



# Temple Emanu-El Connections

Sivan-Tamuz-Av 5777 • V. 81 No. 8

June / July 2017

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2017 **TEAMys** Sunday, June 11

Movies have the Oscars® TV has the Emmys®

Music has the Grammys®

Temple Emanu-El has the **TEAMys\***  
**\*Temple Emanu-El Annual Meeting**  
& Volunteer Recognition.

RSVP by June 7

A delicious lunch will  
be provided.

**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE**  
Sign up with  
[admin@templesanjose.org](mailto:admin@templesanjose.org)

Hosted by  
the 2016-2017  
Board of Trustees

The **TEAMys**  
will begin at 11:00 AM  
Plus, see the premier of the  
2016-17 Highlights video!

### June Service Schedule

#### Friday, June 2

6:30 PM Wine and Cheese Reception  
7:30 PM Graduation Rock Shabbat

#### Friday, June 9

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service

#### Saturday, June 10

10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of  
Benjamin Messinger

#### Friday, June 16

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio  
Service w/ Tot Shabbat  
approx  
7:00 PM Tot Family Potluck

#### Saturday, June 17

10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of  
Rachel Weinberg

#### Friday, June 23

6:30 PM Pride Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, June 24

10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of  
Joshua Tucker

#### Friday, June 30

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service

### July Service Schedule

#### Tuesday, July 4

Temple Offices Closed

#### Friday, July 7

4:00 PM Camp Shabbat at  
Camp Newman  
6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service

#### Friday, July 14

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service

#### Friday, July 21

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service  
w/ Tot Shabbat

approx  
7:00 PM Tot Family Potluck  
7:30 PM Potluck Dinner and  
Discussion: Israel's  
Contributions to the  
World

#### Friday, July 28

6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service,  
led by Ritual Committee

1010 University Ave., San Jose, CA 95126 • 408-292-0939

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## From the President – An age-old Jewish question for Spring...



I'm writing this late, but nonetheless writing what will be my last Connections article for this fiscal year. Where has it gone?? It seems like just yesterday (also May, and also late) I was staring at my computer and wondering where the year had gone and what lay in store for us in the future. Well, most of it was, of course, a mystery then – we'd

have to wait and see. However, one thing would be certain – whatever transpired, there would be either a lunch, oneg, potluck dinner, or some other “excuse” to have a meal. And that's where I sat last year – that last day of Religious School was a combination (digestively) of a Brotherhood meeting, the RS parent, final parent meeting with Phil, and the last day of Religious School BBQ. My final tally from that fateful day – 3 fully trimmed bagels, 2 orange juices, 1 hamburger, 1 hot dog, 3 helpings of cole slaw, 2 bags of chips and 3 bottles of water. Even though it wasn't Rosh Hashanah and not the official occasion to make resolutions, as I sat there with a House-of-Bagels-Temple-lunch-size stomach ache, I committed to pacing myself in the coming year. Great idea, great resolution, and as soon as the Alka Seltzer took hold, I was off to bigger and better things. So much for that.....

Anyway, back to something more interesting than the president's indigestion. Despite my lack of willpower and failed resolutions, I am glad to report the Temple has had a fine year. As I look back I think the one thing that really grasps my attention is how well our Temple staff worked together over the last 12 months – a new high, for sure. Phil Hankin, our Director of Education really swung for the wall in his second year with us, and the status of the Religious School and Temple education in general under him is really in a fantastic place. As president and also a RS parent, I couldn't be happier. Cantor Amanda Edmondson, who was just walking in the door to Temple Emanu-El on July 1 of last year, has really landed, and in a big way. She quickly made strong connections with Temple members of every age group, displaying a warmth, confidence, and level of experience that allowed her to fully fill the cantor's roll. To say she hit the ground running would be putting it lightly... Rounding out the three musketeers, Rabbi Magat has made such a great collaborative connection with both of them that the complementary skill sets of all 3 are working seamlessly at the Temple. And don't forget they have only worked with Rabbi Magat for a short while (Phil 2

years, Cantor Amanda 1), but you'd never know it. They've just clicked and we have a really great synergy between these key players. Good for you, good for me, and good for Temple Emanu-El.

But you do realize we have another key team at Temple, right? Our A-team in the Temple office – Stephanie Pollock, Megan Parkins, Yael Meiri, and Shantha Smith – has done a fine job together this past year – well done. We couldn't do it without you. And last but not least, I'd like to offer a special thanks to Barbara Smead, our Temple Emanu-El Preschool Director. For those of you not familiar, we expanded the preschool in September 2016 and Barb's efforts were crucial to making it all happen, and to be successful. That project will provide well for the Temple for years to come. Thanks Barb – you're a gem.

So as we end the year I want to say thanks to all of our members and friends for supporting Temple Emanu-El – it is greatly appreciated. I hope we'll see you at our Annual Meeting on June 11 at 11 AM in the Temple House. Join us for a nice lunch, a brief summary of the state of the Temple, and shmooze with your friends. Please be sure to come by – don't forget to RSVP to the office – 408-292-0939.

Last word – have a great summer!!!

*Andrew Weinberg*

### Save the Date for our **Shabarbecue!**

**A new event following the Kabbalat Shabbat  
Patio Service on August 4.**



**Hang out  
on the patio  
and enjoy  
a delicious  
BBQ dinner  
following Shabbat.**



## Cantor Notes

I am still on cloud nine from my Installation weekend in May. It was one of the most special and

meaningful services I've had the privilege to be a part of, and I am so thankful. I'd like to share some of my remarks of gratitude from that evening with you again.

I think I should begin by thanking Deborah Zimmer, Maggie Cant, and the entire Cantor Search committee for inviting me to join this community last year. I clearly remember returning to the hotel after my interview here, calling my then fiancé, and telling him that the feeling I got at this Temple was significantly different than the feeling I got at any other I had visited. I knew then that I had felt a connection with the people I met here that was truly unique, and I was thrilled to be invited as the new cantor.

