

SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 6 @ 6:15 pm

Tot Shabbat Squad @ 5:30 pm

Saturday 7

Torah Study @ 10 am

Musical Minyan @ 11 am

Friday 13 @ 7:30

Youth Group Service

Friday 20 @ 6:15 pm

Young Members Shabbat

Tot Shabbat Squad @ 5:30 pm

Saturday 21

Torah Study @ 10 am

Musical Minyan @ 11 am

Friday 27 @ 7:30 pm

New Members' Shabbat

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

Chevrat Nashim

Sundays 8, 15, 22 & 29 @ 11 am

4th, 5th & 6th grades Dinner

Friday 6 @ 7:30 pm

Food For Families

Sunday 8 @ 1 pm

Roshey Chodesh Pot Luck Brunches

Sundays 1/15 & 29 @ 10:30 am

Helen Spring Library Event

Reading/discussion/reception

Sunday 22 @ 1 – 3 pm

JANUARY 2006

TEVET 5766

Templet

EAST END TEMPLE

Congregation El Emet

245 East 17th Street

New York, NY 10003

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Rabbi David Adelson

Cantor Shira Ginsburg

Karen Feuer, President

**O Chanukah, O Chanukah,
Come Light the Menorah...**

The first thing that God created, in the beginning, was light. In fact, the sun, moon and stars were not created until the fourth day, but from the very beginning the universe was never entirely dark.

The struggle to create light in the middle of darkness is what Chanukah is all about. It comes every year on the 25th of Kislev which is always the moonless part of the darkest month of year.

The metaphor is readily evident. There will always be dark seasons, in our lives and in our world. We cannot control that, but we can commit ourselves to lighting flames, to creating light. Every act of love, kindness and connection will not eliminate darkness entirely, but they are flames of warmth, comfort and a beacon for finding our way.

Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi David Adelson

Dear Friends,

Resolution on Iraq

At the recent Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism, the assembly endorsed a resolution calling for gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, for better support for those troops in Iraq and those who return home, and for honesty on the part of our government. (To read the full text of the resolution, and the letter to President Bush by URJ President Rabbi Eric Yoffie and chairman Robert Heller, go to www.urj.org.) Previously, the movement had offered cautionary and critical statements about the war, but none this strong and clear.



Some may wish this resolution had come sooner. Others, however, are not sure its assertions should have been made at all. Certain Jews, Reform and others, have criticized the statement; a coalition of Republican Jews has run an ad in newspapers, including the New York Times, attacking the resolution. Their main criticism: the assertion that this statement cannot speak for all Jews.

Rabbi Yoffie's response? That *no* statement can speak for all Jews — but that Jews of conscience *must* speak out on moral issues, whatever their position.

Obligation to Speak Out

I am proud to belong to a religious movement that takes seriously its obligation to speak truth about moral issues. The element of debate about the war and all its implications that has infuriated me more than any other — perhaps even more than apparent deception by our government — has been the suggestion that dissent is "unpatriotic." In the political climate of the last few

years, only those with the credentials of Representative John Murtha, a former Marine colonel, can speak out without being castigated as "unpatriotic" — and even then, barely.

Judaism shows us that dissent is the *opposite* of unpatriotic. We can be faithful only by perpetually wrestling with ourselves, with our society, and with God. In this week's Torah portion, Vayishlach, Jacob wrestles with a mysterious divine being and receives the blessing of a new name: *Yisrael*, "the one who wrestles with God." Our blessing is not that life will be easy for us; rather, our blessing is the strength—and the command—to wrestle with the world as it is, with our lives as they are, and with God at their source. We are required to struggle to identify what needs to be changed in order for us to fulfill our destiny, individually and collectively. We are patriotic only if we *do* question, demand answers and guide our personal and national lives in new directions, as we become aware of truth in new ways.

For Jews, loyalty and fidelity are expressed not by acquiescence but by being active in shaping our lives and our world. The United States will be guided to the right course for saving the lives of American troops, of Iraqi citizens, and of making a safer world for all, only when all Americans—Jews and non-Jews alike—demand a full and honest accounting of all our options and responsibilities.

And may God see our wrestling, and remember the name God blessed us with, and be proud.

In hope,

Contact: Adelson@eastendtemple.org

EAST END TEMPLE BOOKCLUB

The Book: *The Plot Against America*
 The Author: Phillip Roth
 The Date: January 9 @ 7:30 pm

The Book: *Fragile Branches*
 The Author: James R. Ross
 The Date: February 13 @ 7:30 pm
 The Place: Call for location 212.477.6444

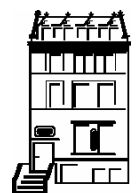
The EET Book Club is open to ALL members of the congregation, men and women alike. Read the book and join us for our 90 minutes + - discussion and dessert.

Torah Portions this month

1/07	Vayigash	Gen.	44:18-47:27
1/14	Vayechi	Gen.	47:28-50:26
1/21	Shemot	Ex.	1:1-6:1
1/28	Vaera	Ex.	6:2-9:35

East End Temple
TEMPLET
 245 East 17th Street
 New York, NY 10003

Editor **Florence Peloquin**
 Production **Sharon Shemesh**



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Karen Feuer

Dear EET Friends:

The Union of Reform

Jewish Congregations (URJ) calls the work of a Board of Trustee member: *Managing the Sacred*. Its publication of the same title, spells out service on a Temple board.

