

Temple Emeth

Bulletin

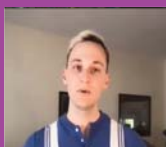
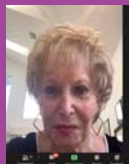
Temple Emeth of Teaneck, New Jersey
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Serving Reform Congregations in North America

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WHAT A YEAR!!!



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Main Office # 201 833-1322



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> |
| September | August 15 | September 2 | September 10 | September 16 |
| October | September 15 | October 1 | October 12 | October 17 |
| November | October 15 | November 1 | November 9 | November 14 |
| December | November 15 | 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 1 | June 10 | June 17 |

Suzannah Mercado at smercado@emeth.org cc: areiser@emeth.org

For additional information, call (201) 833-1322

Message From the Rabbi

“Mazel tov!” “Shabbat Shalom.” “L’chaim.” As American Jews, we have access to dozens of Hebrew words and phrases, even if we don’t speak Hebrew. These words, also known as Jewish Life Vocabulary, are an important part of helping Jewish children learn the Hebrew that they will use to become B’nai Mitzvah and lead meaningful Jewish lives. They will also play a larger role in our Religious School program.

Over the course of the last several months, our Temple educator, Dora Geld Friedman, and I have been working to improve the way Hebrew is taught in our Religious School program. Our efforts were in response to feedback from parents and observations by Cantor Tilem that our students did not have the Hebrew proficiency needed for a smooth transition to the B’nai Mitzvah process.

The result is a new approach to Hebrew that we call “L’chaim Hebrew—Hebrew for Life.”

Working with a consultant, we identified several ways in which we could change, improve or reinforce the Hebrew language component of our instruction.

- Using best practices for language acquisition and reading readiness. Recent studies show that introducing students to Hebrew letters and phrases should begin long before they are expected to read. This is achieved in part by using as much Hebrew in everyday conversation (sometimes called “Jewish English”) and by using a variety of classroom tools to promote Hebrew familiarity.
- Individual Instruction. Many of us remember being given a Hebrew word or sentence to read out loud during Hebrew school. It can be embarrassing for the student who is called upon, and boring for everyone else. Moving forward, in addition to time spent in the classroom, our students will have approximately 30 minutes of individualized instruction with a Temple volunteer. This will make the process of decoding less stressful and more effective.
- Hebrew Infusion. Language acquisition in young children is largely achieved through repetition and song. By having a brief t’filah (prayer service) at the beginning of each class, we emphasize the importance of Hebrew and familiarize students with the sound of Hebrew.
- Leveraging Technology. The publisher of our Hebrew textbooks also has an accompanying website and app. These can support the in-class instruction in a way that engages young children.
- Integration of Family Service into the Religious School Program. With a few exceptions, the

Religious School curriculum and the content of the Family Shabbat Service on the first Friday of the month have been created independently. By coordinating publicity, monthly themes, and participation of the children in the service, we will demonstrate that the Religious School and the Family Service complement each other to support each student’s education.

- Parent Orientation and Education to Support the Curriculum. We know that many of our Religious School parents don’t read Hebrew, and we understand that parents can feel helpless in supporting their children’s education in a subject that they don’t know. To address this, Religious School parents will be invited to sessions to learn about the curriculum and the ways they can incorporate Hebrew in the life of their family.



Rabbi Steven Sirbu

- Mishkan T’filah Non-Transliterated Siddurim. One of the first lessons I learned in researching potential changes to our Hebrew curriculum is that transliteration sends the wrong message to our students. Having transliteration in a siddur (prayer book) or other materials conveys that learning the Hebrew letters and words isn’t ultimately necessary. The Torah scroll, of course, has no transliteration, so neither should the siddur. Our students will learn their prayers from a non-transliterated version of Mishkan T’filah, a copy of which they will receive on the Bimah in fourth grade.
- Possibility of Hebrew Specialist added to Staff. Several larger religious schools employ a Hebrew specialist who is uniquely trained to implement many of the ideas and practices of the “L’chaim Hebrew—Hebrew for Life” approach. We will explore whether that is practical for a school of our size.

I am proud of the work that created “L’chaim Hebrew—Hebrew for Life.” I’d like to thank Mora Dora for receiving each of these ideas with enthusiasm. I also wish to thank Nickie Falk, Michael Robinson, and Stacey Butler, with whom I reviewed goals and concepts as the vision for this new approach was coming together. And I had the opportunity to consult with a former classmate of mine, Jill S. Jacobs, a Jewish educator based in California, who presented the theory that is the foundation of what we will put into practice.

The next step is actually the harder step: expanding the reach of the Religious School and increasing our enrollment. A committee is already at work to promote our new Hebrew program among the many reasons to join Temple Emeth. I hope you will see yourself as part of this effort, and invite the young families in your life to join our community, connect with our tradition and learn Hebrew for life.

