dealt with the shooting of a drug dealer in the late 1960s in Brooklyn). McBride's latest novel is set in Chicken Hill, a dilapidated neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, where immigrant Jews and African Americans have lived side by side for decades. The book opens in 1972, when construction workers unexpectedly uncover a human skeleton in a well. Its identity and how it got there are secrets kept by the residents, who live on the margins of white, Christian America and struggle to survive. The story flashes back to the 1920s and '30s. Readers meet those residents, including Moshe Ludlow, a Romanian-born theater owner; his wife Chona, who runs the Heaven & Earth grocery store; and Nate Timblin, a Black man who works for Moshe. When the state seeks to institutionalize Nate's deaf nephew, the neighbors join forces to

keep the boy safe. McBride shows "that it is love and community—heaven and earth—that ultimately sustain us." This book is dedicated to a camp director, Sy Friend, whose lessons about inclusivity, love, and acceptance inspired the author. McBride says that Sy Friend "taught all of us the meaning of Tikkun Olam."

Cathleen Schine's latest novel is Kunstlers in Paradise. Some of her earlier titles are The Grammarians ("a comic love letter to sibling rivalry and the English language"), The Three Weissmans of Westport ("a contemporary take on Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility"), and The Love Letter (the romance of a middle-aged woman and a college boy). Kunstlers in Paradise is set in Venice, California in 2020. For years, Mamie Künstler—age 93, clever, and glamorous—has lived happily in her bungalow there. Her 24-year-old grandson Julian comes from New York for what is supposed to be a short visit, but his stay is extended when the global pandemic arrives. Facing months of lockdown, Mamie starts to tell Julian about her family's escape from Vienna in 1939 (when she was only 11) and their life in California among people like Thomas Mann, Arnold Schoenberg, and Greta Garbo. Reviewing this book in The NY Times, Kim Hubbard describes it as "a paean to the regenerative power of storytelling and to Los Angeles itself...[it] is also an invitation to leave the familiar behind. In any century, seeing the world through someone else's windows just might change everything."



I invite you to see the world through the windows of these talented writers and others you'll find in the Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library.

If you would like to borrow any of these books or DVDs from the Temple library contact Teri Binder at twbinder@aol.com or Marion Wolf at marionewolf@yahoo.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS

JANICE PRESCHER SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Michael and Gayle Goldberg wish Doug and Nickie Falk Mazel Tov on the birth of their granddaughter, Persephone Indigo

LIBRARY FUND

Teri Binder in memory of Maryanne Fisher, beloved sister of Idajean Fisher
in memory of Janice Lipsitz, beloved member of Temple Emeth

Wendy and Dan Dessanti in memory of Jim Veach, beloved husband of Deborah Veach

Sandy and Herb Loft

MUSEUM FUND

Barbara Balkin in memory of her cousin, Marilyn Newman

MUSIC FUND

Wendy and Dan Dessanti thank Carol Shansky for the wonderful music she brings to Temple Emeth with Kol Emet

PAUL S. LAZAR CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Leslee and Gerald Fetner in memory of Jim Veach, beloved husband of Deborah Veach

Michael and Gayle Goldberg wish Abby and Andrew Schlectman Mazel Tov on their 65th wedding anniversary

Marsha and Morris Sobel in memory of Marsha's beloved mother, Shirley Hirshfield

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous "Hallelujah, 23 years cancer-free"
Deborah Veach with gratitude for his kindness to her and Jim

RITUAL COMMITTEE FUND

Michael and Gayle Goldberg wish Nancy and Ken Scher Mazel Tov on the engagement of their daughter, Marjorie, to Matthew Behrman

TEMPLE EMETH FUND

Judy Distler wishes Doug and Nickie Falk Mazel Tov on the birth of their granddaughter, Persephone Indigo

David and Judy Fox wish Nancy and Ken Scher Mazel Tov on the engagement of their daughter, Marjorie, to Matthew Behrman

YAHREZEIT FUND

Martin and Glenda Adelman in memory of Glenda's beloved mother, Alice Sorsher

Teri Binder in memory of her beloved mother-in-law, Beatrice Binder

Sara Halman in memory of Barry Gross

Sandy and Herb Loft in loving memory of Sandy's mother, Sophie Lipschitz

Elona Sofer in memory of her beloved mother, Rose Haberman

Mary Jane Tucker in memory of her beloved husband, Bruce Tucker

SPRING GALA 2024

Honor the women who are lighting the way:

**Nickie Falk, Linda Poskanzer, Cynthia Massarsky,
Hildy Dillon, Karyle Goldstein**

**Watch for an invitation - \$125 per person – food, drink,
music, love, laughter, kudos to the honorees!
Help us keep the light burning!**

Join us please –

**Send your check to Temple Emeth
with your name(s) to be listed:**

Patron - \$1500, listing in journal, two tickets to the Gala

Donor - \$1000, listing in journal, one ticket to the Gala

Sponsor - \$750, listing in journal, \$90 off Gala ticket

Information about Journal ads will be coming soon.