As a Trustee, here is the potential to develop, shape, design and navigate a Congregation's programmatic direction as well the opportunity to guide and direct its spiritual direction. Let me share some data points with you on the current EET Board of Trustees in the hope that it may inspire you to consider service to enhance congregational life and the future of East End Temple.



The East End Temple Board of Trustees (BOTs) is made up of 26 members, the Rabbi and the Sisterhood President. There is one President, seven Vice-Presidents of core committees, three Past-Presidents, one Secretary, one Treasurer and 14 trustees. The current Board is comprised of an extraordinary intergenerational mix of congregants – a better mix than anyone can remember in recent history. The mix includes founding members, young singles, religious school parents, 40 - 60's, and empty-nesters. There is no one bloc of trustees that is a critical mass unto itself to sway or skew votes. In fact, the current composition of BOT members does not align according to any particular age, gender, or other voting bloc. Ah, the miracle of diversity!

On a professional level (just to mention a few) we have expertise in the field of Human Resources, development, mental health, investment, actuary science, “number crunchers” also known as financial experts, lawyers, retirees, marketers, a teacher, an educator, an editor and more. This is as diverse a group as possible, yet connected through dedication to service and committed to bringing you the best that a synagogue can offer. While ensuring that EET brings you the best of worship, activity, and community – current Board of Trustee members struggle with the both big questions and the details of “managing the sacred.”

Here are just two guiding principles that both sustain and guide me as a Board member: conducting all our business in accordance with Jewish values and ethics, and in spite of a sometimes messy decision-making process, including all points of view and perspectives to better inform the final decision.

My heartfelt thanks to the Board of Trustee members, who sometimes toil in the mundane – but more often

than not, address the big issues that shape our Congregation's future and ensure its continuity.

May the lights we kindle on Chanukah shine forth for the world to see and illuminate our lives and fill us with gratitude for those who came before us.

Best wishes during this festival of lights – B'Shalom

Karen Feuer

Contact: president@eastendtemple.org

CANTOR'S

Shira Ginsburg

Judaism teaches us to care for the body as well as the soul. On the Jewish New Year we focus on our spiritual selves. We ask people forgiveness, revisit the wrongs we may have committed, prioritize our emotional commitments, and renew ourselves to begin again. What do we as Jews focus on during the celebration of the secular New Year? It seems the resolutions we make for that New Year are of a more physical, immediate nature. We tend to those worldly things which confront us directly, that are more difficult to hide from in the short term, but are those things any less valuable or less important? How are the two related?



Which commitments do we uphold, if any? Our promises to g-d? Promises to others? Promises to ourselves? Is it a surprise to any of us that gym memberships sky rocket in January? Those first two weeks of the New Year the gym is packed to capacity. By late January the lines have shortened for the treadmills, and by mid-February it seems nearly back to the regulars. How should we interpret this? Do we take our resolutions so lightly? If so, what evidence do we have of our emotional commitments that we make during Rosh Hashana? There is no gym for the soul that I am aware of, and so our spiritual commitments become even more difficult to measure.

As American Jews we have the unique opportunity to celebrate New Year's twice a year. Rather than differentiate the two, let us look at them both as part of one larger body. We need not forsake one for the other, but rather can nurture both the spiritual and the physical within ourselves simultaneously. At a time of new beginning, we get to attend to both the soul and the body. Rather than labeling and separating, let us bring Judaism into our daily secular lives by finding the parallel messages and meanings in both. May we view this secular New Years as a gift, a second chance, a reminder of all that we repented for and all that we committed to this past Jewish New Year.

Shira

Contact: cantor@eastendtemple.org

Our Writers' Workshop program has produced some wonderful creative writing pieces depicting Jewish scenes of *hachnasat orchim*, the important commandment to "welcome the stranger." We learn about this mitzvah when Avraham and Sarah go out of their way to welcome visitors to their tent and then receive miraculous news.



Our Kita Daled class imagined they were writing letters to an imaginary homeless, foodless, or clothingless, child at Thanksgiving or Pesach time. Some excerpt phrases (in uncorrected/natural spelling) were: "I'm inviting you to my Thanksgiving table to play games and have fun and watch the prade, eat dinner, and pray for what we have..." Rachel Hunter); "...come on over to my seder and your frown will turn upside down" (Ben Vimont); I want to make sure you and your family have something good to eat and some shelter..." (Austin Tipograph); I will give you food and cloths and you will have a super time! (Phoebe Caine.); "The Jewish people have a holladay cald Shabat. . you can come this Friday. . . ." (Cole Tallerman); . . . a place to sleep and food to eat. . . a place you can be conferble. . ." (Phoebe Thomases).

Open School Night

Open School Night this year drew a banner crowd of 45 parents who came to participate in class activities, an interactive lesson, a curriculum presentation, and open questions and answers from our EET stellar teaching staff. Thanks to Sharon Shemesh, Bobby and Fran Kolin, Joanne Goodman, our Class Parents, and our wonderful faculty for making everyone feel so welcome.

