

REGULAR SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 7, 7:30 pm

Saturday 8, 10 am
Shabbat Chavurah

Friday 14, 7:30 pm
Tot Shabbat, 6pm

Friday 21, 6 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat,

Saturday 22, 10 am
Shabbat Chavurah

Friday 28, 7:30 pm

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

**Chevrat Nashim –
Mature Women’s Group**
Sundays 2, 9, 16 & 23, 10:30 am

Rosh Chodesh Potluck Brunch
Sunday 2, 12:30 pm

Melton Mini School
Tuesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25, 9:30 am

Sisterhood Meeting
Thursday 6, 6:45 pm

Food For Families
Sunday 9, 1:30 pm

Worship Initiative
Tuesday 18, 6:45 pm

BookClub
Thursday 27, 7:30 pm

**Religious School
Midwinter Recess 2/17 - 21**

BookClub

Old Men at Midnight
By Chaim Potok
Thursday 27, 7:30 pm

Food for Families

“Breakfast Menu”
Sunday 9, 1:30 pm

Templet

EAST END TEMPLE

Congregation El Emet

403 First Avenue

New York, NY 10010

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www.eastendtemple.org

eet18@aol.com

Rabbi David Adelson

Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky

Edna Rosen, President

LIBRARY BUZZ

Barbara Ringel & Beth Labush
Co-chairs, Helene Spring Library

"The Library-Book Fair Connection"

As we prepare to move into our new temple space, where the Helene Spring Library promises to be both an elegant and dynamically active venue, we invite you to take advantage of an opportunity to expand and enhance our already enviable library collection. We have generated a comprehensive library "wish list" of contemporary fiction and non-fiction books that we believe will appeal to a wide range of our members. These books will be available for purchase as a donation at our temple Book Fair on March 16th. Your contribution will be appreciated and acknowledged with a personalized bookplate. We thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to seeing you on March 16th.

*** See Calendar on back page**

Dear Friends,

We need synagogues so that we can do in community what we cannot do alone. One of the cardinal principles of the Jewish people is articulated by Hillel in *Pirke Avot*: "Al tifrosh min ha'tzibur," do not separate yourself from the community. Underneath every act of celebrating, study, worship or social justice that we do at the Temple is the hope that by getting together for meaningful times, we will deepen and strengthen our community.



I want to share with you my extreme pleasure and pride in one of our programs, which has exceeded all hopes for fostering community here at EET. In the fall of 2001 we created the *Chevrat Nashim*, the Mature Women's Group. Hebrew Union College offered us the service of a rabbinic student to co-facilitate with a mental health professional at a meeting for one sector of our population. We already knew that the older single women at EET were a group to whom we wanted to offer more. In our first semester, Judith Tax and rabbinic student Taron Tachman volunteered. Since then, our member Bette Levy has facilitated the group with rabbinic student Jeremy Master.

The results have been remarkable. The group has coalesced and become deeply valued in the lives of its members. The 14 members meet every Sunday to discuss issues in the world and issues in their own lives. Initial wariness has given way to trust, caring and a sense of personal and spiritual support. Thelma Spinrad, a founding member of the Temple says "Originally, I didn't really want to come but had the feeling that it would be good for me. Now, when I can't go, I'm upset about it. It gives me the chance to say the things that I feel. It gives me a voice I can project and pay attention to." And Bette Levy describes her role in the group as her most rewarding at EET, and the deepest bond she has felt in Jewish community since her youth. She appreciates how the members "have really learned to look out for one another... We've become a family." I have joined the group occasionally and have never failed to be moved by the genuine support these women provide each other.

The Temple, and I, owe a debt of gratitude to Bette Levy for her weekly volunteer service to the mature women of EET, as we do to Jeremy Master, who continued volunteering his time with the group well beyond his HUC requirement.

On the strength of the wonderful success of the *Chevrat Nashim*, I am interested in exploring other avenues for

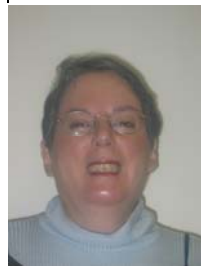
forming small communities within the larger Temple family. Although EET is not a big synagogue, we need more intimate-scale opportunities to get to know and care about one another. If any member is interested in being part of a group to discuss issues, or to have Shabbat dinner together occasionally, or to meet with others of a particular population (age group, parents of similarly aged children, people with a particular health condition, etc.) please let me know. I believe we can build ever-deeper connection to each other, to EET, and to Jewish community. If you have any such interest please contact me.