From the Religious School

“V’tain B’libeinu Lishmoa, Lilmod, U’l’lamed.”
“Inspire us to Hear, to Learn, and to Teach.”

I know that this year 2020-2021 has been challenging and unusual for the entire world and indeed for us here at Temple Emeth Religious School. But looking back I feel immense gratitude for the wonderful Temple Emeth Community, who supported our school and enabled its success.

Without missing a beat, our teachers — Mora Marla (grades 2 & 3), Mora Allyson, Mora Amanda, and Mora Nancy (grades 5 & 6), Mora Jill, Rabbi Sirbu and Cantor Tilem (grade 7) — made this an exciting year filled with experiential learning, special events, relevant and inspiring programs, and celebrations.

Our students learned Hebrew, Torah, Israel, holidays, Jewish values, and current events. We celebrated the holidays of Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, and Passover with our unique school-to-home family program, “It’s in the Bag.” Each family received decorated bags loaded with information, questions, puzzles, and craft projects for them to study and celebrate each holiday together. Todah to Stacey Butler, our Committee Chair, for her hard work from start to finish.

Our students and community were fortunate to have several guest authors join their virtual classrooms and services. Rabbi Jamie Korngold read Sadie’s Snowy Tu B’Shevat and led a planting project and Q & A with our students. Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz read her

book, Queen Vashti’s Comfy Pants at the Purim Service. Author Peter Sis joined our classes to discuss his book, Nicky & Vera, which tells the story of Sir Nicholas Winton of England, who saved 669 children from the Nazis in Prague in 1938-1939. We also saw an interview of Sir Nicholas Winton where he was surprised by the presence as adults, of many of the children he had saved. Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World’s First Female Rabbi, Osnat Barzani was read by author Rabbi Sigal Samuel at the Family Service honoring our teachers. Although “virtual,” these experiences were very “alive.”



Dora Friedman

The time that students spend in Religious School are opportunities for engaging and challenging Jewish study, joyful celebrations, cultivating friendships, and forming a strong Jewish identity. It was a year of unity, creativity, and inspiration.

Todah for all your devotion to Temple Emeth Religious School.

B’vracha,
Dora Geld Friedman

Now is the time to register your child for Temple Emeth Religious School 2021 - 2022
All forms can be found on the Temple website.



Religious School Moving up ceremony May 16 with Rabbi Sirbu, Mora Dora Friedman, Stacey Butler, seventh graders, and Cantor Tilem



Message from President Nickie Falk

Voices from our Volunteers

Barbara Balkin, Editor of our *Bulletin*, just emailed me words I've been longing to read: "Your last *Bulletin* article is due." It's not that I'm glad that my term as President is coming to an end. Rather, it's because of all the challenges that the presidency has brought me during the past two years, deciding on what to write each month has presented the greatest stumbling block, even though I make my living as an editor and writer.

I tease the Board when I ask my "question of the month," telling them that I appreciate their giving me fodder for this column. In addition to that (smile, wink wink), it has been a great way for us to get to know each other better, especially this past year when all our meetings have been held virtually. Questions have ranged from, "what did you want to be when you grew up?" (a choreographer), to "what is your favorite Jewish holiday?" (Passover), to "who was the most influential woman in your life?" (Madame Binion, a college professor from Vienna, who I thought was the smartest and most sophisticated woman I had ever met, but wouldn't talk to me for almost two years until I changed my major from teaching to journalism), to "what advice would you give to your teenage self?" (it's okay to be different).

Recently, I asked the Board what was their best volunteer experience to date at Temple Emeth? For me, of course, it was serving as President. While the job has had its challenges, it also has been incredibly rewarding. I've had the distinct opportunity to work closely with so many incredible people who really guide our Temple—the Officers and Board members, committee Chairs and members, and the dozens and dozens of volunteers who have stepped forward to help out in ways large and small. I've also been so fortunate to have forged a close partnership with our clergy, and in particular with Rabbi Sirbu.

That feeling was echoed by the Past Presidents on the Board, Amy Abrams, Jill Kantor, and Wendy Dessanti. "It's the one position where you have to look at the big picture, not just the pieces," said Amy.

Wendy noted that she loved her first leadership position, which was serving as chair of our then-Outreach Committee. "We were a young family, and it was a great way to get involved."

Marty Breznick also recalled opportunities to get involved as a young family, mentioning his time as Co-Chair of Brotherhood, which later was changed to B'yachad. "I liked events that allowed us to enjoy things with our kids, both offsite and onsite."