But now, I still can't believe that I've been here for just under a year. The time has truly flown by, and I think it has moved so quickly because this community has welcomed me with open arms, integrating me into daily life without question and without difficulty. Each of you greets me on holidays, Shabbat, or just around the office with a friendly smile, and a kind handshake or a hug. So many of you have gone out of your way to make Ted and me feel at home in San Jose. Your warmth and your love make this Temple a genuine congregation and an especially wonderful place to spend my time and energy.

I have to thank quite a few specific people for making this Installation such a special occasion. The Installation Committee alongside Rabbi Magat has worked incredibly hard and for lots of hours. Their

efforts have given us the opportunity to enjoy this Shabbat and to make joyful memories that will last for years to come. I'm also grateful to the President, Andrew Weinberg, and the Executive and Temple boards for going out of your way to check in on me throughout the past few months, making sure I have everything I need, both in my work and personally. Thank you!

As I have embraced the musical traditions of Emanu-El AND introduced a few of my own traditions, you, the congregation have embraced me, enabling me to make my transition as seamless as possible. Our Temple choir is phenomenal. I'm so proud of what we've accomplished over the last year, and I have lots of ideas for next year. This evening and so many of our services throughout the year would not be the same without them helping to lead in worship.

I'm overjoyed that Cantor Kay Greenwald is here for this event. She has been the Director of Placement for the American Conference of Cantors since I have been eligible for Placement. And as such, she has been a guiding force for me, as well as many other cantors and congregations. I am delighted to have her in the Bay area and thrilled that she is able to join us this evening.

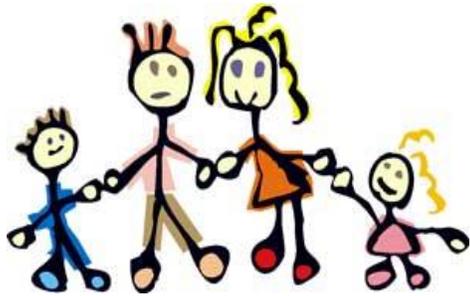
Rabbi Margie Slome has played a significant role in my cantorial training, although our professional time together was relatively short (just 2 years), the impact of that time together has been long-lasting. The student cantor position at her Temple was my first weekly student cantor position, and in that role, I got my first real taste of what it meant to be a congregation's cantor and not just someone who flies in one weekend a month. Rabbi Slome really encouraged me to embrace that role by giving me opportunities to teach adults and children, lead services,

and try any new ideas I had. Plus, a really great perk of working with Margie was that, when we had some extra time, she showed me the best places in Brooklyn for discounted clothing and for getting your hair blown out. I feel so fortunate to have learned from her, particularly when West End Temple was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. Watching her step up in that difficult time—with an unusable Temple AND many of our congregants' homes uninhabitable, she did all she could to sustain and motivate the small community, all while working out of her home, her car, other congregants' homes, and a two-room trailer in the parking lot. And she is still currently seeing the rebuilding through. I thank Margie, from the bottom of my heart for her encouragement then, her support through my journey towards becoming a cantor, and her inspiration on the occasion of my Installation.

Thank you to the office staff, Stephanie, Yael, Megan, Shantha, and our Educators, Phil and Barb for welcoming me so readily. I have enjoyed our chats and even our staff meetings! Working with Barb and Phil on various projects for Preschool and Religious School has been easy and fun. I feel blessed to be working with people who truly care for and have each child's best interest at heart.

I have often heard some of my colleagues complain that they don't get along with the rabbi they work with. A bad relationship between a rabbi and cantor creates problems not just for the two of them, but for a whole congregation. I am delighted to have the relationship that I do with Dana as rabbi and cantor—clergy partners, and friends. I am grateful that he is a mentor to me, and he has also allowed me to find my own way here at the Temple.

*continued on page 4*



**Open to the Community  
Pre-K Family Education**

**“MISHPACHA SHELI”  
 (“My Family”)**

A program designed for preschool aged children and their parents who would like a “whole family” experience. We offer an introduction to Jewish values, holidays, traditions and customs through singing, storytelling, art, movement games and cooking.

**\*\*\*Children must be at least 3 years old by September 1, 2017\*\*\***

**Sundays, from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Class dates** are 10/8/17, 11/12/17, 12/17/17,  
1/28/18, 2/25/18, and 3/25/18

**Cost:** \$180 for Temple Emanu-El members, \$210 for Community

**Register online at [www.templeosanjose.org](http://www.templeosanjose.org)**

Questions? Contact the Religious School at [school@templeosanjose.org](mailto:school@templeosanjose.org) or (408) 292-3223.



1010 University Avenue (408) 292-3223 Religious School  
San Jose, CA 95126 (408) 292-0939 Main Temple  
[www.templeosanjose.org](http://www.templeosanjose.org)

**Save the Date  
for Paws Shabbat!**

Join us for a Shabbat Morning  
Minyan with your dog and  
enjoy a walk around the  
neighborhood afterwards!

**Saturday, August 5 at 9:00 AM**



**Cantor Notes...** *continued from page 3*

I am also thankful that so many of my family members could come to celebrate with us. My parents and my in-laws all traveled from various locations to be here. They have supported me in all that I’ve done, been there for me no matter what, and I love them very much. My amazingly supportive husband, Ted, I feel so fortunate that you agreed to move to a new place, find a new job, and start a whole new life with me. Your faith in me is so great – it amazes me. I’m looking forward to many years of having you continually

by my side here at Temple Emanu-El.

I pledge to you, Temple Emanu-El, to fulfill the duties required of a cantor to the best of my abilities. I will lead services with Rabbi Magat, be available to you and your loved ones in times of both joy and sorrow, and celebrate our Jewish heritage. I will teach your children and grandchildren about Judaism, Jewish music, and what it means to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah. I will put together holiday celebrations, special programs and concerts and work with our choir to enhance each of our

individual and communal experiences at the Temple. I am committed to you and to my work here. I want to dedicate my passion for Judaism and Jewish music to a community who is willing to let me share it with them. And after being here for almost a year, I’ve come to learn that you are that community. It is an awesome thing—and I mean awesome in its holiest sense—to love what you do and to love the people you work with. Thank you.

