

**REGULAR SHABBAT SERVICES**

**Friday 3, 7:30 pm**

**Saturday 4, 10 am**  
*Shabbat Chavurah*

**Friday 10, 7:30 pm**  
*Tot Shabbat, 6 pm*

**Friday 17, 6 pm**  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*

**Saturday 18, 10 am**  
*Shabbat Chavurah*

**Friday 24, 7:30 pm**

**Friday 31, 7:30 pm**

**TEMPLE ACTIVITIES**

**Chevrat Nashim –  
Mature Women’s Group**  
*Sundays 5, 19 & 26, 10:30 am*  
*Sunday 12 – Time TBA*

**Rosh Chodesh Potluck Brunch**  
*Sunday 5, 12:30 pm*

**Melton Mini School**  
*Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 & 28, 9:30 am*

**Food For Families**  
*Sunday 12, 1:30pm*

**Worship Initiative**  
*Tuesday 21, 6:45 pm*

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
*Monday 27, 7:15 pm*

**BookClub**  
*Tuesday 28, 7:30 pm*

**BookClub**

***Boychiks in the Hood***  
*By Robert Eisenberg*  
*Tuesday 28, 7:30 pm*

**Food For Families**

***“South of the Border”***  
*Sunday 12, 1:30 pm*

# Templet

## OUR NEW BUILDING UPDATE

At the Board of Trustees meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>, Rick Muskat reported that construction of our new building was back on track after some unavoidable delays, and that it looked like construction would be completed within weeks, barring heavy snowstorms or other deterrents. Rabbi Adelson stated that we will have our first Shabbat Service on 17<sup>th</sup> Street the first Friday after we move in.

Here is the rest of **Rick Muskat’s** report:

Work is continuing at a steady rate at our beautiful new home. The library is being stripped and refinished and looks outstanding. The room will be rich in original period detail and feeling. The sanctuary walls are in place with scaffolding still covering the room so that the ceiling can be installed. Our elevator has been installed but is not quite ready for use; they say another few weeks. The balcony is in place and our Rabbi's study as well as all the other offices are ready for finishing details. The Religious School level is largely completed as well and you can really see how exciting a place it is going to be.

Back at the architects' offices, the model for the ark doors is being handmade and will be cast in bronze shortly. Thanks to Phil Listengart's expertise and experience at the foundry, these doors promise to be the centerpiece for our magnificent sanctuary. Stay tuned for more details...

## EAST END TEMPLE

Congregation El Emet

403 First Avenue

New York, NY 10010

v: 212 779-7330

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[www.eastendtemple.org](http://www.eastendtemple.org)

[eet18@aol.com](mailto:eet18@aol.com)

Rabbi David Adelson

Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky

Edna Rosen, President

**\* SEE CALENDAR FOR CLOSING DATES**

Shalom Friends,

The little groove between the upper lip and the nose is called the philtrum. The Midrash teaches us that just before we are born, we know everything about the universe, about God, about ultimate truth. But just at the moment of birth, the angel clops us just below our nose, leaving us permanently marked, and we instantly forget all we knew. It is then our life's work, the work of our life, to try to regain what we've lost. We spend our lives searching for ultimate truth, for what is important in life, for what is more than just ourselves.

There was one moment in our history when we did not have to search for where we might find the infinite in life. That was the moment we all stood together at Sinai, a moment shared by the 600,000 who came out of Egypt and by all who would ever live thereafter. We were all there. At that one moment, for one split second, the barrier between the infinite, and the finite was broken. God, who represents all that is transcendent, infinite, universal, came into contact with us, who are finite and live within the limits of the daily, physical world. The people couldn't handle more than a fleeting moment of that intense contact, and begged Moses to intercede. But it is the memory of that one moment when we all stood at Sinai which lets us know that it is possible to come in contact with the Infinite.

What is Infinite? That which extends beyond just us here right now. This may be the experience of love, or of feeling connected in a deep way to the past and future, or seeing the bigger picture. Perhaps when we've faced a difficult decision in our life, we got a clear, if fleeting, sense of what we had to do. This is the truth of the universe speaking to us. This is being connected to the Infinite. Standing face to face with ultimate truth as we did at Sinai can be very frightening, and we may feel small and powerless. But it can also feel comforting, because we know that we have access at every moment to all that is meaningful in the world, all that is more than just ourselves.