And, once again, our annual Chanukah party was a huge success – over 50 families attended the opening Chanukah song workshop with Cantor Shira Ginsburg and Rabbi David Adelson; rotated through three additional workshops: Latke Making with EET President and Jewish Chef Par Excellence, Karen Feuer; Dance Your Way Through Chanukah with Aliya; and Chanukah Stained Glass Art with EET Student Artist Melissa Gollance. Each family donated a toy for a needy boy or girl, and received our EET traditional Chanukah gift bag to take home.

Chag Chanukah Sameach to all!

Aliya

Contact: educator@eastendtemple.org

Hello everyone!

Once again this year, I have asked my wonderful and dedicated Youth Group board members to share their thoughts and experiences about the youth group with the entire congregation. This month, I am pleased to introduce Daniel Hochman. Dan is a junior this year and has been on the EERNY board for the past two years. I hope you enjoy his guest column.



Hey everyone,

It has been a fabulous two months at EERNY. The Youth Group has had a bowling night, and while certainly none of us bowled a perfect 300, we had an excellent time. We have also had a number of lounge nights for some much needed R and R. Our movie night featured the Oscar-winning (not quite) Zoolander, starring Ben Stiller, a Jew I might add.

Some members of the Youth Group attended the Shul-in at the Village Temple. This was a sleepover hosted by the Village Temple Youth Group. Our members left with strong relationships and hopefully with ideas for joint Youth Group events in the future.

Of course, there has not been one Youth Group gathering where we have not consumed some type of food. We at EERNY have exquisite tastes, thus we consume foods from Mexican, to Chinese, to Israeli. I encourage anyone to come to our events not only to hang out with the coolest people on the planet, but also to enjoy the celebrated Jewish pastime that is eating.

The Board has made plans to continue this fabulous year with a number of exciting events. We are going to be supporting at least two more charitable causes before the school year is over and we are excited to announce our second attendance to the Downtown Kehillah's Battle of the Bands in January. We are in the process of forming a band at this very moment.

We are also currently in the process of planning a new event this year, and that is the Talent/Art show. Marc and the Board members look forward to updating the temple congregation on the details of this exciting event as it develops.

Finally, Marc Sobel, the rest of the Board and I would like to wish the entire congregation a very Happy Chanukah.

Take Care, *Daniel Hochman*

Contact: eerny@hotmail.com

SISTER TO SISTER

Fern Stampleman

Winter, with her first snow, came fashionably early December 4th! Nevertheless, 55 people ventured forth and at the third Sisterhood program of the year, were treated to Lynn Harris's thought provoking ideas on women in pop culture. What is chick lit? What do YOU think of when you hear this term? Is it good for us, or bad? Do we ever ask if literature written by and for men is good for men? Is there a place for high heels and high fashion in today's women's magazines? By the way, to the latter, Lynn says, yes! These and other questions raised issues, gave us food for thought, provided networking possibilities among the attendees and a down right, entertaining Sunday morning. Let me not forget the scrumptious brunch catered by NYC Bagels and the help and support of Sharon Shemesh, Fran Kolin and Mohammed Hoque. We hope Lynn will accept an invitation to join us again.



Rosh Chodesh Brunches

Well, the weather outside is not delightful, but the company inside sure is! **Join us select Sundays beginning January 15, 2006, 10:30 am-12Noon when we present Rosh Chodesh Potluck Brunches.**

Attendees contribute foodstuff (bagels, humus, nuts, fruit, etc.) Please RSVP with me at 212.569.1896, or email me (see below). We eat and "smooze," then study. Read Judith Lorber's description elsewhere for schedule and details.

Another "can't miss" is the "Helene Spring Library Event," Sunday, January 22, 2006, 1 pm. It features guest author/speaker Bryan Mark Riggs followed by a book signing and EET's famous home-baked desserts! For details, see "Library Buzz."

Additional Dates For January:

- 1/8 @ 1 pm - Food For Families
- 1/23 @ 7:30 pm - Sisterhood Meeting.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors to "Dress for Success," in loving memory of Sarah Rosen: Abby Drucker, The Dubensky Family, Susan Epstein, Ellen and Henry Ettinger, Karen Feuer, Babette Hollister, Carole Hyman, Francine and Robert Kolin, Louisa and Martin Livingston, The Macklins, Nancy and Laurence Schneider, Helene and Leonard Spring and Celia Vimont.

Thanks for shopping the Judaica Shop this holiday season. Keep the costume/vintage jewelry coming in.. Wishing you all a Happy Secular New Year...

Sister-to-Sister,

Fern

Contact: sfhstamps@aol.com

LIBRARY BUZZ

Barbara Ringel

We're just a few weeks away from our third annual Helene Spring Library Event, and you will be receiving your personal invitation within the next week for our January 22, 2006 event. We hope to see everyone there to hear Bryan Mark Rigg, a most engaging writer, whose two extraordinary books explore subjects of interest to all Jews, men and women, young and old. The first, *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military*, breaks new ground in the history of the Holocaust, as he introduces readers to the men in the German armed forces who came to be classified as "Jews" or "partial Jews" under the 1935 Nuremberg laws. They were given the label "Mischlinge." His most recent book, *Rescued From the Reich*, traces one of the most famous rescues of World War II, the rescue of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Joseph Schneersohn, from Warsaw by a Wehrmacht soldier, who we discover was himself half Jewish!