L'shalom,

Contact: adelsoneet@aol.com

WORSHIP INITIATIVE

Abby Drucker



Our next EET Worship Initiative meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 18, @ 6:45 pm. Continuing the UAHC curriculum, "Worship With Joy", the topic will be "Becoming Familiar with the Service: Shabbat Worship, Part 1" Readings to be incorporated in the discussion will be:

"The Roots of the Siddur" by Lawrence Hoffman
"Halakhic Appendix: What is the status of Hebrew or English in a Service?"

These readings can be downloaded by going to:
www.uahc.org/living/letuslearn.shtml

Has our Initiative created any changes to date? We have invited all pre-bar/bat mitzvah kids at Shabbat services up to the Bima to participate in Kiddush – each child is given a small glass of grape juice, which is used to toast the post-kiddush "I'chaim!"

Rabbi Adelson has started to translate into English, as he reads sentence by sentence, the weekly Torah parasha.

We have been using the prototype for the new Reform siddur, *Mishkan T'fila*, in our Shabbat services since November and will be meeting to discuss and critique it – with suggestions and comments to be sent to CCAR. Our critique will be taken into consideration before the finished product is published in 2005.

Everyone is invited to our Worship Initiative discussions. This is your temple. Help us to create services and prayer that are meaningful to YOU

Contact: adrucker@nyc.rr.com

While cleaning out files getting ready for EET's move to our new building, I came across "Highlights in the 10 year History of EET 1948-1958." Here are some high points of those first years:

Jan. 26, 1948

79 people, residents of Peter Cooper Village, Stuyvesant Town and environs decide to organize a Reform Jewish Congregation.

Feb. 2, 1948

A Synagogue is organized! Temporarily, Labor Temple is where we'll meet. Charter membership dues are set at \$10 per family.

Feb. 13, 1948

Our first Friday night service!

Feb. 29, 1948

The Religious School opens with 13 children.

March 22, 1948

The Certificate of Incorporation is signed. There are 55 member families and 15 committees. The Board adjourns at 12:15 am, Tuesday, March 23rd.

April 12, 1948

Best Wishes are recorded to the newly formed Sisterhood of EET, formerly Women's Activities Committee.

April 26, 1948

The Board needs sleep—we adjourn the meeting at 11:15 pm.

June 14, 1948

We order our First Ark!

Oct. 1948

We hold our first High Holy Day Services! We are the subject of Yom Kippur sermons throughout the City as a group of great promise.

Oct. 25, 1948

34 new members are inducted.

Nov. 8, 1948

We are seriously looking for a building.

Feb. 14, 1949

The First Annual Meeting of the Congregation is held. Our President reports that he's proud of everything, except the size of the treasury.

March 17, 1948

We must have a building!

Oct. 24, 1949

The Religious School has 43 children and four teachers.

April 4, 1950

We're looking for a building

Oct. 21 1950

We hold a Bar Mitzvah Service for the first boy trained in our Religious School.

Nov. 28, 1950

We're looking for a Building!

Jan. 23, 1951

We're having our troubles with Labor Temple. Only our own Permanent Home will do.

Oct. 30, 1951

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance - \$4,000.59. Needed for Dec & Jan. - \$3,991.33. Balance expected by end of January - \$9.26!

April 9, 1952

Our first Seder is held right in Labor Temple – completely prepared by Sisterhood.

May 19, 1953

Shevous – our First Confirmation Service.

Nov. 8, 1954

We found a Building! On 19th Street. This one may bring us luck – if we can clear the hurdles of the Budget and the Deficit and the obstacles that the lawyers think up!

Dec. 19, 1955

Complications set in. The renovation plans are not acceptable.

April 10, 1957

Wait – there's a possibility on 23rd Street! A bank building is for sale.

July 10, 1957

We sold 19th Street at a nice profit – a 20th century miracle!

August 1957

We buy the building on 23rd street and Second Ave.