**Lighting
the Way**

**June 1,
2024**





Temple Emeth Gala, June 1, 2024

Dear Temple Members, Friends, and Supporters of Our Honorees:

Nickie Falk, Past President; Cynthia Massarsky and Linda Poskanzer, Devotion Awards;
Hildy Dillon and Karyle Goldstein, Save the World/Activism Awards

Please join us, Saturday, June 1, 2024, as we celebrate these deserving Temple members. There will be invitations to participate as a Patron, Donor, or Sponsor; to place an ad in the Journal in which we will sing their praises; to attend the Gala; and – Here and Now – a request for participation in a Silent Auction of items and services donated or solicited by Temple members and friends. We hope everyone will have something to offer!

Previous donations have included:

Foreign language lessons, academic tutoring, or a computer tune-up; a week at someone's time share or vacation home; meal prepared by a Temple chef; wine/cheese/gourmet food basket; tickets to an opera or Broadway show; massage, makeover, or spa day; yard clean-up or decluttering services; painting, photograph, or other work of art; gift certificate to a restaurant; car service to and from a nearby airport; a quilted house portrait. . .

Be creative - think outside the box. What can you offer that someone might want or need? Dog sit? Babysit? What business do you know that might contribute something?

Please send in the form below. Donations may be dropped off (or can be picked up); services may be described. We will have pre-gala bidding and go live at the Gala.

Thank you,
Merri Adler-Ross, Auction Chair
Auction@emeth.org

Spring Gala Auction Donation Form – Please return to the Temple office

Name: (Please print) _____

Yes! I will contribute the following items: _____

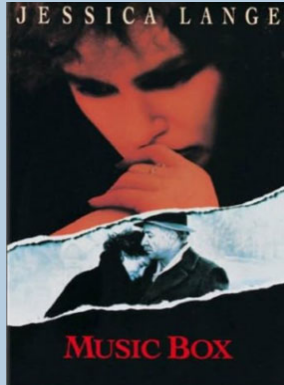
_____ valued at: _____

I may be reached at: (phone and email – to discuss drop-off/pick-up)



Movies That Mattered

The next movie is "Music Box"
on **Tuesday, February 20** at 7:30 p.m.



This film, written by Joe Eszterhas and directed by Costa-Gavras, tells the story of a Hungarian-American immigrant who is accused of having been a war criminal. The plot revolves around his daughter (Jessica Lange), an attorney, who defends him, and her struggle to uncover the truth. It is loosely based on the real life case of John Demjanjuk.

Refreshments will be served.

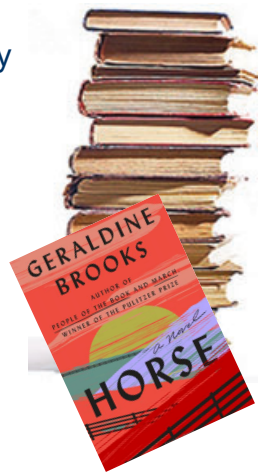
For information contact Susan or Eley at movies@emeth.org

Temple Emeth Book Group Selections 2024

Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Library

January 17th	<i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks
February 21st	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus
March 20th	<i>More Than I Love My Life</i> by David Grossman
April 17th	<i>Go As A River</i> by Shelley Read
May 15th	<i>The Postcard</i> by Anne Berest
June 15	Planning Meeting

For information contact Brenda at bookgroup@emeth.org



RIDES to TEMPLE SERVICES and EVENTS

Did you know that the Paul S. Lazar Caring Committee has a fund to pay for Uber/Lyft rides to services and Temple events for members?

Please contact caring@emeth.org or call the Temple office at 201-833-1322 at least two days in advance if you would like us to arrange a ride for you.