Bryan Mark Rigg is an author and speaker not to be missed. Please join us on January 22nd at 1 pm, when the author will speak in the sanctuary. A reception, featuring our trademark home-baked goodies will follow, and Bryan Mark Rigg will be delighted to sign copies of both of his books which will be available for purchase. There is no admission charge for this event. It is as always our library's gift to our Temple community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who purchased books at our temple book fair as donations to our library. Every book will have a bookplate designating your donation. Your generosity is appreciated, and your contributions further enhances our collection.

Happy New Year and see you on the 22nd!

Barbara

Contact: Ringel@aol.com

JUDAICA SHOP FINDS

Fran Kolin

January is often cold, dismal, and bleak. Our Judaica Shop has the cure for the winter doldrums. We have a few copies of Paul Shapiro's CD, *Midnight Minyan*. Many of you heard Paul and his group perform at a Synaplex Shabbat. Now you can own the uplifting music, the variations on the themes of Jewish music that are familiar to us. Paul and his family are members of EET. They shop the Shop. You can too!

Fran

Contact: thekolins@worldnet.att.net



Despite the cold and snow, the December 9 Synaplex™ brought out a full house for our Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner. Afterward, over 75 people joined Rabbi Adelson, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Pike and Imam Ramadan Zakat for a thoughtful and thought provoking interfaith dialogue. Thanks to many: Lisa Denby, Cindy Au-Kramer, Barbara Katersky, Alec Appelbaum, Marcia Muskat, Marcy Einhorn, Ellen Wiewel, Shaul and Sharon Shemesh, Laurie Truehaft, Marcella Rosen, Liane Rosenberg, Bobby Kolin and Mohammed Hoque.

Our February Synaplex™ will be different in a whole new way. Friday, February 10 is Shabbat Shira, the Shabbat of Song, and to commemorate the week's Torah portion we will hold our first ever EET Zimriya, or songfest. This will definitely be a joyous, fun- filled occasion. Each religious school class is preparing a vocal selection for the evening, and there will be singing opportunities for the rest of us as well. Cantor Ginsburg will hold a practice session for those adults who want to prepare on two Wednesdays, February 1 and 8, at 8 pm. In keeping with our theme, there will also be a special lecture titled "What is Jewish Music". Dinner that night will feature deli platters from Ben's with all the trimmings. On February 11 we will inaugurate our first Saturday Synaplex™. Programming runs from 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Hold onto your hats, because in addition to Musical Minyan with Daniel Leanse we will have text study, an adult storytelling workshop and presentation,

meditation, Instant Yiddish and lunch! See the enclosed flyer for all the details.

An important dinner note: Beginning with the February 10 Synaplex™ we will no longer accept dinner reservations over the phone. The only way to make a reservation will be by sending in the reservation form with a check. This will streamline the process and decrease the administrative burden on our staff. We also regret that once the cutoff date for reservations has passed (as indicated on the mail-in form) we cannot offer refunds or credit towards future reservations for cancellations. You may, of course, find a friend to take your place if you find you cannot attend. Since the religious school will be participating in the Zimriya, dinner for the children will be provided free of charge that night. Please help by indicating on the reservation form how many children will be coming.

Lauren Weinberger and Pearl Polifka



Synaplex™ is an initiative of STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal). Synaplex™ is made possible by grants from UJA-Federation of New York and STAR.

Contact: Lw2@nyc.rr.com

Join us for Tot Shabbat Squad, for children ages 2 to 5 accompanied by an adult, from **5:30-6:30** (note time change). Aside from the joyous celebration of Shabbat with Torah parade, songs, stories, and blessings over candles, grape juice and Challah, look forward to these special themes:
Jan. 6, making of special Kiddush cups for grape juice.
Jan. 20, we will be making beautiful Challah covers.
Feb.10, celebrating Tu B'shevat, the New Year for trees. This will include tasting different tree fruits.
 Future Dates: 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, 6/9

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EET SYNAPLEX™ SHABBAT DINNER RESERVATION FORM
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006
Join us for dinner after Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:15 pm
Featuring Deli Platters from Ben's

Adult Dinners	_____ x \$20	\$ _____
Adult Vegetarian Dinners	_____ x \$20	\$ _____
Children's Dinners (ages 5-12)	_____ x \$10	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____
NAME _____ PHONE _____		

Children under 12 will dine together in the youth lounge at 5:50 pm. Supervised play will be available from 6:15-8:15 PM; however parents must remain in the Temple building. Call the Temple office if you will be joined at dinner with a child 4 or under.

- **Please make checks payable to East End Temple**
- **Space is limited; reserve early. Mail reservations only, no phone reservations accepted.**
- **Reservations and payment must be received at the Temple office by Friday, February 3rd.**

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Marian C. Fish

A blustery day did not prevent our hardy Food For Family volunteers from their sandwich making mission!! **Paul and Helen Levine** were our sponsors of the day. The group of 29 included: Dan, Rachel and Bill Breitbart, Dan Diamond, Ron Dubensky, Ali, Suzi, Rhonda, and Meredith Epstein, Marian, Robert, and Gregg Fish, Jacob Gordon, Evelyn Hendline, Babette Hollister, Mohammed Hoque, Harold Horowitz, Barbara Katersky, Ursala and Julia Ofman, Florence Peloquin, Sharon, Shaul, Sivan, and Saar Shemesh, Daniel Simms, Celia and Ben Vimont, and Eric Weiss. We prepared **384 meals** and sent them along in the City Harvest truck. A job well done!!

