

SHABBAT SERVICES

**DURING JULY AND AUGUST,
FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES ARE
AT 6:15 PM**

On Friday, July 6, After Services, we look forward to a brief vocal concert by our member Irma Ozer, in memory of her father, Rabbi Charles Ozer.

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

Chevrat Nashim Potluck Brunch
Sunday 7/29 @ 11 am

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY, SEPT. 7

Open House: 5:30 pm
Shabbat Services: 6:15 pm
Reception: After Services

Torah Portions in July and August

7/7	Pinchas	Num.	25:10-30:1
7/14	Matot-Masei	Num.	30:2-36:13
7/21	Devarim	Deut.	1:1-3:22
7/28	Vaetchanan	Deut.	3:23:7:11
8/4	Ekev	Deut.	7:12-11:25
8/11	Re'eh	Deut.	11:26-16:17
8/18	Shoftim	Deut.	16:18-21:19
8/25	Kee Tetze	Deut.	21:10-25:19

**Early Closing Date for
September Issue is Friday,
July 20th**

East End Temple

TEMPLET
245 East 17th Street
New York, NY 10003

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



**July/August 2007
Av/Elul 5767**

Templet



**EAST END
TEMPLE**

Congregation El Emet

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Rabbi David Adelson
Cantor Shira Ginsburg
Karen Feuer, President

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

Slichot: This Saturday service at EET (September 8 @7:30 pm) is when we perform the mitzvah of ushering in the High Holy Days. Join Rabbi Adelson and Cantor Ginsburg in an atmosphere of introspection and forgiveness, as we dress the Torah scrolls in seasonal covers, practice the music from our High Holy Day CD and prepare for the Days of Awe.

Rosh Hashanah:

- Services on Wednesday, 9/12 @7:30 pm
- Thursday, 9/13 @10:00 am, NYU Dental School auditorium
- 20's/30's Luncheon: 1:30 pm, EET
- Tot Service: 2:30 – 3:30 pm (ages 2–5), EET*
- Family Services: 2:30 – 3:30 pm (ages 6–12), at EET*
- Open House: 3:00 – 4 pm, EET*
- *Tashlich*: 4:15 pm, Stuyvesant Cove*

Yom Kippur:

- *Kol Nidrei* Services on Friday, 9/21 @ 7:30 pm Saturday, 9/22 @10:00 am, NYU Dental School
- Yizkor service, 12:45 pm, Dental School*
- Tot Service: 2:30 – 3:30 pm (ages 2–5), EET*
- Family Services: 2:30 – 3:30 pm (ages 6–12), EET*
- Adult Study Session, 3:00 pm, EET*
- Afternoon Service, 4:30 pm, EET
- Neilah, 6:00 pm, EET
- Havdalah, 6:30 pm, EET
- Break-the-Fast to follow. RSVP only, EET

* Service or program is open to the community

Dear Friends,

In my family, we never say *alav hashalom* (peace upon him/her) after mentioning a relative who has died, as is tradition among some Jews. Rather, we say it for the bakeries of blessed memory (*zichronam livracha*). I grew up on rugelach and marble cake from the Butterbun, the Nostrand Avenue institution around the corner from my grandparents' Sheepshead Bay apartment. My mother had also grown up eating those treats.



A few years after the Butterbun, Ratner's closed, and with it went the last great cinnamon babka. We tried in vain to find a substitute, but all paled in comparison.

And this week we were greeted with the news that Gertel's, on Hester Street, permanently shuttered its doors after 99 years baking breads and desserts. For me, Gertel's has always been the gold standard of challah. Chewy but not too heavy, solid enough for making sandwiches but airy enough to form a superior basis for French toast. I was thrilled a couple of years ago when a small gourmet food store in my neighborhood started carrying Gertel's challah. Alas.