*Cantor Amanda Edmondson*



## Preschool

It is hard to believe that our school year is already coming to a close. We have had such a busy and very productive year! This was our first year of having our new Duckling class and essentially we doubled the number of 2's in our school which could be seen and felt both outside and inside. The 2's come to us often as their first experience away from family, some still learning to talk or even to feed themselves. Watching them grow over the year is always exciting and Rabbi and I constantly comment on how big they get after just a few months. I am so proud of all of our students this year with how hard they have worked, but I am especially proud of the way they all treat people smaller than they are. Our kids are loving, compassionate and so very kind. Preschool is definitely the place to be!!

*Barbara Smead* | [Barbara@templesanjose.org](mailto:Barbara@templesanjose.org)



## Brotherhood

Brotherhood events last month included a Bocce Ball challenge with Shir Hadash Brotherhood and the world renowned End of Religious School BBQ. I like Bocce Ball because there is usually food and adult beverage involved. I like BBQ because it is BBQ.

It's good to get together with our brothers at Shir Hadash. Reform Judaism encourages encounters with other cultures and in many ways each of our neighboring congregations represents a slightly different culture. Events that bring us together enrich the experience.

I am always curious what other Brotherhood chapters do so I looked a few up on Facebook. The Temple Emanu-El group in Sarasota, Florida plays a lot of poker

and once in a while has a breakfast. Temple Emanu-El Brotherhood in Dallas concentrates on food, like us, on mitzvot, and in some cases mitzvah cooking, which involves providing meals at places like Chai House. I'm guessing that Dallas has a large congregation – they have a page on Wikipedia! Temple Emanu-El of Beverly Hills Brotherhood does a lot of sporting events. Looking at their group picture, I'd say their average age is a millennial.

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**I am always  
curious what  
other Brotherhood  
chapters do**

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*Steve Wernick*



## Stephanie's Corner

What a fabulous year 2016/17 has been. I am so pleased to be completing my second year as Executive Director of this dynamic congregation. We welcomed our amazing new Cantor Amanda

Edmondson and have seen our Religious School program flourish under the direction of Phil Hankin. New adult education opportunities and events are being developed by our clergy, staff, and committees. The leadership of our congregation continues to identify the needs of our community and implement changes to make this a welcoming spiritual home for all members.

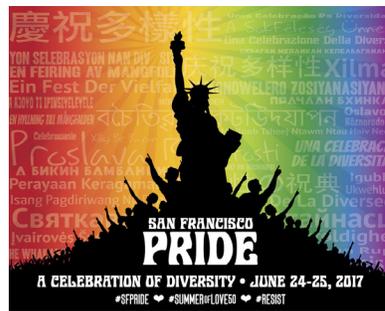
It is at this time, at the end of each fiscal year, that we ask you to renew your annual membership commitment. Your annual commitment allows the Temple to continue to be a vibrant center of Jewish culture, community, and learning.

All Temple members should have received renewal information by mail which explains the process in detail. Please know that my door is always open and I am happy to discuss any questions that you might have about the renewal process.

I hope to see you all at the TEAMys (Temple Emanu-El Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition) on Sunday, June 11 at 11:00AM! We will have lunch, see the premier of the 2016/17 highlights video, and hear about the exciting new opportunities for involvement at Temple Emanu-El!

### EESY Senior Youth Group (9th – 12th Grades)

Temple Emanu-El Senior Youth group offers an opportunity for 9th-12th grade students of Temple Emanu-El to come together for social, ritual, and community service activities. With a full slate of activities organized by an active Youth-led board, teens stay connected and make friends while gaining leadership skills. For more information, contact: [youthgroup@templesanjose.org](mailto:youthgroup@templesanjose.org).



For the fourth year in a row, join the URJ San Francisco Bay Area Community to march together in the San Francisco Pride Parade, Sunday, June 25, 2017. Reform Jews from across the Bay Area will march

together as one united group to show our solidarity with the Pride movement, proclaim our support of civil and human rights, and demonstrate our own strength in numbers.

Earlier that weekend, Temple Emanu-El will be hosting Pride Shabbat on Friday, June 23 at 6:30 PM. Join us before and after the service to make signs for our group marching.

Sign up to march with Temple Emanu-El! E-mail [admin@templesanjose.org](mailto:admin@templesanjose.org) and let us know you would like to join by June 16.



## Friday, June 23 at 6:30 PM

Join Temple Emanu-El, Rabbi Dana Magat, and Cantor Amanda Edmondson together with the clergy of Congregation Shir Hadash, Congregation Beth David, and Congregation Sinai for Pride Shabbat.

We welcome the LGBTQ Jewish community, along with allies, family and friends, to celebrate Shabbat with an inspiring service of celebration, remembrance, and hope with inclusive and affirming liturgy.



שִׁדְדוּדָה  
Create. Connect. Celebrate



# Sisterhood

Well, summer is upon us! This article will be my last in my three year tenure as your Sisterhood President. It has been my pleasure to serve the community in this role and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Donor Luncheon on June 4.

At the Donor we will welcome our new board, led by Janet Phinick. The first meeting for the new board will be on July 9 at 10:00 AM in the BFR. Our annual Sisterhood Summer Shabbat will be on the Patio on August (11 or 25). Please mark your calendars!

Enough from me. Here is Jan with a few words toward her future as Sisterhood President!:

I am honored to be the incoming President of Sisterhood effective July of 2017. For the last few years, I have been following the past presidents and chairs around like a hungry puppy dog, eagerly learning the ropes and tripping along the way. At the end of my boot camp, I gained a strong appreciation of the effort each person puts into making the Sisterhood engine run.

This year, I am excited to bring on a new board made up of women who have been supporting TEE, are new to Sisterhood leadership roles, and women who have been waiting for the opportunity to join us and support our mission. I am so happy that they are taking this journey with me and look forward to showing our members that we can refresh ourselves for coming generations with new energy.

Speaking of renaissance and new energy, we will be taking on some projects over the next few months, including the Gift Shop, which needs updating. We are focusing our efforts on listening to educators and students of the Religious school for ways we can enhance learning experiences, too. Our eyes and

ears are open to your ideas, so feel free to offer your feedback as suggestions come to mind.

I hope to engage the TEE community and their auxiliaries to work together more. Inclusiveness is a virtue. It is important that we find strength in sharing resources and experiences. Whether the event is cross-generational, multi-gender, or multi-cultural, we need to put more energy into expanding our horizons in the events and activities we design.