Our next FFF will be on Sunday, January 8th at 1 pm in the Social Hall and the sponsor is **Babette Hollister**. The winter is an especially tough time for needy families, so please consider joining us. We'd like to increase our output so we can feed more people. In addition to your presence, each person attending (including children) is asked to bring **five** loaves of bread and **16** pieces of fruit. And, don't forget something to cover your hair (baseball caps are fine).

Looking forward to seeing you on January 8th.

Marian

Contact: mfish1211@aol.com

WEBSITE NEWS

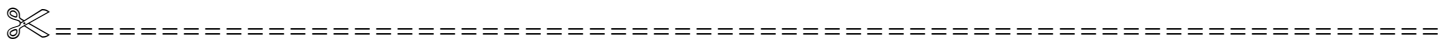


According to the Guinness World Records, the most visited website was the official website of the 1998 World Soccer Cup with 1,137,218,296 hits over the course of the competition. While we can't say that East End Temple's website has reached comparable numbers of visits, we have found that the number of visits to our website *has* increased over time. Some changes, including increased information and enhanced features, may account for that.

The most recent update to our website is a new box on the homepage, featuring our Adult Education programs. You may click on a link in that box which will take you to our Adult Education page, with a full listing of our activities. (Alternatively, you can click on the Adult Education choice on the left side of the home page.)

While we can't promise to reach numbers that will put us in the Guinness World Records, we will continue to update and improve our website so our community will find it helpful!

Ellen Ettinger



EAST END TEMPLE DONATION FORM

Please use this order form to send contributions to any fund(s) you choose. You may use the form below by filling out the information and sending it with your check to the Temple office, attention to the fund chairperson. Please use a separate check for each fund.

Sisterhood Funds	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLATION/ONEG SHABBAT	(\$50)	Elizabeth Gross	(718) 335-8459
	<input type="checkbox"/> FLORAL FUND	(\$60)	June Morse	(212) 689-5557
	<input type="checkbox"/> HELENE SPRING LIBRARY FUND	(\$10 per listing)	Barbara Ringel	477-6625
	<input type="checkbox"/> TORAH FUND	(\$10 per listing)	Carole L. Hyman	477-6444
	<input type="checkbox"/> SIMCHA FUND	(\$10 per listing)	Temple Office	477-6444
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD FOR FAMILIES	(\$18 per listing)	Temple Office	477-6444
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD FOR FAMILIES DAY CO-SPONSORS	(\$300)	Temple Office	477-6444

The following funds are handled by the Temple Office – 245 East 17th Street NYC (212) 477-6444

<input type="checkbox"/> EET BROTHERHOOD YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND (EETBYEF)	(\$10 per listing)
<input type="checkbox"/> EL EMET FUND	(\$10 per listing)
<input type="checkbox"/> FUND FOR THE FUTURE	(\$100 per listing)
<input type="checkbox"/> HAMERMESH MUSIC FUND	(\$10 per listing)
<input type="checkbox"/> KEHILA FUND	Joan Beranbaum 212/254-5740 and Judith Sussman 212/982-0382 (\$1800 minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUE	(\$720 each)
<input type="checkbox"/> SIMCHA TREE LEAF	(\$236 each)
<input type="checkbox"/> RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY	(\$25 per listing)
<input type="checkbox"/> SARA A. SPENCER CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER	(\$10 per listing)

FROM (name of contributor): _____

MESSAGE: _____

RECIPIENT TO BE NOTIFIED, NAME & ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

THE TEMPLE FAMILY

Congratulations and Mazal Tov to

- Beth and Jerry Labush on their daughter, Rachel, passing the Bar
- Barbara and Paul Ringel on their son, Peter, passing the Bar
- Meltem Slater on her conversion to Judaism
- Helene and Leonard Spring on the birth of their great grandson, Luke Mason Polatsch, born on November 21, 2005. Son of Betsy and Dr. Dan Polatsch and grandson of Meryl and Michael Mann

Welcome New Members

Meltem and Marrick Slater

Get Well Wishes to

Betty Beranbaum, Jeanette Jacobson, Myrna Kronenthal, Doris Stampleman and Marjorie Sussman

Deepest Condolences to

- Betty Phillips on the loss of her sister, Lillian Horowitz
- Debbie Carlton Sanders and Geoff Sanders on the death of Debbie's grandmother, Mildred Carlton
- Carole Sobin and her family on the passing of her uncle

Interfaith/Intercultural Report

The definition of what constitutes an interfaith/intercultural family was expanded more than I would have imagined at the recent IF/IC service and dinner on December 2nd. Couples who included one converted partner were present as were those where the non-Jewish partner chose *not* to convert. Most unexpected of all, however, were those couples who were both born Jews but still had diverse traditions in family backgrounds and shared their stories so openly and eloquently.