Volunteering to help others resonated with several board members. Karen Wertheimer recalled her hours serving people during our walk-in dinners. "The intensity and relevance of what we were doing really struck me when one of my neighbors was on line to get food." Ken Scher cited his days volunteering as a sleepover host for Family Promise. "The juxtaposition of my blessings with their lives is something I still carry with me."

Gary Richards enjoyed packing bags and delivering for Shalach Manot. Michael Goldberg also loved delivering Shalach Manot; his route was to members in senior living facilities. "I enjoyed talking to them and learning from

them. I really missed seeing those members this year."

Even Rabbi Sirbu and Cantor Tilem recalled their volunteer time helping others. Cantor remembers staying over at a shelter in Englewood with Peter and with David Kohane on Christmas Eve. Rabbi remembers delivering Shalach Manot with Talia, "back when she thought it was fun." He also loved playing the rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof and the baker in Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat. "It was fun to see members in a different way and for them to see me in another light as well."

Several Board members miss volunteer opportunities when in the building. Stefanie Stokes enjoyed serving as greeter on Shabbat services; it gave her a little one-on-one time with other members. "I loved being the Board member on the Bima, particularly when it was for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. I always cried when they passed the Torah from one generation to the next because it's so meaningful," said Danielle Feuer. Sandi Klein also enjoyed when she was on the Bima. "It was a very spiritual and emotional experience."

Bob Kahn loved serving as Secretary for the last two years. "Being responsible for the Bima sitters and greeters was a little connection to the Temple."



Nickie Falk

Committee work was a rewarding volunteer experience for many Board members. "My most meaningful work was to chair the Ad Hoc Committee that looked at alternative fee structures. We planted the seed for our current voluntary dues," said Flip Bernard. Alan Winters noted that he "strongly believes in the concept of voluntary commitment and am happy to be involved to see it progress in my role as Financial Secretary. I feel positive about the direction we are going in." Stacey Butler is happy with her new role as Chair of the Religious School Committee. "Having grown up in Temple Emeth and the Religious School, it's nice to be full circle, contributing back." Michael Robinson also loved his work as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Religious School. "One of the things that makes me feel proud is that we not only identified ways to improve our program, but we are also moving forward and seeing tangible results from our work." Rounding out those who enjoyed their committee work is Elaine Nissen, a volunteer on the Viewpoints Committee. "I helped bring Saskia Keeley, a Swiss photographer who brings together Orthodox and Arab women in Israel, to Temple as a Viewpoints presenter. She's done an amazing job in peace building through her work."

As you can see, no matter your interest, we have a place for you to volunteer and share your talents. These are the thoughts of just a few of our many, many volunteers. At our upcoming Annual Meeting, to be held on Zoom on Tuesday evening, June 15 at 7:30 p.m., you'll get to hear about a few more. I hope you'll join us.

I also hope you will join our Shabbat Evening Service on Friday, June 25, on Zoom, when our new President Michael Robinson and the rest of our new Board will be installed.

Thanks again for the opportunity to volunteer as your President.

Virtual hugs,
Nickie



June is Pride Month

To Celebrate the event Temple Emeth will hold our

Pride Shabbat on

Friday, June 11 at 5:45 p.m.

via Zoom

There will be special readings from *Mishkan Ga'avah – Where Pride Dwells*, published in 2020 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Our service will be highlighted with a presentation by Temple Emeth's own Rabbi Max Chaiken. His talk will be about "What Pride Shabbat Means to Me."



Please mark your calendar and join us on Friday, June 11 at 5:45 p.m.

Request from the Paul S. Lazar Caring Community Committee to congregants

The Paul S. Lazar Caring Community Committee asks your help in identifying congregants who need assistance. Although we quickly hear about deaths, we don't always learn about illnesses or other situations in which we could offer help - with vaccination scheduling, phone calls, shopping, meals, etc. Please contact caring@emeth.org if you or someone you know needs help. All communications are kept strictly confidential.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, June 15th

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

via Zoom



PRICE FOR CEMETERY PLOTS INCREASES JULY 1

The Bergen County Reform Temple Memorial Association is a cemetery association founded in 1954 to serve Temple Emeth. Prices for graves will increase from \$900 to \$1200 per grave effective July 1, 2021. This is the first price increase in seven years. While the \$1200 price is still well below market value, we encourage you to consider making a purchase while the \$900 price is still in effect.

Family plots of four graves or larger are available in our sections in Cedar Park and Beth El Cemeteries on Forest Avenue in Washington Township. Single graves and multiples thereof are available in our section in Riverside Cemetery located on Market Street in Saddle Brook. In accordance with the cemeteries' rules, we may sell graves only to Temple members for use by those who at the time of their death are of the Jewish faith.



For more information or to purchase graves, contact David Fox at 201-836-0260 or jdjmfox@aol.com.