Jan 17, 1958

The first service in the new Temple. After ten years of hope, prayer, and hard work by so many devoted members, we arrive at this, the most memorable night in the annals of EET.

Fast Forward...**June 17, 1999**

We deconsecrate the 23rd Street sanctuary and carry our Torahs to our "interim" home at 403 First Ave.

August 24, 1999

The East End Temple property at 23rd Street and Second Avenue is sold.

August 25, 1999

We're really looking for a new building. Our interim home on First Avenue feels like home.

May 1, 2001

245 East 17th Street purchased.

February __, 2003

We consecrate our new Sanctuary and carry our Torahs in procession to our new home!

On Sunday, January 12th East End Temple Religious School families came together to explore the ritual celebrated at the close of Shabbat, Havdalah. We began our time together by introducing ourselves and stating what each family does to welcome Shabbat. Here is a list of some of the family rituals that were shared and some new ideas:

- ✧ Lighting the Shabbat Candles with my kids
- ✧ Not doing homework right after school
- ✧ Baking something sweet for Shabbat
- ✧ Inviting my daughter to say the motzi
- ✧ Read a special story together
- ✧ Have Family Game Night
- ✧ Bake a Challah
- ✧ Eat dinner as a family
- ✧ Buy a Challah

Take time out from your busy week and welcome Shabbat in a special way. Use the list above and create your own unique ways to welcome Shabbat. I look forward to hearing all about them.

Shabbat Shalom,

- P.S. Passover Candy Sales Orders DUE:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003
 P.P.S. Midwinter Break: Week of February 17th;
 Classes resume on Tuesday, February 25th
 P.P.P.S. Save the date: Sunday, March 16th, **Purim Carnival** - Volunteers desperately needed to run games. Call Lahna 779-4318

Contact: eetlahna@aol.com

The BARTONS CHOCOLATE & CANDY Sale is going on NOW. Even if you don't know an EET child you can join the Religious School in its Passover Chocolate & Candy Sale. Time is short so please come to the temple office and select your favorites. DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH. Thanks So Much.

OH! THE JOYS OF JUNE



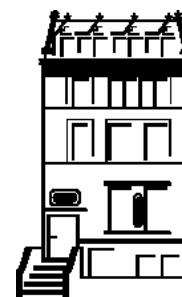
June 6/7/8 will be the weekend of our 17th Street New Building Dedication. What a wonderful experience it will be, as evidenced by the plans (a work in progress), being made now!

The Board of Trustees were treated to a special visit to the site on a recent Saturday and we were entranced by our actual presence in our very own building. It was EET's own reality program. As we stood in the soon-to-be Sanctuary, right under the skylight, it seemed that sunbeams were dancing down on us! We could envision the experience we will all share together when we have our very first Shabbat Service in that space.

We were awed by the size of the classrooms and the offices. We found that - even though incomplete at that moment - the promise of a spectacular new place to pray, to learn and to socialize- was so very apparent to us. Some of us were privileged to go to our Social Hall level and it was exciting to see how the construction was progressing.

And now, we want to thank each of you who responded to our last column when we requested volunteers to help with our Dedication Program. So many of you did answer and we will all meet together when we finally move in. Our meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, because we are almost certain that we will be in and operating the end of February. We want to be in the space we are planning to celebrate. And we will be!

We are preparing an exciting, memorable and most special weekend for all our members and friends. Hopefully you will put the dates on your calendars now so that you can be with us and share our joy. Oh, and by the way, there is still room for more of you to come along and help us. We need you! Let's hear from you!



Contact: hlspring@aol.com

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EAST END TEMPLE THEATRE PARTIES
"GYPSY" May 21, 2003 with Bernadette Peters
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SISTERHOOD DATES AND TIMES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY, 2003:

Sunday, February 2nd at 12:30 pm - Rosh Chodesh Potluck Brunch - Last month we discussed how we, as women, view or experience various issues; through the eyes of Feminism, Judaism, both or neither. Join us next time for great food and great company. Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky leads this group. No experience necessary!

Thursday, February 6th at 6:45 pm - The 3rd Sisterhood Meeting of the Season - While we await our presence in the new building, Sisterhood looks toward a busy Spring. This is the time to touch base and move forward on programming and to see what's new. Please plan to be there on the 6th. Looking forward to seeing you.