The disappearance of the so much of the Eastern European Jewish cuisine that many of us grew up on is hard to take. I know many members of EET are still in mourning over the loss of the 2nd Avenue Deli. (The stars of the Yiddish theater now adorn the sidewalk outside a Chase bank. Oy.) And while there is nothing good to say about the loss of all these beloved sources of our soul food, it is important to keep in mind all that our current age *has* brought us. While this is not a golden age of old-world Jewish cuisine in New York City, we are seeing, here and elsewhere, a flourishing of Jewish creativity. Cutting-edge new Jewish literature, art, music abound and benefit from the full embrace of new media. Religious life is thriving, with energetic and participatory worship like our own Synaplex™ services. Religious education increasingly breaks the bounds of afternoon schools, as in our Learning through Living program. Liberal Jews have brought renewed vigor to serious text study. New institutions for Jewish fellowship, education and culture are emerging all the time, serving Jews who are not oriented primarily to joining synagogues. These new institutions also provide a useful challenge to synagogues to keep things fresh and creative themselves.

So while there is much to lament about what we have lost in New York Jewish culture, there is much to celebrate about what we have created. The Jewish people have done nothing if not reinvent ourselves in every age. We cling to our core traditions, and we make each generation hum with new ways of living them.

But if Moishe's Bakery on 2nd Avenue closes, and I have to face life without their delicious rye bread with caraway seeds, just don't even tell me. That might be too much to handle.

In hope,

Contact: Adelson@eastendtemple.org

House Committee Report

Seen and Behind the Scene

Summertime presents an opportunity to initiate some larger projects at EET, as well as tackle some housekeeping issues. First, this summer we're planning to keep pace with the Religious School's growth by creating two new classrooms. A divider will be installed in the youth lounge to create one additional classroom while maintaining the ability to open the area to the existing larger space. On the second floor, the accounting office will be transformed to another classroom. Reconfiguring the lower level office will enable an increase to four work stations from two while providing a comfortable office environment.



As some projects are seen and some are behind the scenes, we're also going to re-point brickwork behind the building that might be causing some minor leaks. It's part of an overall effort to improve and complete unfinished areas. Last summer, we finished the interior and exterior steps and replaced the lower entrance doors and painted the railings. Our desire is to continue to make the entrance as welcoming and attractive as possible; the upper entrance doors will be sanded and stained this summer as part of a planned second phase.

Paul Levine

***Todah Rabah* to Our Dedicated Volunteers:**

Bimah guests, Shabbat services ushers, office aids, committee chairs and regular helpers... who did their good deeds during the months of June and July. **Thank You!** We could not do this work without your help.

SISTER TO SISTER

Fern Stampleman

I had the pleasure of reviewing 2006-07 at the Congregational Meeting this spring. If you were unable to attend let me just say the following: Sisterhood has had a stellar year with *Body As Temple*, thanks to the many dedicated members of our congregation and friends who shared time, talents and expertise with us. Also invaluable has been your dues support and attendance at individual events.



Next year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of both EET and East End Temple Sisterhood. To commemorate this milestone for Sisterhood, *Women for Women* will provide us with opportunities next season to work with the benefits 60 years of progress and experience have afforded us. For instance, for our *Rosh Chodesh* Series we will be using the newly published *THE TORAH: A Woman's Commentary* edited by Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi and Rabbi Andrea Weiss.

In praise for this ground breaking text, Rabbi David Ellenson, President of HUC-JIR has said: "For generations, the task of interpreting the texts of *Torah* has been almost exclusively the province of men. In our generation, this has changed and the voices of women and their understanding of the *Torah* have enriched our people. This commentary will be a valuable addition to every synagogue, *Torah* study group and Jewish home."

Look for complete programming in the soon-to-be published *Sisterhood-At-A-Glance; 2007-08 Bookmark* which is our gift to you in the membership letter you'll receive over the summer, upcoming *Templets* and of course www.eastendtemple.org.