Services and S'machot

25 Sivan 5781

Friday, June 4th

Family Service honoring our High School Graduates at 7:30 p.m. on Livestream

Saturday, June 5th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Shabbat Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

*Torah Portion – Sh'Lach
Numbers 13:1-15:54*

Haftarah - Joshua 2:1-2:24

2 Tammuz 5781

Friday, June 11th

Kabbalat Shabbat and Pride Service at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom

Saturday, June 12th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Shabbat Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. on Livestream

*Torah Portion – Korach
Numbers 16:1-18:32*

Haftarah - Samuel 11:14-12:22

9 Tammuz 5781

Friday, June 18th

Shabbat Evening Service at 8:00 p.m. on Livestream

Saturday, June 19th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Balfe at 10:30 a.m. on Livestream

*Torah Portion - Chukat
Numbers 19:1-22:1*

Haftarah - Judges 11:1-11:33

16 Tammuz 5781

Friday, June 25th

Shabbat Evening Service and Installation of Officers and Trustees at 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

Saturday, June 26th

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Shabbat Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. on Livestream

*Torah Portion - Balak
Numbers 22:2-25:9*

Haftarah – Micah 5:6-6:8

June 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | 1 21st of Sivan 5781 7:30pm Ad Hoc Committee Meeting to Reopen Building @ ZOOM | 2 22nd of Sivan 5781 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 7:30pm - 8:30pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Parking Lot | 3 23rd of Sivan 5781 7:30pm - 8:30pm Officer's Meeting @ ZOOM | 4 24th of Sivan 5781 7:30pm - 8:30pm Family Service - Honoring Our High School Graduates @ Live Stream | 5 25th of Sivan 5781 9:00am Torah Study @ ZOOM 11:00am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ ZOOM |
| 6 26th of Sivan 5781 | 7 27th of Sivan 5781 10:30am - 12:30pm Yiddish Class @ ZOOM | 8 28th of Sivan 5781 | 9 29th of Sivan 5781 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 7:30pm - 8:30pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Parking Lot | 10 30th of Sivan 5781 7:30pm - 9:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting @ ZOOM | 11 1st of Tammuz 5781 5:45pm - 6:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat - Pride Shabbat @ ZOOM | 12 2nd of Tammuz 5781 9:00am Torah Study @ ZOOM 11:00am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ Live Stream |
| 13 3rd of Tammuz 5781 | 14 4th of Tammuz 5781 10:30am - 12:30pm Yiddish Class @ ZOOM 8:00pm Technology Task Force Meeting @ ZOOM | 15 5th of Tammuz 5781 7:30pm - 9:30pm Annual Congregational Meeting @ ZOOM | 16 6th of Tammuz 5781 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 7:30pm - 8:30pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Parking Lot | 17 7th of Tammuz 5781 6:00pm - 7:00pm Book Club Planning Meeting @ ZOOM 7:30pm - 9:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting @ ZOOM | 18 8th of Tammuz 5781 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Evening Service @ Live Stream | 19 9th of Tammuz 5781 9:00am Torah Study @ ZOOM 10:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service - Brandon Balfe Bar Mitzvah @ Sanctuary |
| 20 10th of Tammuz 5781 | 21 11th of Tammuz 5781 10:30am - 12:30pm Yiddish Class @ ZOOM | 22 12th of Tammuz 5781 | 23 13th of Tammuz 5781 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ ZOOM 7:00pm - 8:00pm Caring Committee Meeting @ ZOOM 7:30pm - 8:30pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Parking Lot | 24 14th of Tammuz 5781 7:30pm Board Orientation | 25 15th of Tammuz 5781 8:00pm - 9:00pm Shabbat Evening Service - Installation of Officers and Trustees @ ZOOM | 26 16th of Tammuz 5781 9:00am Torah Study @ ZOOM 11:00am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Service @ Live Stream |
| 27 17th of Tammuz 5781 | 28 18th of Tammuz 5781 10:30am - 12:30pm Yiddish Class @ ZOOM | 29 19th of Tammuz 5781 | 30 20th of Tammuz 5781 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn @ ZOOM 7:30pm - 8:30pm Kol Emet Rehearsal @ Parking Lot | | | |

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 member
**Marian Ferziger, and sends condolences to
her husband, Rubin Ferziger.***

Condolences to...

***Peter Norr** on the loss of his mother, Ellen Norr.*

***Martin Breznick** on the loss of his aunt,
Frances Friedman.*

***Gayle Goldberg** on the loss of her father, Alan
Rosenfeld.*

Mazel Tov to...