I pray that each of us may become more in contact with moments of awareness of what is important, of what is transcendent, of the Infinite. That awareness is as close as (just underneath) the nose on our face.

L'shalom,

Contact: [adelsoneet@aol.com](mailto:adelsoneet@aol.com)

**Tu B'Shvat - Birthday of the Trees**

It is odd to celebrate a holiday that is seasonally appropriate in the land of Israel, but out of place in North America. The month of Shvat, approximately January or February, falls here during the dead of winter. But in Israel, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shvat (*tu* is an acronym for the number 15) is just the moment when the first blossoms, those of the almond trees, burst forth. I remember once driving on a country road in Israel with a teacher who pulled over the car to pluck a single almond blossom to use in teaching her class about Tu B'Shvat.

As people who care deeply about Israel, we should take courage that no matter what political and security troubles exist, the *shkediah*, the almond tree, will blossom at this season. To everything there is a time, and a season for every purpose under heaven. And as Lester Feldman, a congregant at my student pulpit said in response to my comment that the first bulbs seemed to be coming early one year, "Whenever they come up, they are right on time." There will be a season for peace in Israel, no less than for the *shkediah*, even if that season is still far off. And we, for whom Tu B'Shvat falls in the middle of winter, may need the promise of rebirth yet to come in winter days when darkness can seem to overwhelm light. Some people use Tu B'Shvat as a time to plant herbs, even in little pots on their apartment windowsills, which will grow in time to be eaten at the Passover Seder. What an affirmation that there is life and freedom yet to be realized.

*Any Jewish Jargon you would like explained? Let us know*

**WORSHIP INITIATIVE**

Abby Drucker

A "heads-up" about our next Worship Initiative, which will be held on Tuesday, January 21 @ 6:45 pm: We will be discussing the new Reform siddur, *Mishkan T'filah*, which is scheduled to be published in 2005. We have been using it at Shabbat Services the last few weeks. The goal is to provide feedback to the publishers, so that the finished product will reflect our ideas as to what a siddur should be. Rabbi Adelson will use the opportunity at our meeting to teach different points of liturgy, to help us better understand the philosophy of the new siddur. If you have not seen the new siddur, come to Friday night services, and join us on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

EVERY temple member is welcome at any and all of our Worship Initiative meetings. Our purpose is to create prayer services uniquely our own, services that are comfortable for ALL our members. In order to do this, we need and want everyone's input. It is a fascinating, on-going process. Come and be a part of it.

Contact: [adrucker@nyc.rr.com](mailto:adrucker@nyc.rr.com)

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

Edna Rosen

As I watch our new building on 17<sup>th</sup> Street take shape, I look around 403 First Avenue and remember many happy moments - time with friends, with family and all the simchas we have celebrated here together. Memories of all the songs we have sung, the blessings we have received, and the joy we have given to one another will stay with me. I'm sure we all cherish our own personal memories.

When we moved into this First Avenue space, it was referred to as an "interim" location, a temporary stop along the way to creating our "real" home. But what has happened during these three-and-a-half years that the East End Temple community has been here is that this former restaurant space became our permanent congregational home. Home is where our family is together. A congregation's spiritual home is where the congregation worships together, studies together and shares joyous moments together. Wherever you are together with the people you love, that is home.

Here we have spent more than 200 Shabbats together, 40+ New Moons, and celebrated the beginning of 4 New Years, 3 Purims and Pesachs, 23 Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and countless other moments. On many a Shabbat evening there was 'standing room only' in our sanctuary, demonstrating each time the need for larger quarters. There were so many Oneg Shabbats where it was necessary to spill over into the sanctuary, because it was so crowded that it was impossible even to grab a cookie!

What we take with us to our new synagogue building are some familiar things - our Sifrei Torah, our spirit, and our love of this community. We will take our home with us and create more memories to cherish.

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Over the next few weeks, please write to us with some of your own memories; photos are also greatly appreciated. In the Temple next month we would like to put together a "Memory Album." Please share your special memories with all of us.