Once again, I would like to thank the Sisterhood board and membership for their support through the years in giving me the courage to step forward for this honor. I know that the new board will make them proud as we follow their legacy and make our own history.

Welcome Jan! I look forward to working with you as Past President!

*Best regards, Melenie Pearson, Sisterhood President  
408.506.7253 | melenie.pearson@gmail.com*

## Sisterhood Upcoming Events

### JUNE

4 Sunday – 11:00 AM | **Annual Donor Luncheon**

### JULY

9 Sunday – 10:00 AM | **Sisterhood Board Meeting**

### AUGUST

11 Friday – 6:30 PM | **Sisterhood Shabbat Patio**  
or

25 Friday – 6:30 PM | **Sisterhood Shabbat Patio**

## Our Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Services are back beginning June 9!

Join us for the wonderful services on our beautiful patio this summer.

Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Services will be followed by Potluck Dinner and Discussions on July 21 and August 8.

July 21 will focus on Israel's Contributions to the World.

August 8 will focus on The High Holy Days: It's more than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur!



# B'nai Mitzvot



## Benjamin Messinger

Benjamin Messinger, son of David and Lori will be called to the Torah on Saturday June 10, 2017.

Benjamin is a hard working student at Easterbrook Discovery School. He continues to try his best at achieving his own personal goals both in school and sports. He briefly played bass

clarinet for a couple of years at school. He currently works with the younger and disabled students at school and finds fulfillment in helping these kids.

He loves playing all types of sports, volleyball, football, soccer, swimming, basketball and baseball. Baseball is his favorite! He continues to play with the Moreland Little League and has been a part of an All Star Baseball team for a couple of years.

For his Mitzvah project this year, he has decided to volunteer at the Humane Society and help with the animals. He is also looking forward to being a Madrich at Temple Emanu-El and continue his connection to Jewish life by attending Camp Newman every year in the hopes of being a camp counselor someday.

Benjamin is insightful, thoughtful and kind. We are incredibly proud with the young man he's becoming. He has truly enjoyed sharing this rite of passage with his friends.

His parents and brother, Sam, send him a Mazel Tov in admiration of all his hard work, persistence and dedication in this journey



## Joshua Tucker

Joshua Tucker, son of Ilene and David Tucker, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 24, 2017. Josh is a 7th grader at Moreland Middle School where he plays trumpet and participates on both the basketball and volleyball teams. Baseball is his love beyond

all else. He's played for Saratoga Little League since he was 6. Josh also swims with his neighborhood Saratoga Woods cabana team each summer. For his mitzvah project, Josh is collecting baseball equipment for children in need. David, Ilene, Josh and his sister Rachael, couldn't be more excited for his Bar Mitzvah and sharing this milestone with family and friends.



## Rachel Weinberg

Rachel Weinberg, daughter of Andrew Weinberg and Lynn Offenhartz, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Rachel will be going into eighth grade at Discovery Charter School. Rachel loves music, and enjoys playing guitar and piano. She also loves to dance, sing, and hang out

with her friends and family, and her two dachshunds. For her mitzvah project Rachel will be working to help meet the needs of refugee families.

## Mazel Tov

to our students graduating from High School

Jeremy Dworkin

Zachary Dworkin

Carter Fox



Erin Healey

Alia Heiman

Noah Levinson



Our  
Tot Family  
Potluck Dinners  
will return this summer!

Join us on the third Friday of the month. Tots, children and families will join our congregation and be dismissed early for a family potluck.

**June 16 and July 21.**

Services at 6:30 PM; Dinner at approx. 7:00 PM.

## ✧ Ritual Committee ✧

Just before Passover, I had the privilege to spend two weeks in Israel, chaperoning a group of eighth graders through the country, with our eyes towards all things Jewish. The trip was rife with rituals and traditions that most Jews visiting Israel are familiar with, singing Shehecheyanu when we arrived, putting notes in the Western Wall, placing rocks on graves at the Israeli National Cemetery, supporting Israeli charities, and attending Shabbat services. We marched the students over mountains, down city streets, and through ancient tunnels. Being a school trip, after most every activity, we asked the students to reflect on what they just did, and why we had them do it. “What did this mean?”

For some activities, the question of meaning came easily. Riding donkeys and camels, manually separating wheat from chaff, and dining in tents better illustrates the reality of everyday life in biblical times than anything the students can do in a classroom, especially when we’re doing those things in the same places where the biblical stories happened. Placing stories about Abraham, King David, and Roman times into geographic context deepens our understanding and helps reinforce their importance.

Other activities gave us deep insight into modern Israeli history. We saw several kibbutzim, explored the efforts to turn the Negev into arable land, and spent much time learning about why and how Israel went from being an Ottoman territory to its own country. Understanding this history, and its nuances, is key to understanding the political dilemmas that face Israel now. I was grateful that different communities were willing to share with us their time and history, as we were able to learn about the Ethiopian Beta Israel community, visit a Circassian village, and see Bedouin lands, exposing me to challenges I didn’t even know existed.

Some of our experiences, however, left me unsettled. For instance, we visited a Lone Soldier Center and spoke to several Americans who volunteered to enlist in the IDF. While I admire their courage, not just to join a military, but to join a military on the other side of the

world, I can not identify with their strong pro-military mindset. I know how vitally important the IDF is to Israel, and I hope and pray that one day compulsory military service is no longer needed in Israel, but eagerness to fight doesn’t sit well with me, and I still don’t know how I feel about the experience.

But the most troubling were my emotions at the Western Wall. Stated plainly, I felt none of the spiritual connection that many others in our group did (even those not expecting to find any). Seeing the crowds of Haredi Jews clustered around the Wall, men and women separated, tourist cameras capturing it all, I felt like an outsider, not a member. The experiences I brought from home, where men and women pray together, as a congregation, towards the Torah as a symbol, were not found at the Wall. Dismayed, I instead just watched those at the Wall, as a tourist.