Meanwhile, if you are a knitter or "would-be knitter" for The Cold Weather Project a vacation is often a good time to do this kind of work, so stop by the temple to pick up your yarn. If you have yarn to donate, bring it in with many thanks in advance, on both accounts.

Finally, given the busy anniversary schedule next fall, the second *Carnival of Jewels Sale* will be postponed until further notice.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable season filled with family, friends and summer fun!

Sister-to-Sister...

Fern

Contact: sfhstamps@aol.com

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING REPORT Aliya Cheskis-Cotel

Here are excerpts of a letter from *The Zayin (7th Grade) class* which I would like to share with you:



Dear East End Temple,

This year, we spent a lot of time learning about *tzedakah*, righteous giving, and were in charge of the school *tzedakah* collection. We kept track of the money and chose the organizations that will get a portion of what we collected. After a few sessions of heated debate about which organizations would be the best choices, we chose organizations that we feel truly do the work of *tzedakah*. Everyone in the religious school voted in order to determine what percentage of the total amount collected would go to each organization.

The *Tzedakah Fund* earned \$2073.88 this year! We collected more than double what was collected last year, and surpassed our goal of \$1800 (*chai* times 100). The organizations to whom we're giving this *tzedakah* are:

- **Doctors Without Borders** enables volunteer doctors to go to poor countries that need medical care. They will get \$414.78, 20% of our total.
- **Hearts of Gold** helps New York City's homeless mothers and children restart their lives and builds shelters for the children and mothers. They will get \$476.99, 23% of our total.
- **Amref** gives clean water and medical care to Africa, which is very important because Africa is having many medical problems because they do not have clean water. They will get \$373.30, 18% of our total.
- **Magen David Adom**, the Israeli equivalent to the Red Cross, provides emergency medical service to everyone in Israel, regardless of race or religion. They will get \$248.86, 12% of our total.
- **National Wildlife Federation** helps the environment in a variety of ways and helps animals through projects such as building areas for the animals to roam and not be hurt by poachers or other threats; it is the animals' domain. They will get \$559.95, 27% of our total.

Thank you everyone for supporting our work and for giving *tzedakah*. The money that you gave to our *tzedakah* fund will help to save lives and repair the world.

L'shalom, *Kitah Zayin* (The 7th Grade)

Aliya

Contact: educator@eastendtemple.org





Dear friends,

Our third season of Synaplex™ Shabbat will offer exciting, high-quality programs, without any need to write checks or sign up in advance. Six Friday nights in the coming fall and next spring will feature a spirited musical Kabbalat Shabbat service with musicians Daniel Leanse and Ben and Cameron Wisch. One exciting program for adults and another for kids will run on each of the six nights, with childcare provided throughout. Between services and programs, hearty Onegs for the congregation downstairs and for 20s/30s upstairs will be provided for free. That’s right: no RSVPs or payment, just show up with family or friends and celebrate Shabbat together with East End Temple. This will be possible partly through the generosity of congregants like you who we hope will sponsor Onegs. See the Temple’s donation page to make a contribution.

The joint kickoff for both Synaplex and EET’s 60th Anniversary celebration is on Friday, October 12. After services and a hearty Oneg buffet, three of EET’s past and present rabbis will talk about our temple’s history and changes to Reform Judaism in the last 60 years.

The remaining five Synaplex Shabbats will also be on the second Friday of the month, in November and January – April. Write it in your calendar now if you enjoy interactive performances related to the Torah and Jewish culture; if you care about political topics like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, NYC education reform, or the Jewish stake in the 2008 presidential elections; or if your kids can’t get enough of the arts workshops that our religious school faculty lead. A complete Synaplex schedule will be released by the High Holy Days.

Successes in the past year were largely due to a large cadre of volunteers, including Cindy and Henry Kramer, who served as co-chairs with Ellen. Thank you for the generosity in time and commitment, and welcome to new co-chair Karen Solomon. We hope we can count on everyone’s enthusiastic support through the third season of Synaplex and beyond.