Contact: [eetpresident@nyc.rr.com](mailto:eetpresident@nyc.rr.com)

**EDUCATOR'S CORNER**

Lahna Y. Bidner

Tu B'Shvat... the birthday of the trees... the Jewish Arbor Day!

The annual holiday of Tu B'Shvat (the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shvat) arrives this year on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. One of the many Tu B'Shvat traditions is to plant trees in Israel. In addition to this annual tradition, it is a critical time to assist the Israeli economy during this vital time of need. Two trees will be planted in the JNF Bible Forest in Israel for a fee of \$18. If you are interested in planting a tree this year in Israel please call the Temple office for an OFFICIAL JNF order form (only these forms will be accepted by JNF-Jewish National Fund). Tree orders are due: **NO LATER THAN January 13, 2003**. Order forms will be available at the Temple office on January 2. Religious School students will be given order forms during the week of December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way to support Israel and celebrate Tu B'Shvat.

To celebrate Tu B'Shvat in Religious School all classes will be participating in a Tu B'Shvat Seder... look for further details when we return from Winter Break.

The Gan through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Seder will be held on Wednesday, January 15 and the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Seder will be held on Tuesday, January 14.

**Spending Sunday Together Update:  
On Sunday, December 15 several families participated in an outstanding Mezuzah-making workshop. It was fantastic. Our Havdalah Family workshop will take place on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Everyone is welcome. Call the Temple to RSVP. See you there!**

Who's Excited? Guess what... The Temple Retreat is BACK... **The East End Temple Retreat will be held at the TIMELESS**

Kutsher's Resort... May 2 & 3

**More details will follow...**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Are you looking for a great new Jewish Children's book... shop at **Bababookz.com** - Check out their great selection! Don't miss out!

Please note that Religious School will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2003!

Happy New Year... and a wonderful holiday vacation! -

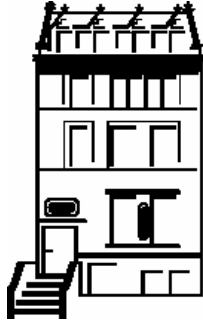
*See you next year!*

Contact: [eetlahna@aol.com](mailto:eetlahna@aol.com)

## THINK JUNE IN JANUARY

Helene Spring

Yes, JUNE will be the month of the Official Dedication of our new building on 17th Street. The dates are JUNE 6, 7 & 8 - save them! Details will follow as we set our plans. We ask those of you who want to be part of this most Gala Dedication Weekend, to contact me by phone at 677-3314 or email at [hlspring@aol.com](mailto:hlspring@aol.com) and tell me that you want to share the excitement and joy with your involvement. We need everyone to participate. There is nothing we can't do together and we want this to be special and cover many different avenues of interest. A small "cabinet" group met last week to draft an outline, but we need YOU to help us formulate and complete everything.



I was standing in the balcony area of our new building (a work in progress right now), and just seeing the scaffolding, the outlines of windows, walls and elevator was exciting! The space for the Bima, and even closets and bathrooms, gave me a thrill. I have watched these take shape weekly. Our Group of Five has been very involved with the design of our ARK and it is spectacular! This building is no longer a dream. We are living that dream and envisioning the moment when we will enter as full occupants.

Our target for completion is still early spring, and the excitement is growing as we now begin to plan for this JUNE Dedication Weekend.

My object here is to tell you to reserve that weekend in June and to invite you to work with the Dedication Committee where you will have many areas to share thoughts and expertise. It is my pleasure to have been appointed Chair but, as always, we need each and every one of you to be with us in spirit, mind and body to make this the most outstanding weekend since we were formed in 1948. This will be a biggie! Can we count on you to help?

Through June, we will have a monthly column in the Temple to keep you informed about the Dedication Weekend plans. We want you involved! This will be a unique opportunity for everyone! Are you with us? Please contact us!

Contact: [hlspring@aol.com](mailto:hlspring@aol.com)

## EERNY NEWS

Craig Axler, Youth Advisor

Hello Everyone,

Greetings from EERNY (East End Reform New York Youth) - the senior youth group of East End Temple. Just a quick note to let you in on youth group happenings, past and future.