***Stacey Butler** on the Bar Mitzvah of her son,
Brandon Balfe, and on receiving her
Doctorate in Jewish Education from Gratz
College.*

***Steve and Holly Clark** on the birth of their two
grandsons, Hudson Hayes Clark and
Benjamin Pasquale Danlark.*

***Robert and Sandrine Kravitz** on the Bat Mitzvah of
their daughter, **Leila Kravitz**, and to
grandparents **Brenda and Alvin Kravitz** and
aunt and uncle **Jill Kravitz and Jim Kirsch**.*

***Peter and Svetlana Norr** on the Bar Mitzvah of
their son, **Gregory Norr**.*

***Marjorie and Joel Price** on their 40th wedding
anniversary.*

***Marcia Shapiro and Michael Robinson** on the
marriage of their son, Daniel to Sam Berger.*

***Abby Schlectman** on the Bat Mitzvah of her great-
niece, Sutton Guyselin.*



Social Action in Action

What we can do now.

1. Keep the pressure on our legislators to pass S250/A1919, **“Ban the Box in Housing”** (also known as the Fair Chance in Housing Act).

We are working with RAC-NJ statewide to help push this bill across the finish line. Contact lynnchaiken@gmail.com to learn what you can do.

2. Register to walk or ride your bike to raise money to fight hunger. **Join the Temple Emeth Team for the Jewish Family & Children Services Wheels for Meals Annual Ride to Fight Hunger, Sunday June 13, 2021.** Register here: <https://theridetofight-hunger.rallybound.org/Account/Register>. Then view our Temple Emeth team page [here](#). JFCS has waived the \$36 registration fee for team members; however, we encourage team members to raise funds for the cause.

3. **Family Promise Walk-in-Dinner**, Tuesday, June 29. We will be supplying 150 dinners for homeless people. Those interested in volunteering with Family Promise can contact Paul Shackford, pshackford@gmail.com. If you are interested in the Family Promise newsletter, you can sign up on their website <https://bergenfamilypromise.org>.

4. We're staying active in the **Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition**. Essex County is giving up housing refugees and asylum seekers. It is all about the Benjamins. The protests at the Bergen County jails are helping. We are happy to report the placement of two Central American immigrants in their own apartment. Their success with jobs, a car, and driver's licenses are due to the efforts of the Sanctuary Committee.

5. News about Environmental Issues from Paul Kaufman

- Jeff Tittel has retired as director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. During his 23 years there he has been a diligent advocate for environmental protection, and a strong voice among New Jersey's environmental community.

- GreenFaith and its coordinating organizations are advocating strongly to prevent raids on the state's Clean Energy Fund. The fund, supported by energy ratepayers, is intended to promote

green energy and provide job training to those entering the green energy field. However, in recent years, governors have raided the fund and used the proceeds to fund New Jersey Transit and to plug gaps in the state's budget.

- Legislation which would provide stricter oversight for rail transporters of dangerous crude oil has been reintroduced in the New Jersey legislature. Sponsored by Senator Loretta Weinberg, the bill failed to reach a floor vote in the previous legislature. For more information or to see what you can do, contact Paula Rogovin, paularogovin3@gmail.com

- A movement is under way to bring before the Teaneck Municipal Council a resolution which would support Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) for the township. This program would reduce utility rates and reduce dependence on fossil fuels in Teaneck. Thus far, the Council has refused to consider the resolution.

6. RAC/URJ is moving forward with an overall theme of Racial Justice, a national initiative: **Freedom to Vote**. For more than 60 years, the RAC has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish community to advocate for social justice. A core part of that social justice work is protecting the right to vote and ensuring that all have the freedom to vote. Without this, we will not see any progress on the other issues like gun violence prevention, climate change, and reparations, that our Movement cares deeply about.

What are the goals of the campaign? To help pass HR 1, the *For the People Act* and HR 4 the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. What can you do now? You can contact your Senators right now, telling them to support the *For the People Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and thank them if they already are doing so. Full information at:

[RAC.org/VRAA](https://rac.org/VRAA) and [RAC.org/ForThePeople](https://rac.org/ForThePeople)

While we're on the subject of voting - **June 8 - Primary Election** - this time it really counts as we have contenders for Senate and for Assemblypersons. This is not an endorsement of anyone, but it is a plea for you to **vote**. Make sure you're registered! Call the County Clerk's office 201.336.7000.

Next Social Action Committee Meeting:

Sunday, June 6, 2021, 9:45 a.m. via Zoom.

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library

Monthly News Update: Revisit Our Library Soon!

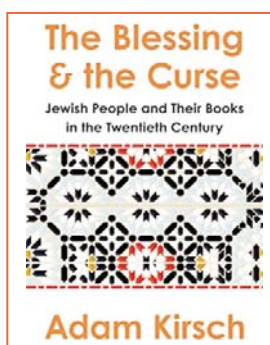
By Marion Wolf

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES ACCREDITATION



Pretty soon we'll all be able to browse in the Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library in person. In anticipation of that exciting time, here are two books you might keep in mind for future reading. One is a book about books. The other is a picture book intended for children. I advise you to find yourself a child or grandchild with whom to read it, because you will enjoy this book, too.