B’shalom,

Ellen Wiewel and Karen Solomon



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

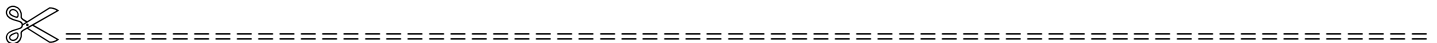
Contact: ewiewel@hotmail.com

Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast Bagel & Lox Buffet Following the Havdalah Services on September 22, 2007

HHD Ticket-Holders and their Guests Only

(Capacity is limited to 90 people)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW



RESERVATION FORM YOM KIPPUR BREAK-THE-FAST BAGEL & LOX BUFFET



No. of Persons _____ x \$18 per person = \$ _____

No. of Kids under 13 @ no charge _____

TOTAL ATTENDEES _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

**Please make checks payable to East End Temple. Space is limited; reserve early.
245 East 17th Street • New York • NY • 10003**

THE TEMPLE FAMILY

Congratulations and Mazal Tov to

- Anna and Jason Rulnick on the birth of their son, Maxim Judd Rulnick, 6lbs. 6oz on June 10, 2007.
- Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch (our former rabbi) for receiving her Doctorate of Divinity Degree from HUC-JIR, signifying 25 years in the rabbinate

Welcome New Members

- Lisea Lyons and her daughter, Ramona Wright
- Elyn and Barry Rosenthal and their daughter, Macie Rosenthal

Mi Shebeirach for Healing

Betty Beranbaum, Evelyn Hendline, Hadassah King, Betty Phillips, Marjorie Sussman

60th Anniversary Sisterhood Cookbook

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who submitted your favorite recipes as well as those of family and friends. The cookbook will be available in October so keep that in mind as you create your gift-giving list for the holidays. And plan to attend services on Friday, October 26, after which we will have a Cookbook Oneg where everyone can taste baked goods from the cookbook. So mark your calendars! In the meantime, visit the temple website www.eastendtemple.org where we feature a new recipe from the cookbook each month.

EAST END TEMPLE BOOK CLUB

The Book: *Intuition*
The Author: Allegra Goodman
The Date/Time: August 22
The Place: Call for location



The EET Book Club is open to ALL members of the congregation, men and women alike. Read the book and join us in a member's home for our 90 minutes (+/-) discussion and dessert

Do You Supply a Service?

Do you have a party planning business or offer a home decorating/organizing service? Are you a travel consultant, realtor or sell jewelry and cosmetics? Perhaps you can increase your business by advertising in our monthly **TEMPLET** bulletin. Our congregants are an active on-the-go community who could be interested in your service. We will help set up your ad. Call the office for advertising rates and production information.



In Memoriam

LESLIE SHERER

1915-2007

Longtime and devoted temple member since 1951, Leslie Sherer died on May 31, 2007. The Sherer family was one of the first to send daughter Susan and son David through the EET Religious School system, continuing their involvement beyond B'nei Mitzvah and Confirmations.

Arriving alone from Poland in 1937 as a teenager, Leslie headed for his mother's family on the Lower East Side. A few years later, he met his future wife Fay (who had also emigrated from Poland) at the Polish Students' Association in New York in 1940. Leslie was a talented artist and a linguist of six languages, who earned his B.A. in Visual Arts at Cooper Union.

Professionally, Leslie was a designer of military and yacht insignia until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1980. At home, he painted oil portraits and landscapes. Leslie was president of the Suwalki Association, named for the town in Poland in which he was born. At East End Temple, Leslie was chairman of the House, Monument and Cemetery Committees, and together with Fay, was a frequent participant in events and services.

The entire congregation extends heartfelt condolences to his wife Fay Sherer, his children, grandchildren and extended family.