Sunday, February 9th at 1:30 pm - FOOD FOR FAMILIES - At last count 120 meals for families of four were prepared.

AN INTERESTING NOTE: Did you know that knitting as an art form has made its way into at least one Manhattan private school! It's being offered in an after-school program. During these COLD days of winter why not knit a scarf or a hat for the homeless and make a contribution to the Cold Weather Project. If you don't have your own leftover supply of yarn, pick some up from Sharon or Carole in the Temple office. Instructions upon request. If you need some help, contact me at my e-mail address, which you'll find at the bottom of this column. Knitting is a great relief for stress.

FINALLY, as a representative of Sisterhood on the Youth Education Committee (YEC), I also chair East End Temple's Fabulous Family Retreat Committee. In the past, this Retreat has primarily served families with children. This year the retreat is open to the entire "Temple Family" and we encourage all who are interested to take advantage of this inspiring, fun-filled weekend. It begins with Friday evening, May 2nd, Shabbat dinner and will run through Saturday, late afternoon, with an option for individuals to stay an extra night on their own. For more details watch the Temple for updates, or contact me at my e-mail address. Many alumni are returning and we are very excited about this special event.

Contact: sfhstamps@aol.com

EET BOOK FAIR, SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2003
in the afternoon (time to come)

Something for everyone!



New books and classics

- Best-selling authors and titles
- Humorous books, serious books, educational books, Jewish cookbooks, and more!
- Hard-cover and paperback books
- Tapes
- Children's, family, and adult selections
- An opportunity to donate books to the new EET Library
- Special guest:

Author **PATRICIA VOLK** will read from her latest book **STUFFED: Adventures of a Restaurant Family**

- Heralded as "The Book of the Year" by *The New York Observer*
- A touching, humorous memoir of a unique New York Jewish restaurant family

Hear about the author's amazing family members such as:

- Her great-grandfather, who introduced pastrami to the new world
- Her grandfather, known as "The Most Destructive Force on Wall Street" for his innovative method of building demolition
- Her uncle, the first man to stir scallions into cream cheese
- Her maternal grandmother, 1916 winner "Best Legs in Atlantic City"
- Her paternal grandmother, the 300 lb. calendar girl

Join us for these and other delicious stories

EAST END TEMPLE BOOKCLUB

Our current title is Old Men at Midnight, a collection of short stories by Chaim Potok and the meeting will take place on Thursday, February 27. Call the Temple office for locations.

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

One hundred twenty (120) packages of food were packed by 25 enthusiastic temple members on January 12th. The City Harvest truck arrived promptly at 2:30, and we eagerly loaded up the packages. Participants included Rabbi David Adelson, Cynthia Dubensky, Matt and Alex Eichhorn, Suellen and Matthew Eshed, Marian, Robert and Gregg Fish, Loren and Becky Greene, Evelyn Hendline, Daniel Hochman, Sonia, Melissa, and Phil Gollance, Emily Melas, Florence Peloquin, Alice Roland, Sam and Edna Rosen, Sharon, Sivan, and Saar Shemesh, and Fern Stampleman. Other contributions came from Harvard Hollenberg, Barbara Goldstein, and Babette Hollister, though they couldn't attend, and from Judith Sussman who donated personal care items. Again we are grateful

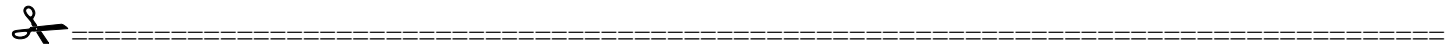
to the management at Gristede's Supermarket on First Avenue for their support.

Our next Food For Families (FFF) will be on **Sunday, February 9th** from 1:30-2:30. It will be coordinated by Ron & Cynthia Dubensky with a "BREAKFAST" theme. Each member should bring **16 pieces of fruit, and three loaves of bread**. We'll be scooping cereal, packing fruit, bread, and other breakfast items so that families will have a nutritious meal to start the day. Please join us and participate in this fun and rewarding activity.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES VI

DATE:	Sunday, February 9, 2003	PLEASE BRING:
TIME:	1:30-2:30 pm	16 pieces of fruit
WHERE:	East End Temple	Three loaves of bread
THEME:	Breakfast	

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 and 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)	Elizabeth Gross	(718) 335-8459
	<input type="checkbox"/> FLORAL FUND	(\$72)	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	779-7330
	<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

Philip Gasparini and Carrie Young on Philip's conversion to Judaism. Welcome aboard!