Jerusalem is a beautiful city. Rich beyond description with history, the city is in the unique position to offer unforgettable religious experiences. For me, though, the Western Wall was not that experience. Rather,

celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat on the rooftops of the Old City, watching the sunset light slide across the Temple Mount, singing Jewish songs while the Armenian Christian church bells rang and the Mosque’s imam chanted the Koran, that was my defining Jerusalem moment.

And as for my spiritual connection? As ridiculous as it sounds, I found it in Tel Aviv. Yes, the city in Israel where you can eat a bacon cheeseburger on Yom Kippur is not where I expected to find anything more than an airport. In my life at home, the Hebrew language is reserved exclusively for religious experiences. But walking the streets of that immensely huge, bustling metropolis at night, seeing a neon sign glowing green, advertising beer, cigarettes, and an ATM, casually using the Hebrew language for something trivial, that is where the meaning of Israel sunk in, that is where I found my connection.

*Branden Frederick*

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**Understanding this history, and its nuances is key to understanding the political dilemmas that face Israel now.**

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# My Take On The Torah

**This week's Parashat is TZAV and literally means Command.**

**In learning about this Tzav I most related to Rabbi Shefa Gold's modern interpretation as it commands us/challenges us to keep the eternal fire lit for us individually as well as for our community.**

She says:

WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE A NATION OF PRIESTS, to take responsibility for the holiness of our world, to be healers, and when necessary to stand between Life and Death, bridging the finite and the infinite. Tzav addresses the priest in us and so its blessing is in calling that priest forward.

- As Temple board members, we are the priests being called forward to take responsibility.

TZAV BEGINS with the instructions for keeping a perpetual fire burning on the altar. Without the constancy of this fire, all of our sacrifices, our prayer, and our holy work would cease. This fire on the altar of our hearts is the prerequisite for all spiritual practice. Tzav directs us in the tending of that innermost fire. If the fire should go out, our priesthood will be worthless.

- We must maintain the constancy of the eternal fire of our synagogue. Providing a place of worship, education, community, infrastructure. That is our worth.

TZAV ENDS with the ceremony that consecrates our priesthood and sends us to our holy work.

- Tzav consecrates us and sends us out to do this work.

TZAV ASKS US TO ENTER WITHIN and inspect the condition of the innermost fire upon the altar of the heart. We are challenged to look at our lives and ask the serious and probing questions about what supports that fire as well as what puts it out.

The fire itself speaks to me and says, "You must provide the spark. Be with the people who spark your creativity and enthusiasm. Keep reading and learning. Seek out places of beauty. Let yourself be challenged by difficult and interesting projects. Make music and colorful art. Travel to exotic places. Find reasons to celebrate."

"AND ONE MORE THING," says the fire, flashing righteously, "you must remove the dead ashes every day.

I cannot burn clean and pure if the refuse of the past is allowed to accumulate within you. Each morning you must remove that which is old and done."

- Look forward and be a positive influence.
  - As individuals, this is a commandment of how we should live a life of fulfillment
  - Within our community, this is a commandment of how we as Priests (board members) are to keep the eternal fire going within the synagogue.

*Larry Fox*

Larry is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation member of Temple Emanu-El and follows both his parents and grandparents in taking a leadership role in the Temple community. He is currently in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the Temple Board. Larry and his wife Audrey live in Los Altos. Their daughter Hannah is a sophomore at the University of Denver, and their son Carter will starting his freshman year at the University of Michigan this Fall. Larry is also the owner of Valet Custom Cabinets & Closets in Campbell.

## Registration is Open!

**Register your students for the 2017-2018 Religious School Year.**



**NEW THIS YEAR:**  
A faster, easier registration process!  
**YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN TO YOUR TEMPLE ACCOUNT TO REGISTER STUDENTS.**

If you need your Temple log-in and Password, contact [admin@templesanjose.org](mailto:admin@templesanjose.org).

**Registration is open online at [www.templesanjose.org](http://www.templesanjose.org).**



## Religious School

### “Camp Is Life, The Rest Is Just Details...”

This quote was taken from a camper letter sent to Camp Newman after a summer experience which changed the life of this individual. From this letter, Ruben Arquilevich, the Executive Camp Director,

contacted the camper to see if he could ensure that her sentiment was enshrined for years to come. This quote has become the enduring slogan for URJ Camp Newman, and it embodies perfectly what thousands of young people understand each and every summer. I call it the “power of camp”. It is the unspoken feeling that something magical takes place while attending a residential Jewish summer camp (or for that matter, a trip to Israel). As many of you may know, it was my camp experience that influenced who I am and why I became a Jewish Educator. If it were not for my rabbi and the Temple Sisterhood providing me with a campership to attend Camp Swig 39 years ago, my path might have taken a very different direction.

Camp over the years has become vital for producing engaged Jews in all walks of life. Studies show that if you attended a residential summer camp for any length of time, chances are you became an active member within a Jewish community, created a solidly identified Jewish household, and/or dedicated your life to working professionally as a Jewish clergy, educator, or communal service professional. With the cost of summer camp programs becoming increasingly cost prohibitive, an entire generation of young people are not being able to reap the rewards of participating in these life altering experiences. Many families must scrape and claw for any amount of money possible to help offset the cost of these programs. When I first started attending camp, it cost my family \$100 per week. Now it costs me to send my children to camp more than \$1200 per week. If it were not for various campership/scholarship opportunities, my family budget might be maxed out.

Here at Temple Emanu-El, we have a Campership Fund to help with the rising cost of camp. The funds in the Campership Fund were established to provide monies to assist families in paying for a Jewish summer programmatic experience. Whether it is sending a child to residential Jewish summer camp or on an educational trip to Israel, the Campership Fund can help. Several families were able to take advantage of the funds this past year. We also have other named Campership Funds (e.g. Leonard and Bernice

Gaon Campership Fund; Michael Elman Campership Fund; Milton Fox Campership Fund; Phyllis Matzner Campership Fund; Naymark Campership Fund) if you are in a position to help contribute to the ongoing financial viability of ensuring that young people will continue to attend summer camp, and that the Camp Newman motto stays fresh.