Florence Peloquin

Website as Village Square



Being webmaster for our website, www.eastendtemple.org, has been a very rewarding experience. We also know that the website has been getting more visits than ever and, not surprisingly, our community has begun to really take advantage of all it has to offer. Try and remember what a great resource the website can be for all our members. Whether it's the events surrounding our forthcoming 60th Anniversary, the Sisterhood Cookbook, adult education programming, or this summer's Jewish Heritage Day at Shea Stadium, the website offers an alternative version of a Village Square. In the near future we'll be focusing on adding more photo albums and providing forums for our various committees and projects. Please don't hesitate to contact me through the office with corrections, suggestions or other feedback.

Adam Schartoff

MEMORIES FROM 60 YEARS @ EET



What started six decades ago by a group of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village residents discussing the need for a local liberal Jewish Temple has grown into a mainstay of the community. Each month, in this column, members will invite you in to some of the memories that brought us from there to here.

A HOME FOR JEWS BY CHOICE Henry Kramer... member since 2004

My wife Cindy's conversion ceremony occurred at an EET Shabbat Service on Friday, April 7, 2005. Rabbi Adelson offered meaningful blessings. Our parents were on hand. After experiencing what makes East End Temple's services and congregants and architecture so unique, my parents could not help but express their joy before their return trip home to Philadelphia. They now understood, they said, why Cindy and I had chosen EET to be our synagogue. We couldn't have asked for a better reaction.

A SECOND FAMILY Richard Bengloff... member since 1954

For me, the EET family has always been there. My earliest memory is that of a pre-schooler at EET's first home in the 14th Street Labor Temple as Cantor Korn and his big smiling face lead the children in Chanukah songs. And I'll never forget how good it felt to return to temple membership as a married adult. In good times, like my son Matt's Bar Mitzvah, in 1998 or sad, like the loss of my parents in the early 1980's, it has always been a comforting feeling to know that EET is there for me.

CLOSE TO HOME AND HEART Elaine Lavine... member since 2005

More than seven years ago, East End Temple's First Avenue 24th Street storefront caught my attention. When Rabbi Adelson walked out and warmly introduced himself to me, I panicked and quickly explained that I lived far uptown and was just browsing. The rabbi smiled and invited me to attend Shabbat services any time. In 2005, after relocating downtown to East 19th Street, I realized that EET had also found a new home on 17th Street. This time, not merely browsing, I visited and signed up. In November 2006, with great joy, I read from *Torah* as a Bat Mitzvah.

Marcia Muskat

THE YEAR AHEAD



As I write this for the Summer Temeplet, I am thinking back to the summer of 1948 when final plans were made for the birth of East End Temple. Now, 60 years later and getting ready to mark our birthday, with celebrations that give us the exceptional opportunities to focus on our present as we review the past. Here is a light dusting of some of our programs geared for every one of our temple family.

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12, begin the evening with a Synaplex™ *Shabbat* service at 6:15 pm followed by a hearty *Oneg Shabbat* buffet and then a panel of three of our rabbis: Rabbi Rav Soloff, Rabbi Deborah Hirsch and Rabbi David Adelson *In conversation about Reform Judaism then and now & East End Temple then and now.*

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 17, 7 PM *Six Decades of Synagogue Music.* Created and produced by Cantor Shira Ginsberg with a full cast of cantors and musicians. A truly special evening with talented young artists and their unique interpretations.

An Important Part of the 60th Birthday Celebration will be the restoration activity of our New *Torah* to be placed in our Ark on December 7. EET has been gifted with a lighter weight *Torah* Scroll. Specially chosen by our scribe and our rabbi, it has a very inspirational history, but does need prescribed adornments as well as some restoration, letters rewritten, parchment cleaned and re sewn. A wonderful opportunity for each of our members to obey the 613th Commandment - "*to write in a Torah Scroll at least once in a lifetime.*" This is our moment to share an important commandment together. Our scribe, Neil Yerman, will be on hand to work with you as you personally make your own mark in this precious *Torah*. **On Sunday, October 21 and Thursday, November 8,** our scribe, Neil Yerman, will be present for hands-on sharing of the restoration of our new *Torah* with our temple family.