Welcome New Members

Dr Steven and Ms Lara Rudd and their daughter, Miriam Helene Rudd

Get Well Wishes to

Lidia Barenstein, Liz Gross, Phil Listengart, Lesley Spring Sanders and Lorraine Weiss.

Deepest Condolences to

Lisa Binder, Joe, Ben and Daniel Rutkowski and Phyllis Elsky on the death of Lisa's brother-in-law and Phyllis' son-in-law, David Rusovsky.

RETREAT NEWS

East End Temple's 3rd Fabulous Family Retreat is now open to "Temple Family," (all members) with children or without! Take advantage of this inspiring, fun-filled weekend, Friday, May 2nd through Saturday, May 3rd, at the well-known Kutsher's Resort in Monticello, New York (option of second night, on your own).

\$138 p/adult, \$65 p/child 5-17years and \$54 p/child four years and under. (Second night optional with \$90 p/adult and \$40 p/child). RSVP by March 10th. If you are not familiar with this great Catskill hotel, find out what the facility is like by going to www.kutshers.com. For more information contact either the Temple Office or Fern Stampleman at sfhstamps@aol.com

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

JEWISH JARGON

Kiddush or Kaddish?

The similarity in the names of these two prayers is intriguing, and sometimes confusing. These two ritual moments- *kiddush*, the blessing over wine on Shabbat and holidays, and *kaddish*, the prayer said in memory of the dead – could not be more seemingly opposite in content.

The reason for the similarity is that both are variations of the Hebrew root *kuf-dalet-shin*, which means holiness. The biblical sense of the word holy means separate, distinct for a special purpose. In saying *kiddush* on Friday night and holidays, we are recognizing the holiness of Shabbat, the distinction of Shabbat. *Kaddish*, or the Mourner's Kaddish specifically, is a prayer that praises God. It is noteworthy that the text of the *kaddish* actually does not mention death, but praises God as the force behind the universe. The holiness we invoke in the *kaddish* is that of the difference between humanity and God. That is the distinction; while God gives life and supports all life, we do our best to live, knowing that we are finite.

In Torah we read *Kedoshim t'hiu, ki kadosh ani Adonai eloheychem*, You shall be holy, for I, Adonai, am holy. With Friday night wine, and when remembering the dead, and at any other time in our lives, we can be aware that every moment of our lives is reserved for a special, distinct purpose.

MOVIE RECOMMENDATION...

"**The Pianist**" is a must –see film for all congregations. It tells the story of a talented and sensitive musician, a Polish Jew, who survived the Holocaust. The actor, Adrien Brody, a native New Yorker, plays the part of Wladyslav Szpilman so convincingly that you are sure he not only plays the piano expertly (he does actually do the fingering and can play to a degree) but that he has experienced suffering in his life.

The story deals with Warsaw Ghetto life, the Ghetto uprising and how some Jews survived. It deals honestly with some of the Jews who cooperated with the Nazis in order to save themselves, and also with some of the Polish gentiles who helped Jews survive.

The film's commitment to accuracy and to clear presentation avoids many of the stereotypes we are familiar with. Director Roman Polanski's eyes are your eyes as the movie unfolds.

Wladyslav Szpilman regained his status as a concert pianist and the film ends on a positive note as the music



**EAST END TEMPLE'S NINTH
PROGRESSIVE DINNER
(COOKS & BOOKS)**

Saturday, March 15, 2003

WE'RE BACK with another evening of great dining and even greater company. The Progressive Dinner is the unique event that brings us together in our homes for a purely social evening. This year, after wining and dining in the homes of some of our finest cooks, the evening promises to be even more of an unusual treat. We rendezvous back at our **new building** on East 17th Street for delicious desserts of home-baked goods plus our Book Fair. In the past, new members have found these dinners to be a warm and memorable introduction to special Temple activities.