Our Chanukah "Latke Madness" was a resounding success last month, with good attendance and even better-tasting latkes (not to mention some top-secret latke-making tips from Rabbi Adelson - thanks). We also enjoyed volunteering at the HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen on the Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a great mitzvah opportunity, which is so close. If anyone (of any age) is interested in volunteering at the Soup Kitchen on a future Monday, talk to youth group advisor, Craig Axler.

Coming up on the youth group schedule is NFTY (the North American Federation of Temple Youth) tri-regional Winter Conclave. It will be held at Kutz Camp in January and should draw up to 250 teenagers from across the New York metropolitan area!

Our regularly scheduled meetings for EERNY will be held on January 7th and 21st. Both will be at the Temple, beginning at 6:15pm. At our January 21st meeting, we will be celebrating (a few days late) the holiday of Tu B'Shvat, with a Tu B'Shvat seder, which includes tasting some of the various fruits and other products of the earth, and learning a bit about Jewish Environmentalism. All high-school aged youth from the synagogue are welcome.

Watch for e-mail updates, including information about "Lounge Nights" that EERNY has been invited to at Village Temple. If you are a high-school-aged member of the synagogue and you have not been receiving e-mail updates, please send us your address - see below.

Hope to see you soon.

EERNY and Craig

Contact: [eerny@hotmail.com](mailto:eerny@hotmail.com)



A very happy secular new year to all! The year 2003/5763 marks the beginning of a new era for Congregation El Emet and the realization of a long-standing dream; a dream brought to fruition by years of hard work and faith on the part of our dedicated membership and clergy. Sisterhood is proud to have been a large contributor to the new building on 17th Street and we gratefully acknowledge the efforts of our earliest members, especially Helene Spring, who had the foresight to plan for this leg of the journey. If we should ask, "What has Sisterhood done for us lately?" this would top the list.

We are currently in the process of firming up dates and plans for two very interesting and important programs Temple members will want to attend. More details to follow in the February Templet.

### **ROSH CHODESH**

The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group has had its third meeting of the season. Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky continues to wow us with information we never got at home or in our own Hebrew School experiences!! Many thanks go to Hayley, to Judith Lorber for seeing us through transitions in leadership these past few years and to all the women who make this experience possible. That includes 14 year-old Hannah Stampleman whose attendance this year expands the generations we represent -- and rumor has it, another "younger woman" may soon join our ranks.

In the department of "What can we do through Sisterhood?" our Food for Families Sundays have been well attended by an intergenerational group of adults, by children from tots to teens (long-standing, as well as new members) and by members of the clergy - an overwhelmingly successful program. Thanks to Marian Fish and her committee, to those who make monetary contributions to FFF, to all who participate and to all who have yet to attend! This is a mitzvah AND a great way to get to know your "Temple Family." We look forward to seeing YOU. Next session: 1/12 @ 1:30 pm.

### **COLLEGE NEWS**

We've heard through the grapevine that at least one of our out-of-town college student congregants was surprised to receive her Chanukia (Chanukah Menorah), candles and chocolate gelt through the mail. We hope that all who received these packages enjoyed the warmth and light and hope of the season, with love from Sisterhood on behalf of the entire East End Temple community. Thanks to Fran Kolin for enabling us to obtain the above through the Judaica Shop, and for the many new items made available for gift-giving this year.

Of course we continue to provide gifts from Sisterhood to our Bat/Bar Mitzvahs, Uniongrams to our Confirmands, the Oneg Shabbat each Friday night for our congregation and in terms of long-range goals, there are more programs and ongoing projects in the works. Plans for the Tri-Sisterhood Dinner which will be hosted at EET this year and the dedication of the Helene Spring Library await actual residence in our new building.

So, what is Sisterhood? We are a vital organ in the body that is East End Temple. We serve our membership, the Temple at large, our local community and through contributions for projects and a portion of our dues, both payable to our national organization, Women of Reform Judaism, we strengthen the institutions of Reform Judaism, Israel and the Jewish people. Many thanks go to those who have paid annual dues this year. Remember, new members to East End Temple have received a complimentary one-year membership to Sisterhood. A portion of this going to WRJ and needs to be paid soon. When you finish reading *In Sisterhood* this month, please take a minute to send in your \$25.00 check, if it's happened to skip your mind, payable to East End Temple Sisterhood. Even if paying your annual dues is the main vehicle for supporting Sisterhood this year, know what a meaningful contribution it is and join us when and how you can.