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES, DECEMBER 7 6:15 PM, dedication of the New *Torah* and celebration of *Chanukah*.

MORE NEWS ABOUT 2008 PLANS TO COME

- Feb or March, *A Religious School Musicale*
- Jan-April, *A Temple Journal* dedicated to Rabbi David Adelson.
- May 3 - *60th Birthday Gala Dinner*

Helene Spring

EET @ 60

The 60th Anniversary Committee is collecting written memories as well as memorabilia and photos from all members. Questions? Call temple office for Marcia Muskat *regarding your written memories* or Barbara Schildcrout *regarding your mementos and photos*. Pick up a form from the bulletin board outside our office, or download it from our website: www.eastendtemple.org. Email it to eetmemories@eastendtemple.org, FAX, mail or bring mementos to the temple office.



From the Ritual Committee



VOLUNTEERING FOR A SACRED TASK

The work of transporting and protecting our sacred furnishings was a holy task to our ancestors in the desert. Helping to pack, transport and set-up the NYU Dental School auditorium into a space fit for our High Holy Day worship is also a sacred task.

Please call ASAP to sign-on for this necessary and appreciated service to our community.

Contact Bobby Kolin or Jason Rulnick at the temple office. Thank you.

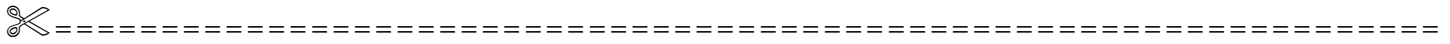
FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Celia Vimont

Mark your calendars – Through East End Temple’s premier social action program, Food For Families, we will once again be making meals for hungry New Yorkers for six Sundays from September through March. We invite all East End Temple members to join us in this fun and rewarding mitzvah. Bring a friend!

This season, the Food For Families dates are: September 30, November 4, December 9, January 6, February 3 and March 2, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Look for more information in the September issue of the *Templet*.

For more information or questions about Food For Families, contact Marian Fish at mfish1211@aol.com.



EAST END TEMPLE DONATION FORM

Please use this form to make contributions to all East End Temple funds. Make checks payable as indicated below and write the name of the fund(s) on your check. Some funds require separate checks. All contributions are per listing. With the exception of the Helene Spring Library Fund, send all checks to the Temple office. Your canceled check is your receipt. Call the Temple office 212-477-6444 for the chair- person contact information.

FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EAST END TEMPLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Emet Fund \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund \$36 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund For The Future \$100 | Separate check required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamermesh Music Fund \$18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sara A. Spencer Children’s Educational Resource Center \$18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kehila Fund \$1,800 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Simcha Tree Leaf \$236 |
| Chairs: Joan Beranbaum & Judith Sussman | <input type="checkbox"/> Synaplex™ Oneg Co-Sponsors \$360 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Board Plaque \$720 each | <input type="checkbox"/> Synaplex Programs \$18 |

FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EET SISTERHOOD

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collation/Oneg Shabbat \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Helene Spring Library Fund \$10 |
| Chair: Sallie Holzman | Separate check required, made out to <u>East End Temple Library</u> . Chair: Barbara Ringel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Fund \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund \$10 |
| Chair: Edna Rosen | Separate check required. Chair: Carole Hyman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Families \$18 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Families Day Co-Sponsors ... \$360 min. | |

Name of contributor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name and address of recipient to be notified: _____

Message: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

the rabbi's wife

by Lynn Harris



To be sure, Sheila Levine is dated, and that's part of the fun—as well as the resonance. Poor Bridget, single in her 30s? In her day, Sheila's practically a lost cause at 22. Also, Sheila can hold her nebbishy placeholder boyfriend ("Should I stop going with Norman because people will think we're going together?") at arm's length by saying, "Next weekend I'm washing my hair."

Sheila lived during heady, liminal times.