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- 6:15-8:00 pm Chicken Dinner at Host's Home (groups of 6-8 will be assigned destinations)
 - 8:15-9:30 pm Dessert, Coffee and Book Fair at 245 East 17th Street (our new Temple)

**WE HAVE EIGHT COOKS
SPACE IS LIMITED
RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE**

Send the form below and a check for \$36 per person (Full Temple donation)
by March 1, 2003 to: East End Temple, 403 First Ave NYC 10010



**PROGRESSIVE DINNER
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2003
(COOKS & BOOKS)**

How many: _____ Amount enclosed: _____
Name(s): _____
Phone Number: _____ Any Dietary Restrictions? _____

CALLING ALL BAKERS! WE STILL NEED YOU!!

Even if you cannot attend this event, we would still appreciate your baked specialties.

Yes, I will bake my specialty: _____
Name _____ Phone _____

Shalom and Welcome to Sam Finkelstein

Sam, one of our newest members, wants you to hear, feel and remember his story. He began to share it with us at a recent Shabbat service after receiving the Rabbi's blessings in celebration of his December birthday. He also shared his beautifully written, personal memoir that documents his truly remarkable journey toward this day.

Early Years

After seven years as a prisoner of World War 1 in Russia, Sam's father returned home to Rzeszow, Poland and married. The following year their oldest son, Sam, was born and went on to complete an elementary school education, then had to go to work to contribute to his family's livelihood. In 1936, Rzeszow Jews were still prominent in the town's industries and Sam spent his free time with the Zionist pioneer movement. Soon after, Sam recalls the spiraling down of lost freedoms and dire consequences of the Nazi occupation. When the Gestapo authorized a December 1939 decree forcing all Rzeszow Jews into the ghetto, Sam, his three brothers and parents shared a two-room apartment with Sam's grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousin. In 1942, contact with the outside world was completely sealed off and all sources of income were terminated; the black market and contagious diseases were rampant. When the Germans destroyed the ghetto in 1943, Sam lost contact with his family as he, along with 400 other Jews was moved to Plaszow, the camp that figures prominently in *Schindler's List*. From there, rail carriages transported the women to Auschwitz and the men, including Sam, to the Mauthausen Camp in Upper Austria. Breathing room was scarce and conditions on the trains were almost unbearable. Upon their arrival, the prisoners were put into disinfection huts and had their heads shaved. Because Sam had previously acquired a 'Gestapo Seal' in the ghetto, it allowed him to qualify for essential carpentry and electrical work at the Lintz Camp and saved his life. The work entailed erecting factories underground in order to avoid the Allied bombing.

Starting Over

Sam was liberated by U.S. forces on May 5, 1945, three days before V-E Day, and along with other rescued Holocaust victims, began a process of reviving kinship and recovering self-worth. From 1945 through March 1946, Sam moved between temporary refugee camps in Italy, experiencing inferior living conditions and poor food supplies. While in Italy, Sam discovered one of his brother's names on a survivor list amongst hundreds. They are the only two members of Sam's family to have survived. Dreams of one day eating well and living free consumed Sam and his fellow Polish Jewish survivors.

They eventually boarded a ship bound for Israel (then Palestine). Sam and other pioneers established a collective farm, joined the Haganah and in 1948 joined the fighting ranks of the Israeli Defense Forces.

Sam arrived in America in 1960, married his beloved Eva a few years later and for 23 years worked as a New York shipping clerk. Today, Sam is a widower, retired and happy to make new friends while folk dancing at the Education Alliance and Workman's Circle, or indulging in Oneg Shabbat sweets at our Shabbat services. We at East End Temple give Sam a hearty Shalom!

We'd love to hear your story. Call Marcia Muskat (779-7330) and tell her that you are ready to share.

FROM JERUSALEM we hear again from our friend, David Erlich, who spoke at East End Temple in November. David is still struggling to keep his book store-café Tmol-Shilshom in business.

Dear Friends,

We were four people sitting in a café last week, talking about anything but the upcoming war with Iraq. The newspapers were full of scary predictions, describing chemical and biological weapons that Saddam might use against us and how poorly we are equipped against them. Yet most people I know don't take it to heart. I'm not sure why; have we toughened up so much over the past two years? Is this news too obscure, given that we don't even have a border with Iraq?

To me, Saddam seems like a mythical figure, sitting in one of his palaces, sending a double to shake hands with his citizens. It's not reality; it's an Arabian Nights Story.