Krstyna Frankel related that when she married Nat Siegel, her father, a Polish Jew, expressed concern that Nat would wait until *after* the wedding to announce that he was a closet Orthodox (he didn't). Pearl and Bob Polifka also talked about the sweeping differences between the Galaciana Jews and the Litvak Jews, all Poles; the conflicts didn't sound all that different than interfaith experiences here in contemporary America.

It was an honor to deliver the D'var Torah and to see such an amazing turnout at the dinner. I hope that more of my fellow congregants, those in interfaith families and those who are not, will feel welcome to participate in future IF/IC events. Look for the next one in late January or early February.

Adam Schartoff

EET HAS NEW JUNIOR FACULTY PROGRAM

We have a new Ozrim program placing our EET high school students as "Ozrim" ("helpers" – junior faculty members) in the classrooms, reading Hebrew and working on projects with the students in our classes. We are proud to announce the following students working in our 5766/2005-6 school year: Ben Goodman (Gan/Gan Gadol); Matt Eshed (Esther's Kita Bet); Tania Jofe (Nitzan's Kita Bet); Greg Connuck (Kita Gimmel); Lili Blumenberg (Kita Hey/Vav); and Saar Shemesh (Floater: Kita Zayin/Kita Daled/Kita Hey-Vav). In addition to helping teaching subject matter, our Ozrim will serve as role models to the younger students as they consider Confirmation studies and Youth Group participation in their future.

NEW MEMBERS: Please watch your mailboxes for your special invitation to our New Member Shabbat, Friday, January 27th! We will welcome and honor you, and celebrate with a special Oneg Shabbat!

Movie Review: Bee Season

If you can buy Richard Gere, the quintessential "American Gigolo" and "Pretty Woman" patron as a Berkeley professor of religion with a specialty in Kabbalah, then you might accept this dysfunctional family's doings as entertainment.

Adapted from the popular book, "Bee Season" by Myla Goldberg, the miscasting of Gere as a Judaic scholar and Juliette Binoche as his scientist-kleptomaniac wife, is a basic flaw in this story that follows the trajectory of an 11-year old daughter (beautifully played by Flora Cross) as she climbs the spelling- bee- contest road to its finals and the surprise climax of the movie. Evidently caused by the shift this of zealous dad's affection from him to his sister, the teenage son defects from Judaism and shops Oakland for new religious meaning, stopping along the way to try out Catholic Communion and finding the orange world of Hare Krishna as comfort zone.

Our young spelling expert, Eliza, has been furtively studying her father's Kabbalah thesis; one night she is so overtaken with religious fervor that she transcends this world, collapsing to the floor as the screen fills with flashing lights and dancing Hebrew letters. The papa character (name Saul Naumann) is so obsessed with the power of words to both bring his spelling daughter fame and solidify his position at the university that this characterization almost single-handedly helps exhaust the spelling bee movie genre.

Florence Peloquin

In Memoriam

Beatrice Strasnick
1911 - 2005



Bea Strasnick, one of the founders of East End Temple in 1948, died on December 3, 2005. She was 94 and remained committed to the Temple to the end. Below are excerpts from the finely detailed profile of Bea Strasnick written by Marcia Muskat in October 2004.

When Bea married Joel Lieberman in 1944, synagogue membership was not on their to-do list. After all, while growing up in Prospect Park South, Brooklyn, Bea frequented her neighborhood Temple only for its Sunday evening junior dances. In 1947, the Liebermans were prompted to have coffee with Bea's dear friend and sorority sister, Sylvia Shapero, her husband Dr. Ed Shapero and a think tank of young Stuyvesant Town couples devoted to starting a new Reform Jewish Synagogue. Bea, an Arnold Constable assistant buyer, Joel, an attorney, and 15 other luminaries, borrowed strategies from their professional playbooks to create East End Temple's charter. Fifty-seven years later, their roadmap continues to guide EET's passage.

The Activist

Bea's clear-eyed sense of how to generate activity was not lost on the powers-that-be at Arnold Constable (where she became head sportswear buyer), or on The Women's Sportswear Buyer's Club (where she became a two-term president), or on the all-male EET Board of Trustees (where she became the first woman elected to the EET Board). Bea's position as EET's (third) Sisterhood President inspired garment center manufacturers to donate merchandise to the EET Thrift Shop, and Sisterhood members to enroll in Braille transcription classes. Bea distinguished herself as a Jewish Braille Library transcriber. A hallmark of her fashion/business savvy was

EET's Annual Sisterhood Fundraiser: a donor luncheon and fashion show at the Gramercy Park Hotel.

One has to admire Bea's 'why-not' approach. In the 1920's, she was a Blue Ridge Mtn. sleep-away camp counselor, and at 19 years of age, she was a graduate of Adelphi College with a major in English and a minor in Psychology. More recently, she has studied Psychology and Geology at Hunter College's senior's program and combines Washington D.C. and California Elder Hostel coursework with visits to her two grandchildren and four great-granddaughters. She is a real New Yorker who has resided in the same apartment for 53 years while boldly traveling to more than 30 European countries as well as Hawaii, Bali, Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands.