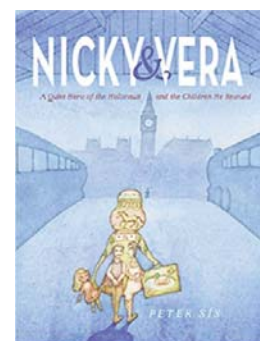
Poet and literary critic Adam Kirsch is the author of The Blessing & the Curse: The Jewish People and Their Books in the Twentieth Century. Kirsch asks the question: what does it mean to be Jewish in the modern world? He finds answers to this question by examining significant and compelling books written by over thirty writers, from Franz Kafka to Philip Roth, Elie Wiesel to Tony Kushner, Bernard Malamud to Martin Buber. The Blessing & the Curse is divided into four sections, surveying literature of Europe, America, and Israel, and also looking at Judaism as a modern faith. Kirsch explores central aspects of Jewish experience, tackling genocide and immigration, anti-Semitism and assimilation. Sometimes he derives insights by comparing the works of well-known writers with their less-familiar counterparts. According to a Kirkus review, this volume is "an engrossing overview and introduction to a wide variety of writers, making it especially useful to general readers."



Peter Sís has written and illustrated Nicky & Vera:

A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued.

This is a true story, "a tale of decency, action, and courage told in luminous, poetic images by an internationally renowned artist." The hero of the story is Nicholas Winton, a modest Englishman who never thought of himself as a hero. In December of 1938 Winton went to Nazi-occupied Prague. He set up headquarters in his hotel room. There he took names and photos from parents who were desperate to get their children out of harm's way. Winton raised money, found British foster families, arranged visas, and forged documents as needed. The next spring and summer, 669 children found their way to safety in England thanks to Winton's efforts. Among those children was Vera Gissing, the Vera of the title. Winton never spoke of



what he had done, but 50 years later his wife happened to discover his records stashed in their attic. She thought the world should learn her husband's story. A famous television appearance brought Nicholas Winton the recognition he had never sought for himself. One good-hearted individual can make a huge difference in other people's lives!

The books in the Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Library can illuminate and inspire. Come see for yourself when our building reopens.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Joseph Pollack, beloved husband of Elaine Pollack

Teri Binder
Susan and Martin Breznick
Phylis Burman and Karen Rappaport
Barbara and Rick Chittum
Michael and Paula Dillon
Judy Distler
Gwen and Martin Dubno
Rachel, Mike, and Amanda Eastman
Judy and David Fox
Michael and Gayle Goldberg
Mike and Mickie Grunstein
Jackie Guttman
Paul Kaufman
Sue Keusch
Sandi Klein
Wendy Kosakoff
Robbie Liblit
Sandy and Herb Loft
Larry and Carla Silver
Sydell Yegelwel

Teri Binder in memory of Alan Rosenfeld, father of Gayle Goldberg
Elinor Buchbinder wishes a Mazel Tov to Michael and Gayle Goldberg on the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Goldberg, to Matt Cecere
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Svetlana and Peter Norr thank the Cantor for her help preparing their son, Gregory, for his Bar Mitzvah

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Karen and Sam Gronner in memory of Marian Ferziger, beloved wife of Rubin Ferziger
Karen and Ron Wertheimer in memory of Marian Ferziger, beloved wife of Rubin Ferziger wish a Mazel Tov to Gregory Norr on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah

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Jill Kravitz and James Kirsch in honor of their niece, Leila Kravitz, becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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Lisa Eig with gratitude to Barbara Balkin
Michael Robinson and Marcia Shapiro in
celebration of the marriage of their son,
Daniel, to his partner Sam Berger
Mary Jane Tucker in memory of Joseph Pollack,
beloved husband of Elaine Pollack

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engagement of their daughter, Sarah
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on the birth of two grandsons
in memory of Alan Rosenfeld, father of
Gayle Goldberg
Michael and Gayle Goldberg wish a Mazel Tov to
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Jackie Guttman in memory of Nanette Badian
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Florette Koffler in memory of her beloved husband,
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in memory of Marian Ferziger, beloved
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wish a Mazel Tov to Gregory Norr on the
occasion of his Bar Mitzvah
wish a Mazel Tov to all of this year's
confirmands
in memory of Robert Newman, brother of
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Nickie and Doug Falk wish Meredith Alvaro-Gebhart
a speedy and complete recovery