Contact: [sfhstamps@aol.com](mailto:sfhstamps@aol.com)

### **RETREAT NEWS**

#### **EAST END TEMPLE'S 3RD ANNUAL FABULOUS FAMILY RETREAT**

Mark your calendars now! Take out those planners! East End Temple's 3rd Annual Fabulous Family Retreat will be held Friday evening, May 2nd through Saturday, May 3rd at... Kutcher's Country Club in Monticello, New York! If you are not familiar with this great Catskill hotel, find out what the facility is like by going to [www.kutchers.com](http://www.kutchers.com). We are busy planning this exciting event, so look for the next installment in February's Templet. See you then!

Our third Food for Families this year, “Holiday Trimmings: Everything But the Bird” was held on December 15. Members who attended included Cynthia, Ron and Tracey Dubensky, Edna Rosen, Babette Hollister, Marian, Robert and Gregg Fish, Lauren Weinberger, Paul, Gregory and John Connuck, Fern and Hannah Stampleman, Evelyn Hendline, Phil Gollance, Alice Roland, Celia and Ben Vimont and Rabbi David Adelson. We packed 120 hearty meals for families of four. Thanks to Cynthia, Ron and Tracey Dubensky, our menu coordinators and shoppers. Once again we are

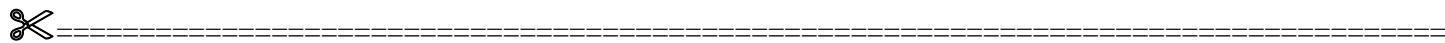
grateful to the management at Gristede’s Supermarket on First Avenue for their support.

Our next FFF is **Sunday, January 12th**, and it will be coordinated by Marian and Robert Fish with a “South of the Border” theme. Each member should bring **16 pieces of fruit and three loaves of bread**. If you haven’t had a chance to experience Food for Families, please join us. A recent article in the Daily News reports that “children are now swelling the ranks of the city’s hungry.” You can help!!

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES V**

|        |                                               |                              |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| DATE:  | <b>Sunday, January 12, 2003</b>               | PLEASE BRING:                |
| TIME:  | <b>1:30-3:00 pm – <u>please note time</u></b> | <b>16 Pieces of fruit</b>    |
| WHERE: | <b>East End Temple</b>                        | <b>Three loaves of bread</b> |
| THEME: | <b>South of the Border</b>                    |                              |

**Everyone can help!! FOOD FOR FAMILIES FUND contributions are welcome whether you attend or not. Please consider donating “Chai” (\$18.00) to feed 4 families of four, adults and children. Please use the EET Donation Form below, make out your check and send to:** East End Temple, FOOD FOR FAMILIES FUND, 403 First Avenue, New York, New York 10010.



**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 separate check for each fund.

|                  |                                                     |                    |                        |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sisterhood Funds | <input type="checkbox"/> COLLATION/ONEG SHABBAT     | (\$50)             | <b>Elizabeth Gross</b> | <b>(718) 335-8459</b> |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> FLORAL FUND                | (\$72)             | <b>June Morse</b>      | <b>(212) 689-5557</b> |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> HELENE SPRING LIBRARY FUND | (\$10 per listing) | <b>Barbara Ringel</b>  | <b>477-6625</b>       |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> TORAH FUND                 | (\$10 per listing) | <b>Carole L. Hyman</b> | <b>779-7330</b>       |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD FOR FAMILIES          | (\$18 per listing) | Temple Office          | 779-7330              |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> SIMCHA FUND                | (\$10 per listing) | Temple Office          | 779-7330              |

The following funds are handled by the Temple Office – 403 First Avenue NY 10010 – (212) 779-7330

- EET BROTHERHOOD YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND (EETBYEF)** (\$10 per listing)
- EL EMET FUND** (\$10 per listing)
- FUND FOR THE FUTURE** (\$100 per listing)
- HAMERMESH MUSIC FUND** (\$10 per listing)
- RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY** (\$25 per listing)
- SARA A. SPENCER CHILDREN’S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER** (\$10 per listing)

PLEASE FILL OUT AND SEND COMPLETE FORM TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE ATTN: FUND CHAIRPERSON

**FROM** (name of contributor): \_\_\_\_\_.

**MESSAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECIPIENT TO BE NOTIFIED, NAME & ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE TEMPLE FAMILY

### Congratulations and Mazal Tov to

**Sarah Rosen**, daughter of Edna and Sam Rosen, on becoming Press Secretary to Congressman Sam Farr of California. Sarah will be based in Washington D.C.