But this *is* reality.

I asked my three friends in the café about their gas masks. All Israelis are supposed to have them. It turned out that none of us was prepared. One had the mask far away at his parents', one didn't have a mask at all, and two (including myself) didn't bother to go and switch the old one for the updated version. My boyfriend says he doesn't believe it would help. As for me, the issue is on my mind but far from the top of my worries. A few days ago I made a date with another friend to go to the "gas mask distribution station" (run by the army) but I forgot to go. My friend was waiting for me and I didn't show up. When I realized what I had done, I was much more upset about standing up my friend than about the gas mask.

Tel-Aviv Worries

My friends and I are probably not a good example. Most people are more concerned and better prepared, particularly in the Tel-Aviv area (which was targeted by Saddam in 1991) and even more so those with little kids. At least one of my friends is thinking of going abroad with her baby for the duration of the war. She can't even imagine putting the baby in the "plastic tent" distributed by the army in case of a chemical or biological weapon attack.

In 1991, I missed the war. I was in Greece for a year teaching Hebrew. I watched on TV how people from Tel-Aviv traveled to Jerusalem every day after work to stay overnight in a safer area. If the 1991 script repeats itself, my family would come to stay with me in Jerusalem: my parents, my sister and her two children in my small apartment. I can't even imagine – we'd kill each other before the first siren sounds! How would my father who's never come to terms with my being gay get along with my boyfriend whom he's never even agreed to meet?

Safe Space?

After the '91 war there were quite a few artistic works, books and movies, based on the drama that families went through, cramped in one designated "safe room." There was a lot of cynicism about that "safe space," both in terms of the conflicting orders given by the government, and also the crazy dynamics of families ("normal" and "dysfunctional" alike) under stress. Boy, I can't wait to write *that* book.

My father believes that nothing would happen in Israel even if there is a war. I don't trust his war forecast though; he thought the same thing 12 years ago, and was surprised when missiles fell in his neighborhood. Nor do I go with those who believe the worst. My friend Yossi Klein-Halevi, a journalist for the "Jerusalem Post", thinks that we're going into a terrible time. He says that the Hezbollah and Iran would open a second front against us from Lebanon, with their own missiles that could easily hit Haifa. On top of that the Palestinians would pull new rabbits out of their top hats, such as nonconventional weapons supplied by Iraq.

I recently read a book by Yossi titled "Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist" about his activities with the Jewish Defense League in New York over 30 years ago. (Don't miss this book – it's fascinating and insightful.) It tells the story of Yossi's father, a Holocaust survivor, who passed on his philosophy of constant vigilance against future tragedies for the Jews. I'm not surprised that the son believes tragedies will happen to us again. Yet this is the biggest dilemma for our generation of Jews and Israelis: do we have to live by the tough lessons of our parents, or can we trust that the world is basically good and friendly?

I'll never forget that before the Gulf War my dad received an invitation from the Polish family that had hidden him from the Nazis, offering him refuge from Saddam or from any other foe, whenever he needed it. It's only now when I'm past 40, that I'm starting to look seriously into the legacy of my father, the survivor from Poland. It's hard enough to think about it as a past event. It's too painful to imagine another disaster in the future.

Intifada Effects

I've learned a lot about fear since the Intifada started. I've been walking downtown every day expecting the next tearing sound of yet another bomb. I can't imagine myself being "there," where it would happen. But I can imagine being over at Tmol-Shilshom, hearing the explosion and then the ambulances, as I have a few times, or in the worst case I'd be a block away on the street, watching the smoke, the fire, the injured and dead bodies. I'd be safe but close enough to see, close enough to help. What would I do? I've pressed myself many times with the question. I'd be scared to death. I can't perform any first aid, resuscitation, artery-blocking or

the like. To me people who can do this stuff are angels. How can they do it? How can they work through the bleeding bodies, the cries, the smell of burning flesh?

But then again, what would I do if I were there? So far, in cases of terror attacks in Jerusalem I've busied myself by taking care of the random group of people who were at Tmol-Shilshom. I'd help them pull themselves together, give them my phone to call family and friends, etc. But if I were right there, right where it happened? Would I run away?