TEMPLE EMETH FUND

Barbara Balkin wishes a Mazel Tov to Brandon
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Sam and Karen Gronner in memory of Vera
Gronner on her ninth yahrzeit
in memory of Helene and Samuel Gronner,
Shoah victims who were deported
on May 10, 1942

Vera Horowytz in memory of her husband, Harold
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Sue Keusch in memory of her brother, Wade Hammel

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Wilford Weill Memorial Essay Contest

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on August 17, 1905, Wilford Weill worked in the textile industry in Manhattan while diligently pursuing his true passion as a writer of short stories, novels, and light verse. The Wilford Weill Memorial Essay Contest was created by his widow, Ethel. It is now supported by his son, Donald, and his grandchildren - Wendi, Steve, Jeff, and Kenny - whom he never knew, having passed away at the age of 50 on April 14, 1956. Until his death, Wilford Weill was a devoted member of Temple Emeth.

The winners are Joseph Conlon and Iris Pierce.

The Jewish Pandemic Experience By Joseph Conlon

About a year has passed during the Covid Pandemic so far. Within that period, I have spent a great deal of time thinking about previous events, current events, and hopefully future events. Alas, my Jewish identity was continuously reflected upon. Though we didn't have many E.T.C. (Emeth Teen Community) events recently I found myself looking back on them along with some Confirmation classes and especially my Bar Mitzvah. The Jewish community really showed its stripes through all this. Before the pandemic, my view of the Jewish community was about the same as it's always been, just great passion for it. Now my passion has turned into utmost pride of the Jewish community and its members that I reside with.



Throughout E.T.C. and some confirmation classes during the pandemic, it was all about helping others. For one of our E.T.C. Mitzvah events, we came together as a team helping deliver clothes for the needy onto trucks. The other teens and I spent that entire day loading up truckloads of clothing in midst of August heat while maintaining a proper 6 feet from each other in masks and all. Every single person that day gave it their all and we ended up filling approximately 2 full trucks with bags of clothing. The Jewish community tirelessly gave back during times when it became easy to forget about the poor. This event alone filled pride within me about the community and just how far some of its members would go to be the lending hand during this pandemic.

Even though COVID closed many events, Temple Emeth found new ways to go about Friday night services. With virtual services, I was able to experience the Temple from home. COVID made going outside a daily fear so being able to watch a service from my computer gave me back some sense of normal. Along with Confirmation classes that were kept online, it felt good to see the faces of Emeth again. Instead of simply waiting till the pandemic was over, the Jewish community got together and made an effort to bring back some traditions through virtual meetings bringing prayer and religion back into many homes hurting during all of this.

The Confirmation classes going on during COVID really brought a sense of joy in me. When Rabbi Sirbu got artists from California to speak to us on heroes. I learned a lot more about my Jewish community like some of the people who created these characters were Jewish and the stories they wrote were inspired by Jewish folklore. Little things like this sparked interest and astounding respect within me for the community and in doing so warped how I looked upon its members. Many figures from this inclusive community changed not only the places around them but the world and make me proud to be Jewish.

In a time where people are losing all hope and many are giving up on religion altogether, Judaism at least for me appears to be thriving. COVID just seems like a different hurdle for the Jewish community to eventually rebound from, like we always have in times of struggle. Our resilience and caring nature always seemed to put us ahead. During these times of struggle, I have finally realized that selfless acts of donating to the poor and taking the time to congregate virtually instead of waiting for the pandemic to be over or dangerously going in person really separate our community from the rest. The Jewish community in my eyes currently brings me pride, as we continue to make it through this epidemic I only imagine them making me more content to be a Jew in 2021 and for the years to come.

Kehillah: An Evolution of a Community By Iris Pierce

"Guys, it's starting!" I shout, twisting my head ever so slightly to the left, to make sure that they can hear me upstairs. Reaching for the television remote, I adjust the volume and watch as the screen fades, from the Temple Emeth sign, to a shot of the Rabbi standing at his podium, clad in the white robes he wears every Yom Kippur. I curl my sock-feet tighter underneath me and align my spine straighter against the cushions of the sofa; imagining that I'm actually at service, where I'm less likely to slouch. My mom and sister clatter down the stairs noisily, taking their positions as we wait for the service to begin. But as the Cantor sings the first notes to the opening song, smiling into the camera and right at me, my mind can't help but wander. If someone had told me last High Holy Days that I'd be sitting in my living room, wearing an oversized t-shirt and sweatpants, with the kitchen two steps away on this crucial fasting day, I'd have laughed in their face, smirking. *That's insane*, I would have said, and dropped the conversation, because why would that ever have to be the case? If only I knew that a few months later a world-changing pandemic would encapsulate us; forcing school to be closed and the doors to the synagogue locked. If only I knew that the most major holiday, one where the turnout is so large that the wall to the social hall must be opened to encompass



the hoards of people that arrive, would remain shut; the rows of seats barren. If only I knew that the religious community that I knew and loved, would become unrecognizable. 'If only' is a dangerous game; one that spurs too many unanswerable questions and scenarios for my fifteen year old mind to comprehend. But it doesn't stop me from playing.