**Roni and Peter Messer** on the engagement of their daughter, Heather, to Andrew Bard

### Get Well Wishes to

Lidia Barenstein, Sam Beranbaum, Liz Gross, Phil Listengart, Rick Muskat and Lesley Spring Sanders

### Welcome New Members

Harvard Hollendberg

## SAVE THE DATE!

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday night, March 15, 2003

We have the 8 cooks who will host groups of 6 to 8 EET members for a delicious chicken dinner.

**NOW WE NEED YOU!**

Calling All Bakers! We need bakers to make the delicious desserts we serve after dinner. Under the talented direction of Beth Labush, your specialty will be the grand finale of this event. Call the temple to volunteer.

The evening culminates with these home-baked desserts and coffee. Also, a chance to preview our Book Fair and buy your selections in advance.

**For this finale, we will gather in the Social Hall of our new building!**

### **YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS**

this delicious fundraiser dinner @ \$36.00 each that brings together old and new friends. Call the temple (779-7330) to reserve your place.

### **EAST END TEMPLE BOOKCLUB**

Our current title is Boychiks in the Hood by Robert Eisenberg and the meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 28. Our February title is Old Men at Midnight, a collection of short stories by Chaim Potok. Call the Temple office for locations.

Come, join us, our get-togethers are low-key, low-stress and occasionally, low-cal.

### **ATTENTION MAH-JONGG PLAYERS - MEMBERS & SNOWBIRDS**

**The time is now!** Send your Mah- Jongg names for the 2003 cards to East End Temple, 403 First Avenue New York, NY 10010.

The checks must be made out to Helen S. Doneger to save a bookkeeping procedure in the temple – there is no tax credit for this check. The cost of each card is \$5.00 from which the temple receives 35¢ plus a \$10.00 bonus for early submission. Last year we earned \$50.00 plus dollars – let's do better this year.

Orders must be received no later than February 10, 2003. **Remember, the Temple benefits from each card ordered.**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL...** to the following people for their contributions to the Congregation  
**KOL NIDRE APPEAL**

Saul & Betty Adelson  
Leslie & Fay Sherer

Our apologies for an error made in the December Templet on one of the names. The correct names are **Ada and Herbert Perlman**.

**If you have contributed and your name has not been listed forgive us. We will include it next month. If you have not yet contributed, it is not too late to do so. Thanks ☺**

### **SENIOR MOMENTS...**

If you have lost your half-fare MetroCard, the one that has your personalized ID photo on it, or had it stolen, don't panic. Here's the easiest way to replace it. Just call METROCARD at (212) 638-7622. This well-run city department has your photo and info on file and will mail you a replacement MetroCard within two weeks, without your having to go anywhere in person. Unfortunately, any balance left on your lost card is forfeited and cannot be refunded or transferred to your new card.

Also, future payments can now be made by credit card, electronic debit from your bank account, or by check. Call the same number for an application.

**Save the Date: Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### **EET Book Fair**

If you want to recommend a title or pre-order books, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Phil Gollance at [pgeet@hotmail.com](mailto:pgeet@hotmail.com).

## Joan Beranbaum and John Stackhouse... Moving Closer Together All the Time!

What a lovely, interesting journey it has been for John and Joan and all of us at EET who have the pleasure of really knowing them. Professionally, John is an Acting Supreme Court Justice, sitting in the Matrimonial Part; Joan is the Director and Chief Counsel of D.C. 37's Legal Services Plan. Most importantly, John and Joan are devoted to each other, their son Ross, John's two children from his first marriage, Daniel and Laura, and their new son-in-law, Pete. As they recall the past 17 years, Joan, our Executive VP, and John, a nominating committee member, describe a lifetime of events that always resulted in moving them closer together.