Current Activities

Visitors to the EET Social Hall are greeted by the stained glass windows that Bea commissioned in memory of her late-husband, and former EET vice president, Joel Lieberman. Bea later married Irv Strasnick who used his architectural carpentry skills to design and construct the Temple's 23rd St. Bimah, torah ark and exterior windows. EET's silver torah plate is Bea's gift in Irving's memory. In 1958, 1973 and 1998 Bea lovingly recorded three logs of EET's history.

In Memoriam

Bess Gershenfeld
1917-2005

Bess Gershenfeld, a warm and loving woman, died on November 26, 2005. The East End Temple family mourns the loss of this active woman who had an intellectual curiosity and enjoyed being involved in the world. She took Hebrew lessons from the rabbi and participated in many discussions. Bess was an early member of Chevrat Nashim, EET's group of senior women who meet every week.

Early in her career, Bess worked as a fashion manager at Macy's. She loved the ballet and the opera and was a frequent volunteer at the New York State Theater's gift shop in order to earn tickets to the performances. Before she became ill, Bess took exercise classes at the 14th

Street Y. And, she was a frequent day-tripper to Atlantic City with her friends.

Bess and husband Ernie were original tenants of Stuyvesant Town; they traveled extensively and had a comfortable life until Ernie's death in 1982. Bess was very close to her siblings and her many nieces and nephews; she was a loving "Aunt Bess" who could always be counted on to send a celebratory card (with a celebratory enclosure) at the right time to the right relative. Bess Gershenfeld can best be described as an intelligent and caring person.

The congregation of East End Temple extends sincere condolences to her family here and in Michigan.

Florence Peloquin

Phil Gollance Has Method To His Madness

Phil Gollance is a man who is used to working with systems. He relishes the opportunity to discover and repair their inconsistencies. He is an actuary at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey where one of his responsibilities has been to develop strategies for dealing with the new and convoluted Medicare Part D drug insurance program for seniors. At EET, Phil creates systems that motivate and manage Temple volunteers. Like pieces of a puzzle, he coordinates the assignments of Shabbat and High Holy Day ushers; runs the Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustees; and participates in and has run the Religious School Book Fair committee. Much to his delight and amazement, members don't hang up on his persistent calls for volunteers.

Reform Jewish Background

Phil's parents passed down a strong Reform Jewish tradition. Phil's rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Lynbrook, Long Island was Harold Saperstein, a leader in the Reform Movement. One of the assistant rabbis was Eric Yoffie, the current president of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). Phil earned a BA in Mathematics at Haverford College and an MBA at the University of Michigan. For nine weeks in between, he participated in a work-study Ulpan program at Kibbutz Neot Mordechai in the Upper Galilee, Israel. That experience reconfirmed Phil's love for Judaism as well as his knack for organizing. At the kibbutz, he was charged with assigning and rotating his fellow students' jobs. Most students, including Phil, preferred picking apples from the orchards or making Naot shoes to working in the noisy polyurethane plastics factory. But each offered opportunities to learn about kibbutz life and meet new people.

Appreciation of East End Temple

Phil and his wife, Carolyn, recognized a welcoming community when they walked into East End Temple, then their neighbor on 23rd Street and Second Ave. A supportive, inclusive network of clergy and community was responsible for immersing their older daughter, Sonia, into the merriment of Torah for Tots where the assistant was fifth grader Stephanie Kolin. This same support network brought Phil and Carolyn into friendships that exemplify EET's mission of caring connections. A long and happy liaison between the Gollances and EET is reflected in Sonia and younger sister Melissa's involvement in religious school as Bat Mitzvot, and as confirmands. Phil turned his methodical attention to the Youth Education Committee, the Ritual Committee, the Honors Committee, and Food for

Families. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees and injects structure and humor whenever possible.

The Many Sides of Phil

While Phil knows the value of a good operating system, he also makes space for community, camaraderie and comedy. He was a manager for his daughters' Stuyvesant Little League baseball teams, a stand-up comic during his family's vacations at Golden Acres Dude Ranch, and a spelunker through archeological caves during his family's recent vacation in Israel. He offered memorable words of wisdom at his daughters' B'nei Mitzvot, provides toasts at celebrations, and mentors New Jersey fifth graders in math. Daughters Sonia (The University of Chicago) and Melissa (LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts) know well the fun that lurks within their dad's analytic exterior.



Phil Gollance

We'd love to hear your story.

Call Marcia Muskat 212.477.6444 and tell her that you are ready to share



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To thank the Rabbi with his help in preparing Alanna for her Bat Mitzvah

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In honor of the birth of Luke Mason Polatsch, Helene and Leonard Spring's first great grandchild

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In loving memory of my sister, Rosalind Solon Buchman

FOOD FOR FAMILIES**SPONSOR-FOR-A-DAY****Babette Solon Hollister**

In loving memory of my daughter, Kate and my parents, Ben and Gusta Weiner Solon

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Condolences to the Landman Family on the loss of Bonnie's mother, Kathleen Hoyt

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In memory of my sister, Lila L. Schaber, on her yahrzeit

The Weinberger/Connuck Family

Mazal Tov to Helene and Leonard Spring of the arrival of your first great grandchild