This is only one of the many ways one can receive financial assistance in helping pay for Jewish summer experiences. You should be thinking now as to how to begin saving for your child’s summer activities – **for Summer 2018**. Contact the camp/program that you have your eye on and find out what opportunities there are to receive financial help. Start by putting away \$100 per month now so that by the time you have to pay the camp bill next May you will have saved \$1200. Contact the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley and find out when their scholarship applications are available for next year. Whatever the methods, be resourceful and plan ahead. Do not wait for January. Spots at camps begin to fill up by November/December.

I look forward to my annual time at camp again later this month. I will be joined again this summer by many TEE members who will be attending Camp Newman. I also look forward to hearing about the others of you who will be attending Camp Tawonga, JCC Maccabi Camp, and other residential and day Jewish camps. Having children spend quality Jewish time during the summer will have a lasting impact on their Jewish souls that could one day translate into them telling the same story I do about how camp influenced who they became. The investment you make now in your child’s Jewish present will pay huge dividends for the future of the Jewish community.

Please also plan on joining Rabbi Magat for a Camp Newman Shabbat experience at Camp Newman on Friday July 7. Camp is inviting all members of TEE to Santa Rosa to experience what a Camp Newman Shabbat is all about. Get a taste of camp life with a special reception with the camp directors and a moving Shabbat service followed by dinner, singing and dancing! Festivities are from 4pm to 9:30pm. Register at [Campnewman.org/summer-camp/visitors](http://Campnewman.org/summer-camp/visitors). Camp Shabbats are ideal for all Temple members, not just our Temple’s professional team and board. So let’s all go to camp this summer!

*Phil Hankin*



**URJ Camp Newman invites you for a magical Shabbat with your congregation!**

**Friday  
July 7, 2017  
4pm-9:30pm**



Join Rabbi Dana Magat & your Temple Emanu-El community for a Shabbat at URJ Camp Newman! Festivities include a reception with our Camp Directors, Shabbat dinner, singing and dancing! Please register for your visit at: [CampNewman.org/summer-camp/visitors](http://CampNewman.org/summer-camp/visitors)

*Parents: You are welcome to visit camp on Shabbat this summer with one exception: you may not have a child/grandchild/relative who is a camper at camp during your visit because it causes homesickness and issues within the cabin. Thank you!*

**Located at URJ Camp Newman  
4088 Porter Creek Rd., Santa Rosa**



If you suffered a medical emergency or accident and were unable to make your own decisions, who would you want to make them and what would you want them to decide??

While we prefer not to think about it, this could happen to you at any age and at any time. Are you prepared? If not, join us for an information session to learn about:

- Advance Directives: what they are and why they are important?
- POLST: what is it and when do you need one?

Individual sessions will be available for those who want additional information and/or assistance completing an Advance Care Directive.

**Join us on Wednesday, June 7  
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RSVP to [admin@templesanjose.org](mailto:admin@templesanjose.org)

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May 12, 2017 | **Rabbi Dana and Cheriell Magat, Evan Aronoff, Teri Kane, Andrea Laber, Linda Mighdoll, and Nora Rousso** in honor of Cantor Edmondson's installation; **Edith Rosenberg and family** in memory of Joseph Rosenberg; **Nora Rousso** in memory of Elvira Kakis, Carmen Rousso and Isaac Rousso; **Susan Walaszczyk** in memory of Barb and Larry Grossman and George Grossman

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Because it is so  
important, I am  
rerunning the  
May column.

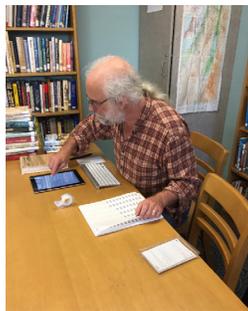
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## Review of Philip Roth's *The Ghost Writer* (1979)

A member of a minority group that is often hated, disparaged, or at least misunderstood might be inclined to keep his or her people's secrets, not exposing embarrassing aspects to the view of the disapproving majority. An artist,

however, wants to tell the truth – his or her truth, anyway – whatever the consequences. Where do a Jewish author's loyalties lie?

In *Ghost Writer*, then-middle-aged author Philip Roth writes in the first person about then-middle-aged author Nathan Zuckerman reminiscing about events in his youth in the 1950s. Young Zuckerman gets to visit his idol, E. I. Lonoff, an older Jewish writer. (You could play a parlor game to try to figure out which real-life author Lonoff is based on.) Lonoff lives in rural Massachusetts with his wife and a young woman who works as his literary secretary.

After a full day of conversation and praise from the great author, Zuckerman spends the night at the Lonoff house and thinks back to his first story, in which he used some events from his own family life, portraying them – and by extension, all Jews – in a bad light. Some important members of the Newark Jewish community expressed their displeasure to Zuckerman.

He also wonders about Amy Bellette, the young woman in Lonoff's household. At first, Zuckerman thought she was his daughter, but he learns that she is his student and a Holocaust survivor. He wonders if there might be more to Amy's story and her relationship with Lonoff.

The stories of the two young people are almost mirror images. Zuckerman wrote his story despite what the Jewish community might have wanted. If Amy is who Zuckerman thinks she is, she is living her story because of what the Jewish community might want.

If the character of Zuckerman intrigues you, you can read some or all of the eight other books Philip Roth wrote in which he is a major or minor character.

Questions for discussion:

- At the end of the book, what does Zuckerman know about Amy?
- Did Zuckerman benefit from his time at the Lonoff house? Why or why not?
- What do you think of Zuckerman's choices as a Jew and as an artist?