An oneg shabbat is a perfect opportunity to share a birthday, anniversary, or special time with your Temple family. On January 26, join Teri Binder and Jacqueline Guttman after Friday night services in remembrance of the lives of their late husbands, Fred and Howard. If there's someone you want to celebrate or a simcha you want to share, tell us about it, and we'll help you make it special.

Contact Mary Jane Tucker,
or Judy Distler at
oneg@emeth.org



Summary of Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting on November 9, 2023

President's Report:

Michael Goldberg made a motion (seconded by Stacey Butler) to approve the slate of honorees for the annual gala. A discussion ensued on whether to add more honorees and limit the length of speeches, but no amendment was proposed. Vote on Michael's motion passed.

The issue of hiring an armed security guard was raised. Until now we have hired one when there is a credible threat or we anticipate a large congregational gathering. The cost is \$55/hour which totals \$440/weekend. That would be \$22,000/year. A discussion ensued as the need for a protocol as to when we should hire a guard; whether it should be for only a short-term period of time; whether we should hire one for other nights and events; whether we need to conduct safety drills; whether we should install a rearview mirror at the front door; whether we should ask either the town, county, or state to do a risk assessment; and the need to provide more extensive training. Marc Chelemer made a motion (Stacey Butler seconded) that we should hire one armed security guard from K Street for Friday evening services, Saturday morning services and publicized events over the next 90 days. The question came up on whether we should require a fee for a security guard in our rental agreements. A discussion on that point was tabled. Michael Robinson proposed an amendment to the motion that the 90 day period automatically continue unless ended by the Board. That amendment did not pass. Marc's motion passed as originally stated.

The new date for the Bazaar is April 14, 2024.

The Bergenfield Board of Education contract negotiation is ongoing.

A motion was made by Michael Goldberg (seconded by Elaine Nissen) to appoint Eric Zaretsky as a Temple Emeth Endowment Fund (TEEF) trustee. The motion passed.

Rabbi's Report:

Rabbi Sirbu reported that the war in Israel has served as a reminder that we do not have an active Arza Committee. Rabbi announced that it is being revived with Elliot Steinberg as the Chair. Fundraising events will be planned.

We have 10 children attending religious school. The collaboration with Temple Sinai is working well.

Junior Choir has six members, all from Temple Emeth.

There are four religious school events that are supposed to take place at Temple Emeth. The first is November 19. However, since Temple Sinai has fully trained its teachers in their security protocol and the event is approaching quickly, the event has been moved to Temple Sinai. This was agreed to on the proviso that Temple Sinai teachers will come to Temple Emeth to learn our security protocols for future events.

None of Temple Sinai's teens have signed up for our teen program. Although this is disappointing, they will still collaborate with us on the Midnight Run event.

Federation has a LEAP program that helps high school and college students find Jewish connections in their communities.

Healing Committee Report:

Greg Janoff is the committee chair. The committee is getting a diverse opinion on what healing means to our members. He reported that one person has reached out to the Committee so far. The committee has reached out to 39 Temple members to schedule confidential and safe conversations. The committee has also reached out to the Cantor. The takeaway is that people want to be together socially. The committee is considering planning a specific event that will help remind members of the common reasons that we joined Temple Emeth and want it to flourish.

Administrator's Report:

Suzannah Mercado reported that we have purchased and installed a new refrigerator and freezer. She thanked Wendy Dessanti for her assistance in finding the Temple a great quote for this purchase.

Treasurer's Report:

Gary Richards presented a report on opportunities and risk in the budget. The biggest risk is a possible \$78,000 shortfall in voluntary commitment pledges.

Financial Secretary Report:

Alan Winters reported that we have 349 household units; that there are 271 household units that have made voluntary commitments to date for a total of \$389,114; that last year at this same time we had commitments totaling \$442,478; that the amount collected this year is ~\$284,600; that new members who have joined since July 1 have pledged ~\$6,000; and that we have lost ~\$20,500 from members who have resigned since July 1.

Absentee Voting Initiative:

The committee is gathering information on this issue from other Temples and will report back at the next Board meeting.

Minimum Voluntary Commitment Discussion:

A discussion ensued on the benefit vs. risk of losing members; and the value of a volunteer's time vs. money. Alan Winters will provide the Board with an updated breakdown of the membership by range of contribution for further discussion at a future meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee:

David Fox reminded us to attend and bring our own games to "Havdalah and Game Night" on November 18. He reported that the rental post cards have gone out; that the committee wants to organize a philanthropy brainstorming session to come up with the best way to ask for contributions; that the committee is reporting its activity on the website; and that there will be strategic planning articles appearing on the website.