Their history actually goes back to 1974, when Joan, fresh out of law school, and employed as a Legal Aid attorney, encountered John at her very first trial. While she was representing a tenant in an eviction case, the landlord (John's father) required the services of his attorney son (John) to briefly stand in for his out-of-town attorney. Though at the time John was unaware of Joan's presence in the proceedings, Joan was reminded of John whenever his name appeared on the ballot for Judicial Delegate. She always refused to vote for "the landlord's son".

Skip to 1983 as John, a criminal defense Legal Aid attorney running for Civil Court Judge, took advantage of his campaign manager's prescription for a Fire Island weekend of R&R. Unbeknownst to John, the campaign manager had plans that went beyond John's political aspirations, using the weekend as a ruse to introduce John to Joan, then an attorney in DC 37 Legal Services. Fortunately for John's political as well as personal life, his manager was a 'quick read' of people. As Joan stepped off the Ferry, John was instantly smitten.

Before becoming the Judge's bride in May 1985, Joan was concerned with getting romantically too close to the non-Jewish man in her life. Taking John's proposal under advisement, Joan's dad, who had once considered becoming a Rabbi, erased any barriers to the impending marriage. Knowing John, he was sure that his daughter would be marrying "a Jewish soul", and that he would be acquiring a wonderful son-in-law.

John's Jewish soul continued to evolve as he attended services with Joan and her parents at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. When considering how to develop a strong religious foundation for their son, Ross, Joan and John agreed upon a Jewish education with John committing himself to supporting Ross's Jewish upbringing. In their pursuit of finding a synagogue that would fulfill Ross's needs as well as appreciate his interfaith heritage, one visit to East End Temple told them that their search had ended. The Stackhouse-Beranbaum family found themselves in the company of a very welcoming membership (headed by Helene Spring and Rabbi Hirsch), and John and Joan found a place where they could grow together actively supporting their temple as well as enriching their son's religious education.

Their journey continued at EET with: a Judaism class for interfaith couples; a spiritual 1997 EET family trip to Israel; Hebrew classes; and Melton Torah Study. When John was honored by being asked to carry the Torah, the Jewish soul that Joan's dad had discovered was now fully realized. On May 31, 2002, with Rabbi Adelson's support and with John's loving family and friends surrounding him, John converted to Judaism and became even closer to Joan.

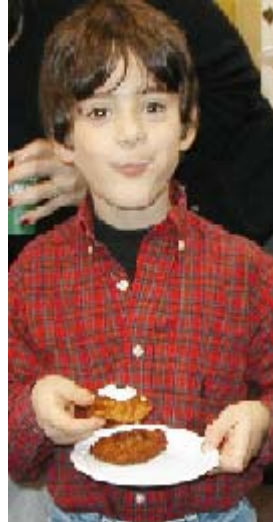
Interviewed and written by Marcia Muskat.  
Looking forward to your story.

Contact: [MarciaNY@nyc.rr.com](mailto:MarciaNY@nyc.rr.com)

**SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR CHANUKAH CELEBRATION**



Helene & Murray Sanders & Edna Rosen - 😊



Bernie Birnbaum



Cantor Kobilinsky & Brian Muni



Sophia Muni & Kaitlin Ofman



Fran, Bobby & Stephanie Kolin - Say Cheese



Miriam, Max & Vivian Harrow



Neil & Alec Pinchuck - Smile...

**Come & celebrate with us next year. It is fun!**

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for Arnold Rowen

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In honor of Helene Spring & EET

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To celebrate the engagement of our  
daughter, Heather, to Andrew Bard

**Shirley Roth**

In loving memory of Rachel Feld's  
sister & brother

**Helene & Leonard Spring**

Deepest condolences to Linda  
Horowitz & family on the death of  
her dear father, Murray Pergament

For the speedy recovery of Carole  
Hyman's sister, Joyce

Get well wishes to Rick Muskat &  
hopes that the cast comes off fast!

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES**

**Helen & Paul Levine**

**Caroline L Young & PJ Gasparini**

To help feed needy families

**Beatrice Marcus**

In memory of Ernest Marcus

**Adele E Reis**

In memory of Jack Mamber

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Brandwein on their yearzeits

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