Bob Teeter

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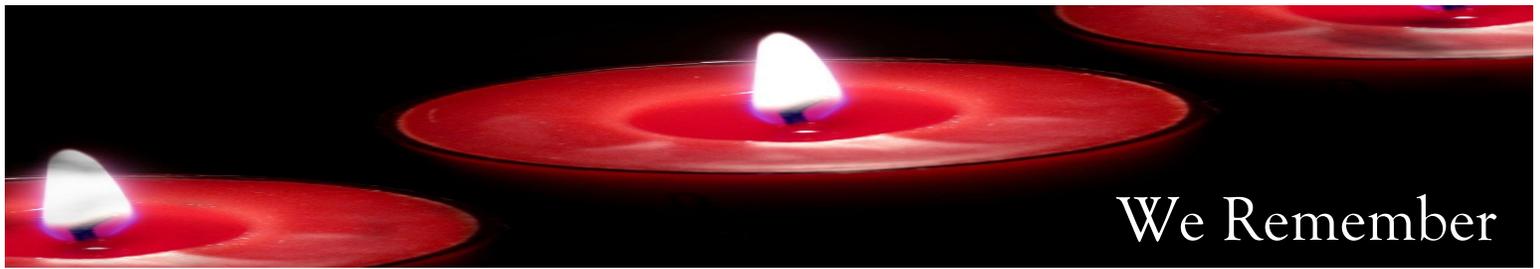
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## We Remember

### Those who have died recently

**Mickey Peres**, step-father of Edith Pollock Kerr

**Isak Yevelev**, husband of Ida Yevelev

**Sydney Levin**, husband of Peggy Levin, and  
uncle of Joan Fox

### And those we have lost in years past

**June 2** | Clara W. Altschuler, Anna Becker, Shirley Berger, Maxwell H. Bloom, Lollie Shaffer Brickner, Robert Cohn, Vivian Debenport, Carl Dimino, Murray Dvosken, Minnie Fagen, Dr. N. William Forest, Lottie Ganz, Leahn Halprin, Donald Heiman, Sidney Huchital, Violet Hutchins, Sarah Kaufman, Emily Grace Leiter, Harry Leiter, Lawrence Lewis, Albert Ludwig, Phyllis Messinger, Samuel Renkosinsky, Cyril Rosenberg, Abraham Rubenstein, Herbert Hermann Schwalbe, Isadore Seelig, Abraham J. Shragge, Meyer Simon, Bertha Treister, Joseph Hart Walters, Sherman Warso, Debbie Wolfson

**June 9** | Lorraine Actor, Elsie Ball, Louis Ball, Helene Breslauer, Robert Broder, Marvin Gallop, Helen Gates, Leon M. Gellman, Morris Gerston, Jennie Gillen, Sarah Goide, Samuel Golstein, Michael Goodman, Betty Gordon, Leon Gordon, Sidney Greenberg, Fred Jackson, Harriet Joffe, Gertrude Kulakofsky, Morton Ladowitz, David Levine, Pauline Milgrom, Dr. Sam Miller, Goldie Minkin, Rose Morris, Harold Newman, Max Novikoff, Mickey Penner, Ted Pollak, Larry Rosenberg, Francheska Rubin, Leah Rubin, David Saltzman, Minnie Schaffer, Erich Simon, Franziska Steinberg, Frances Vilutis

**June 16** | Reba Alberts, David Annan, Edward Berman, Gertrude Davidson, Elias A. Eigen, Dr. Joseph Fischer, Frieda Friedman, Doreen Gilbertson, Max Glantz, Eva Golden, Mark Goldstein, Neil Grossman, Selma Heller, Lena Hetzer, Stanley Kaisal, William Israel Katz, Amy D. Lowy, Don McRoberts, Sophie Meyerson, Joseph Nathan, Sherman Naymark, Susan Parnell, Mark Pearlman, Sam Penner, Ginny Perkins, Aaron A. Richards, Max Schonwetter, Abraham Seldon, Mark Siegel, Sarah Silver

**June 23** | Anna Bronstein, Larry Chatoff, Brenda Heller Cowen, George Dederling, Suzanne Dolgin, Sarah Gerston, Joseph E. Goldeen, Rose Goldstein, Dr. Elsa Gordon, Philip Hammer, Richard Hirsch, Eva Honig, David Kane, Carol Kaufman, Constance Kinspel, Philip Lehman, Irving Levy, Evelyn Marquis, Ruth Matzner, Helen Miller, Dorothy Pinsker, Mary Port, Ruth Rubin, Yetta Schneider, Steven Simon, Idelle Roll Smith, Jacob M. Talkovsky, Ben Woron

**June 30** | Marlene Albert, Gerald Benson, Sarah Berman, Oris Black, Anita Blaustein, Max Blum, Ben Byer, Ruth Cohen, Edwin

Delman, Vince Donnelly, Hilde Doron, Stanford Fox, Harry Friedman, Dr. Max Mickey Gold, Elaine Herzog, Sonia Hirsh, Ruth Hoffman, Irving Levin, Martha Levine, Sandra Medler, Louis Milgrom, Stefanie Newhouse, Kurt G. Opper, Aron Pencovic, Bessie Pollack, Aaron Ress, Samuel Rudin, Ernesto Schkolnick, Dorothy Segal, Morris Silver, Ben Spector, Morris Suntop, Meyer E. Tepper, Rose Uberman, Mrs. Nancy Wright, Phillip Zabinsky

**July 7** | Shirley Azen, Leslie Bamburg, David A. Cohen, Dorothy Davis, Nathan Epstein, Minnie Frederick, Leon Gerris, Corinne Gold, John Grayson, Elizabeth Green, Rosie Ivy, Esther Jacobson, Rose Kaufmann, Sid and Pauline Kovalsky, Ada Kramer, Oscar Lavin, Jack Leiter, Ruth Kay Leiter, Gertrude Lewis, Leo Lindauer, Ruth C. Madsen, Gertrude K. Marcus, Dorothy Meshel, Hannah Morris, Joy Morris, Escher Pintoff, Harry Popkin, Helga Oster Remak, Rachel Rhein, Richard N. Salle, Chester Schneider, William Schwartz, Leo Siegel, Molly Siegler, Judson Thurston, Clorine Wheeler, Sol P. Wilets, Roberts J. Wright

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**July 21** | Jack Brandman, Edward Cant, Jack Duchowny, Anita Ellner, Estelle Farbstein, Abraham Hirsh, Gussie Hirsch, Helene Hurwitz, Max Kaufmann, Dr. Louis Lackner, Stanley Landers, David Levin, Lilly Levine, Helen McDougal, Ann Nemeck, Bernard Rosen, Jack Rotofsky, Myrtle Rubenstein, Joseph Rudin, Natalie Schermer, Samuel J. Schneider, Edward Schwartz, Joseph Shanske, Allen Siegel, George Sturr, Sunny Sunshine, Esther Weiner