New Business:

Michael Robinson proposed that as part of the redecorating of the Youth Lounge we consider having murals drawn on the walls.

NOTE the following correction to the October 12th minutes: Michael Goldberg, Gary Richards, and Wendy Dessanti met with the Superintendent and Business Official of the Bergenfield School District.

Prepared by: Martin Breznick, Secretary

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.

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • Adult Education Fund | • Adult Kallah Fund | • Albert & Mildred Otten Institute for Living Arts |
| • 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) |
| • Library Fund | • Museum Fund • Music Fund | • Prayerbook Fund |
| • Janice Preschel Social Action Committee Fund | • Ritual Fund • Roof Repair Fund | • Margery Rothschild Memorial Israel Fund |
| • Rabbi Louis J. Sigel Scholar-in-Residence Fund | • Straussman Memorial Youth Award Fund | • Streaming Fund |
| • Temple Emeth Fund | • Torah Repair Fund | • Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Lecture Fund |
| • Viewpoints Fund | • Yahrzeit Fund | • Youth Committee Program Fund |

Endowed Funds - contributions are added to principal held by the Temple Emeth Endowment Foundation with fund income distributed yearly

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Adult Kallah Scholarship Fund | • Dru and Ted Greenwood Youth Awards Fund | • Grunstein-Liberman Endowed Fund |
| • Honigberg/Howard Religious School Scholarship Fund | • Lazar Educational Enrichment Fund | • Paul S. Lazar Caring Community Endowed Fund |
| • Alfred and Helen Levin Youth Award Fund | • Rabbi Louis J. Sigel Endowment Fund | • Ned and Doris Siner Music Fund |
| • Temple Emeth Endowment Fund | | |

Other Funds - contributions are used at the discretion of the recipient

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund • Cantor's Discretionary Fund



Shabbat Service on December 22nd with Carol Shansky accompanying cantorial soloist Rabbi Rebecca Schorr.



New Year's Eve Celebration organized by Judy Distler and the Marketing Committee.





Award Winner in Results and Customer Service

A realtor for all seasons

Wendy Wineburgh Dessanti

Happy to help you with all your real estate needs including tax appeals, estate matters, and selling your home.

Broker/Sales Associate

c: 201 310-2255 (preferred)

o: 201 569-7888

e: wendydess@aol.com



Serving Bergen County for over
25 Years with Integrity,
Professionalism and Results



Amazon helps to support the Temple
when you order by using the
Amazon.com link on our website

Use the Amazon Link on our Webpage

Support Temple Emeth by using our special
Amazon link to make purchases on Amazon.com.
Just visit www.emeth.org and click on the
Amazon.com button
at the bottom of each page,
then purchase to your heart's content!

Since 1954

Bergen County Reform Temple Memorial Association

A non-profit organization
serving Temple Emeth

Burial plots at reasonable prices

Contact:

David Fox at (201) 836-0260

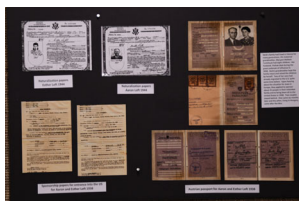
Please support our advertisers and tell them you saw their ad
in the Temple Emeth Bulletin

Visit the Temple website at www.emeth.org

ANCESTRY@EMETH

Every family has a story, a
unique story. What is yours?

Ancestry@emeth is a project
that began in 2019, with
two museum exhibits using
documents, photos, and stories by fourteen participating members. Themes have included immigration and survival, family trees, celebrations of life cycle events, holiday celebrations, ketubot (marriage contracts), and more.



If you are interested in participating
in the next ancestry@emeth exhibit,
please contact Barbara Balkin at
museum@emeth.org.

ARTISTS MEMBER SHOWCASE COMING



Temple Emeth has many talented member artists.
The next Member Showcase is being planned.
If you are an artist who would like to join us for
the upcoming exhibit, please contact
Barbara Balkin at museum@emeth.org.
List your name, media, and approximately how
many pieces you would like to show.
Works can be listed for sale as well, with a price
that includes a twenty percent contribution
to the Temple.



Emeth

The Bulletin of Temple Emeth of Teaneck, New Jersey
A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism
Serving Reform Congregations in North America