Here's the results of my intense thinking: I'd help somebody who is only slightly wounded. Somebody who is waiting for the ambulance. I'd calm them down, I'd give them water, I'd escort them to the hospital, tell them things would be all right. I hope I could rise to the occasion, but I'm not sure.

I can't imagine the opposite event: me being the one who needs help. I can't think of the worst-case scenario. And I can't think of my boyfriend or father or mother being hurt. I just can't.

World Opinion

We were four old-time leftists drinking coffee. I said that if the Iraqis attacked us after all it won't exterminate our state, and might strengthen us eventually because world public opinion would change in our favor. "Oh no," said Sidra Ezrahi-Dekoven, who was my professor at the Hebrew University years ago. (She had taught me a fascinating course on the literature of destruction. But now it's not about text, it's about life). "We don't want them to feel pity for us," she said, "and we don't want Sharon to feel he can do anything he likes because the world loves us again."

The war with Iraq is in the future, but the Intifada is still going on, though things seemed to have slowed down a little bit till last week's deadly attack in Tel-Aviv (22 fatalities.) You never know how to interpret the ups and downs of violence. Were the Palestinians holding their attacks till the elections in Israel? Have we managed to hit most leaders of the terrorist cells? Or was this just a random recess?

No, recess is probably not the right term. In fact there were attacks all the time. Two weeks ago they killed a 70-year old Israeli who was selling merchandise in the Jordan Valley. A few days before they killed four Yeshiva students in a settlement near Hebron. I have to admit that attacks on settlers don't shock me as much as those on citizens "in" Israel. I'm not the only Israeli who feels that settlers are causing much trouble by sitting in Palestinian areas. But I know I'm being unfair: murder is murder, and if you look for ways to justify it you risk sliding down a slippery moral slope. Moreover, I understand that few Palestinians make the distinction

between "territories" and "Israel". It seems like more and more of them believe that all the area is Palestine, and we Jews don't belong here. There's no end to the complication of the catch we live in. There was an interview in "Haaretz" recently with a relatively moderate Palestinian who wanted *three* autonomies for the Palestinians who live IN Israel (besides a Palestinian state in the territories): one in the Galilee, one near Hadera, and one down south. Is everybody becoming more and more extreme? Whatever it is, it takes an incredible vision to invent hope, to be an optimist.

Personal Optimism

I try to stick to the naïve conviction that at least on a personal level, things can be different, and that this means there's a future. I offered Rassem, a Palestinian friend who works with me at Tmol, help to release his car from the police. They took his taxi-van for a month because they caught him driving a Palestinian from the territories in an Israeli area, which is severely prohibited because they want to prevent any chance of terrorists infiltrating into Israel. Rassem had to take a second job as a driver after we lowered the salaries when business went down. At about the same time he became a father and needed more money to support his young family, so he's been driving during the day and cooking for Tmol at night.

We went to the police station on the Mount of Olives. I could hardly find the station; it's literally hidden like a bunker. I went in myself, assuming they would treat Rassem badly and would be more inclined to talk to me. There were two Palestinian vans parked outside, maybe stopped for the same reason which brought us there now. There were shouts by policemen who clearly weren't treating the Palestinians respectfully. They might have beaten them up too; I can't tell because I didn't see, but I hear such stories all the time. I was so shocked from the whole experience that the only thing I remember hearing was a wild shout: "throw out the damn cigarette!" as if the smoker was committing a major crime. I managed to talk to an officer. He was more civil to me, yet insisted that there was no chance for my employee's plight, "The law is the law."

Rassem was not surprised when I came back empty-handed. I drove back to his village and couldn't refuse when he offered coffee and cake. I met his baby, Malak, cute and pink and innocent. She was suspicious for a while, but then her guard went down and... I fell in love, of course

I felt bad that I didn't manage to help Rassem but he assured me that my good will was enough to make him happy. We both played with the baby and wondered what life had in store for her, a Palestinian kid who didn't know what a border was, even though she was born on one.

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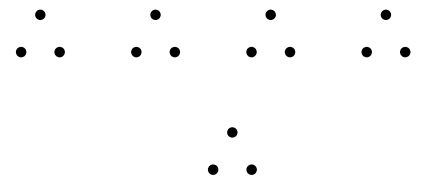
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