**July 28** | Sylvia Abrams Jones, Barbara Abrams, Louis Berlant, Lottie Berman, Alfred Brenner, Arthur Decker, Ernesto Fliker, Charles Galin, Sidney Gambord, Samuel Gerstley, Annette Golstein, Jim Gunn, Morris Hirsch, Leo Ivener, Rachel Jacobson, Julius Katzman, Helen Kerr, Michael Kmail, Belle Kramer, Gladys Kreisber, Robert Leiter, Janice Leshay, Milton Lichtbach, Herbert Marchick, Bettie Miller, Beatrice Motel, Millie Penner, Herbert Ravel, Sarah Richards, Henry Rosensweig, Aaron Rosenthal, Max Sachs, Verleen Salak, Frieda Sapper, Pauline Shine, Ida Simon, Robert Solomon, Hippolito Soto, Mrs Gladys Taub, Benjamin Thailer, Nathan Treister, Leah Yaffee



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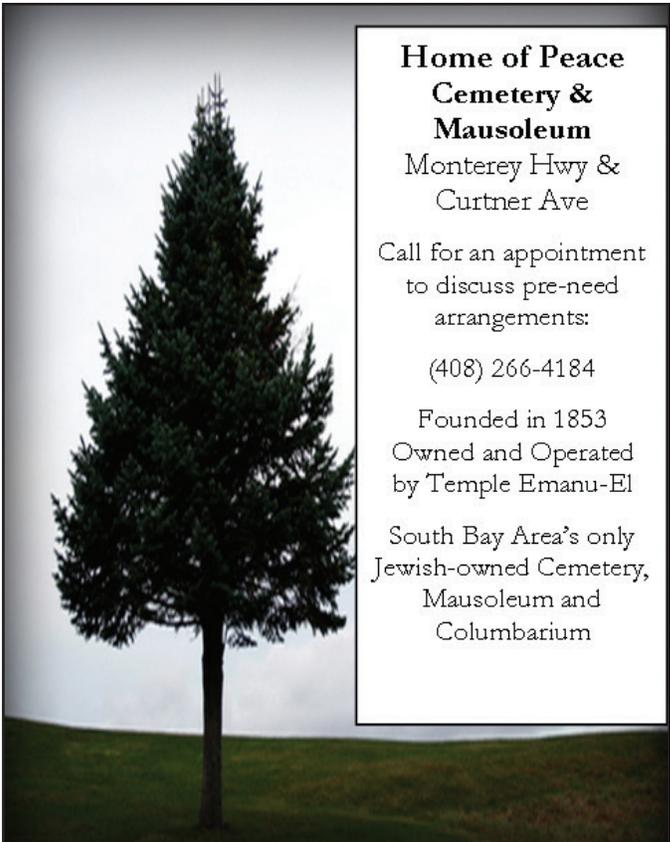



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# JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:00 AM Sisterhood Donor Luncheon		7:30 PM Israeli Dancing	12:00 PM Cantor's Lunch and Learn: What is cantillation and why do we have it?		6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service	10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Messinger
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 AM Brotherhood Meeting 11:00 AM Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition (TEAMys)			12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Kathy Pastor: Coping with our times	6:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service w/ Tot Shabbat approx 7:00 PM Tot Family Potluck	10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Weinberg
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		7:30 PM Israeli Dancing			6:30 PM Pride Shabbat Service	10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Tucker
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:00 AM San Francisco Pride Parade (TEE marches w/ URJ)			12:00 PM Lunch and Learn Torah Study		6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service	

# JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Temple Offices Closed	10:00 AM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP) 12:00 PM Cantor's Lunch and Learn 4:00 PM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP)	6:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	4:00 PM Camp Shabbat at Camp Newman 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00 AM Sisterhood Board Meeting		10:00 AM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP) 4:00 PM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP) 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	12:00 PM Lunch and Learn		6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		10:00 AM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP) 7:30 PM Israeli Dancing			6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service w/ Tot Shabbat approx 7:00 PM Tot Family Potluck Potluck Dinner and Discussion: Israel's Contributions to the World	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		10:00 AM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP) 4:00 PM Hebrew Boot Camp (RSVP)	12:00 PM Lunch and Learn Torah Study		6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Patio Service, led by Ritual Committee	
30	31					



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## Board of Trustees

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**Melenie Pearson** | Sisterhood President sisterhood@templesanjose.org  
**Jeremy Dworkin & Erin Healey** | Co-EESY Presidents youthgroup@templesanjose.org

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Making a contribution to one of Temple Emanu-El's many funds is a wonderful way to honor your friends and family. You may make contributions in honor of a birth, a birthday, brit milah, baby naming, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, graduation, engagement, wedding, anniversary, promotion, new home, special occasion or just because. You may also make contributions for get-well wishes, condolences, remembrances and yahrzeits.

## Award/Operating and Tribute Funds

General Fund  
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Cantor's Discretionary Fund  
Alvin Ravel Garden Fund  
Beverly Jordan Temple Beautification Fund  
Judith Jurman Omens Cemetery Beautification Fund  
Lou and Clara Juren Library Fund  
Ralph Goldeen Library Fund  
Endowment Fund

## Religious Funds

Harold Cahn Prayerbook Fund  
Kenneth Gordon Children's Prayerbook Fund  
Susanne & Maurice Tucker High Holy Days Music Fund  
Ida F. Kragen Consecration and Caring Fund

## Youth Funds

Religious School Fund  
Religious School Enrichment Fund  
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Campership Fund  
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## Cultural Funds

Choir Fund  
Phyllis Omel Junior Choir Fund  
Bertram Berns Music Fund  
Shank-Rockman Family Sound System Fund  
Scholar in Residence Fund

## Community Funds

Facilities for the Aged Fund (Chai House)  
JoAnne Salman-Tehrani Homeless Fund

## Other Tribute Opportunities

\$36 - Prayerbook Tribute  
\$218/\$500/\$750 - Tree of Life  
Leaf/small/large rock  
\$500 - Sanctuary Chair Plaque  
\$750 - Memorial Plaque  
(in sanctuary foyer)

## Opportunities in Levin Learning Center

\$5,000 - Stair Plaque  
\$10,000 - Library Column Dedication  
\$25,000 - Room Dedication

Contact the Admin team for additional opportunities.