In this time of great absence of the Jewish community, I'm presented with a memory of just the opposite. Sitting in an unfamiliar synagogue, surrounded by fellow seventh graders, watching as two guys on stage made a fool of themselves, urging us to shout the word with them.

"Ke-hi-llah!" They exclaim, piecing the word together syllable by syllable, as if we're children who are just learning to talk. "Community!" the smaller man declares, setting the case out straight and simple. At the time, I don't think I cared much about what they were saying. For years afterwards, my brother and I would mock their enthusiasm, causing the other to double over in a fit of laughter: *Ke-hi-llah!* The meaning of it never transversed our minds.

I've always known that the Jewish community is more than just the religion. It's the people. The people coming together; praying together, yes; but being a group who takes action with one another.

When it comes to my 'Jewish identity', my mom always said that I was capable of making the decision on my own of how involved I wanted to be. Emeth Teen Community, more commonly known as ETC, seemed the best place for me to express that urge to become a true member of the Jews. Every month, the lot of us would be accumulated for an activity; whether it be participating in a day of service to better a larger realm of people, or visiting some of the elder Temple members to brighten their days with conversation. Simply by gathering as a whole, we showed how much of a difference we could make; to the Temple, to the town— you could even go as far as saying to the world! But coming together, acting as one, we got more done than we ever could have individually, and that there is the mitzvot of it all.

But the pandemic, COVID-19, changed things; that much is obvious. The rules regarding six feet distance and no large gatherings forced the idea of community, in all aspects, to be cut off. No more large services with Oneg receptions. No more teen lunches in the lounge. No more visiting people at their homes, or taking field trips to the movies or museums. It was suffocating. How can a community survive and thrive without people being allowed to come together?

But even now, I'm still awed. 'The Stream Team' works together to allow for the services to be videotaped and livestreamed, so that all are allowed to watch. People chat to one another in the comment section on Youtube, wishing the general audience 'Happy Shabbat' or 'Chag Sameach'. While the amount of ETC activities has diminished gravely, events in which we wrote letters to members of the Temple and volunteered at a clothing drive were still organized, and done safely and effectively. Through Zoom, classes amongst the Confirmation students, such as myself, were able to be held, and screen sharing capabilities enabled us to watch short films about other communities that worked together during tough times.

Before COVID-19, the Jewish community was like a large family— one that celebrates together and enjoys each other's company. At the beginning of the pandemic, I will openly admit that I felt distanced; the same feeling one gets when they haven't seen a family member in years. I felt hopeless and sad, and wished that everything could go back to normal, so that that portion of my life could remain unchanged. But, change is good. Watching as our entire Temple community rebuilt itself, after being hit with a major setback, is inspiring. The persistence of the people, the way that they persevered past the roadblocks and through the hardships, doing everything we could to remain a community. The strength and effort put in by all people flabbergasts me to no extent. It almost reminds me of the persistence of Moses before the Exodus, not giving up on his people when they wouldn't be freed from slavery. Like how God never gave up on his Chosen people, even after all of the things they did that shouldn't have deserved his praise, such as idolizing a golden calf at the base of Mount Sinai. I believe that God would be proud of his Chosen people through this ruination, just as he has through our Jewish history.

Seeing the vigor of the people. Their inability to give up. The fusing of their collaborative minds to generate amazing accomplishments. Now, more than ever, I understand what the two men were going on about years ago. Kehillah: community, congregation. As plucky twelve year olds who were waiting for the clock to hit two pm so they could leave, we didn't see the importance of it. Of being all together, in one room. But, it's always been strength in numbers, no matter the circumstances, and the Jewish community seemed to realize that a long time ago. And suddenly, now, I realize it too.



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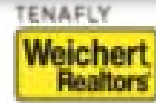
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Peter, Gregory, and Svetlana Norr



Roz Ross celebrated her 55th year as a Temple member at the Milestone Membership Shabbat May 14th.

Rachel Eastman, David and Judy Fox, Suzanne Keusch, and Marion Wolf



Sandrine, Robert, and Leila Kravitz

At the Teacher Appreciation Shabbat on May 7th author Sigal Samuel read her book, "Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World's First Female Rabbi."



Andrea Strongwater spoke about her book, "Where We Once Gathered: Lost Synagogues of Europe" at the B'yachad breakfast on May 23rd.



Temple Emeth
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Emeth

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