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In memory of my mother, Gertrude Schiff, on her yahrzeit

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In memory of Abraham Spinrad

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Martha Barbara Tack

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Marcia & Michael Muskat

In celebration of Sharon and Shaul Shemesh's son, Sivan, Bar Mitzvah and Sharon's brother's wedding

Sharon & Shaul Shemesh

- To thank our Temple friends for their good wishes and contributions on behalf of our son Sivan becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- To thank Rabbi David Adelson and Cantor Shira Ginsburg for their help in preparing Sivan for his Bar Mitzvah

Simcha Tree Leaf purchases for:

Luke Mason Polatsch, by his great-grandparents, Helene and Leonard spring

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Rita & Al Cohen

In memory of the dear father of Del Tartow

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In honor of the Springs and their growing family

Shirley Lipton

- In memory of Florence Herz's daughter-in-law, Wendy
- Wishing Helen Josepher good health

Carol Nimberger

- In memory of Bernard Deutchman
- Congratulations to Marcia and Michael Muskat on Jackie's marriage to Brian

Betty Phillips

- In loving memory of my sister, Lillian Hurwitz
- In memory of my friend, Bess Gershenfeld

Adele Reiss

- Congratulations to the Kolin family on the birth of Itai Joshua
- Congratulations to Beth and Jerry Labush on the marriages of their daughters
- Best wishes to Helen Josepher for a complete recovery

Shirley & Irving Roth

Deepest condolences to Florence Herz on the death of her daughter-in-law, Wendy

Irene & Paul Rulnick

In honor of the marriage of Jason and Anna Rulnick

Helen Sanders

Deepest condolences to Florence Herz on the death of her daughter-in-law, Wendy

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- Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to Betty Beranbaum
- Mazal Tov and all good wishes to Daniel Warschauer on his Bar Mitzvah
- Mazal Tov to Shirley and Irving Roth on their milestone 60th anniversary

Judith Sussman

In appreciation for all the support Helene Spring gives to individuals EET "family members"

Martha Barbara Tack

In memory of Bess Gershenfeld

Calling all Writers, Raconteurs, Storytellers

Sign up now to participate in a unique Synaplex™ experience. The Moth, an award-winning storytelling organization based here in NYC, will lead a workshop for adults on Saturday morning, February 11. Find out how to shape your Jewish life experiences into personal narrative and present your five-minute story to us over lunch. See the insert in this Templet for details. Space is limited to six people. Call the Temple office to reserve a spot. For more information on The Moth, visit www.themoth.org.

WZO – TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR MEMBERS OF EET

1. Have you registered to vote in the WZO Congress elections to be held in early 2006? If not, forms are available in the Temple office. It is important we members of EET vote to make certain equitable funds are allocated to the Reform Movement in Israel and not inequitable funds because of the strength of the Orthodox community there. Fill out the Registration form and send your check for \$7.00 before February 1.
2. If you have registered, vote the day you receive your ballot so you won't forget. No additional money need be sent, Vote the American Reform Zionist Association. Voting closes February 28.

While we accept phoned-in contributions for our various funds, the surest way to ensure accuracy is to put it in writing and mail to the Temple office with your check.

The exceptions are **Library Fund contributions**, which should go directly to Barbara Ringel, 431 East 20th Street – 4F, NYC 10010. Telephone number: 212.477.6625. Be sure to include your address, phone number and e-mail.



ROSH CHODESH POTLUCK BRUNCHES:

FOUR SUNDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 15, 2006

We are very familiar with the Biblical stories of Eve and the matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel. We know about Miriam and Ruth. But there are many other women in the Bible, with stories that reflect their times and have relevance for ours. They are victors and victims, lamenting daughters, and prophetic oracles. These women also represent Israel, Tikva Frymer-Kensky argues in her book, *Reading the Women of the Bible*. Judith Lorber, CUNY Professor Emerita of Women's Studies and member of East End Temple, will be leading five Rosh Chodesh discussions on these less-known Biblical women.

Women members of EET are welcome to bring women guests. Reserve a space in advance of each date -- call 212-477-6444. We meet @ 10:30 am.

1/15 - Deborah and Yael, Warriors by Weapon and Word
1/29 -Trauma and Tragedy, the Betrayals of Tamar
3/12 - Hagar, My Other, My Self
3/26, 4/30 - TBA

HEBREW READING INTENSIVE

You should be able to read the prayer book with fluidity after only five sessions. One-hour classes will run 1/12 & 1/19 and 2/2, 2/9 & 2/16 at 6:45 pm with EET's own leading Hebrew class instructor, Shalom Steinberg. Cost: \$36/members, \$50/non-members. Bring a friend

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- Guest speaker Rabbi Aaron Panken, Dean of Hebrew Union College (6/9)

THEATRE TUNES...

CHITA RIVERA-A DANCER'S LIFE

Sunday afternoon, February 5

BAREFOOT in the PARK, Wednesday Eve., March 1

TARZAN, Wednesday Evening, June 21

Call the Temple office 212/477-6444 to reserve your ticket today.



EET expresses sincere appreciation to Helene and Leonard Spring who generously underwrote the entire cost of the 2005 HHD CD in honor and in memory of their dear daughter, Lesley Spring Sanders.