Discrimination: illegal...technically. (An employment agency lackey asks someone looking for staff: "Preference to age, color, religion?") One means of suicide she considers: Death by violent peace march. Free love, for another thing, has gotten pretty expensive for women. "When did [birth control] become the woman's chore?" she asks, kvetching about having to deal with a diaphragm. "Like it was the same year that pant suits came in. Here's your pant suit, but remember, if you put on the pants, the Trojans are off." Perhaps that's why she's ambivalent about feminism? "Women's Lib, I hate to disappoint you, but there are few members who wouldn't give up a meeting with you for a wedding night," Parents writes. Elsewhere, though, her liberal convictions are unassailable. Of a one-night stand with an insufferable African-American fellow, she says, "He knew that Jewish girl Sheila Levine didn't want to look prejudiced. He knew that if he played his cards right, I would sleep with him in the name of civil rights." Unfortunate coda: an illegal abortion, by "a nice doctor who believed in that sort of thing." Told you this was heady stuff. (Any sociopolitical commentary in Bridget Jones, which is, after all, a retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*—is executed with a much lighter touch.)

Yet much of Sheila Levine is timeless. Proud to say, I do not suffer from married people's amnesia about being single (and looking, and looking); I can tell you Sheila nails it. ("I did everything I could to get married.... I went to every party I was invited to, every party I ever heard of.... And I worked for candidates and I subscribed to *Cosmopolitan*.... I TRIED. The only thing I didn't do was move to Australia, where the men outnumber the women.") The pressure from family and society, the sense that it's the woman's job to find the man and the man's job to be found, the resentment of "smug married" (Bridget's term) friends—it's all there, and then some. Sheila's even asked, humiliatingly, if her "husband" will be joining her—but not at a restaurant:

"The problem is, dear, we don't cater to single people. All our plots are double," she is told by the nice man at Rossman Memorial Park. "What we usually do is suggest that single people be cremated."

Talk about dying alone.

(to continue, go to www.nextbook.org)

These are excerpts from a column our rabbi's wife, Lynn Harris, writes for an online publication, Nextbook.org. Here is the site where you can read the full article: www.nextbook.org

Sheila Take a Bow In praise of chick lit's patient zero

Single-girl poster girl Bridget Jones worried, famously, that if she never married—and she was quite sure she wouldn't—she would wind up meeting her demise "all alone, half-eaten by an Alsatian."

Twenty-six years earlier, Sheila Levine was not about to leave that kind of thing to chance. Gail Parent's 1973 bestseller *Sheila Levine is Dead...and Living in New York* is in fact the character's 223-page suicide note. (You know, like *The Bell Jar*, only funny.) "Well, girls," Sheila writes, "all you Jewish lovelies out there, good news! The competition will be less. Sheila Levine has given up the fight. She is going to die."

In a sense, it's Bridget Jones who has brought Sheila Levine back to life. Jones, for any 17-year locusts just emerging from their burrows, is the heroine of Helen Fielding's 1998 smash *Bridget Jones's Diary*, said to have triggered the ongoing craze for "chick lit": humorous commercial novels about single women finding their way (and, ideally, their husbands), often in less-than-sensible shoes. To some, Bridget Jones and company—including *Sex and the City's* Carrie Bradshaw and friends—represent all four horsemen of the literary apocalypse; others find in the genre a mirror of their own travails, only larger, and funnier. Whatever your opinion of it—and yes, I do have mine—chick lit remains wildly popular, so much so that someone at Overlook Press had the bright idea to resurrect poor, lonely Sheila Levine. "Before Bridget Jones, before *Sex and the City*, there was another single, big city girl..." reads the new cover. "The 70s bestseller is back!"

And may I say—forgive the highfalutin' literary term—yahoo! Here's my opinion: the book is hilarious. Hilarious. And it's only a special kind of funny, an especially good kind of funny, that elevates stereotype—frumpy calamity-prone single girl; frumpy calamity-prone Jewish single girl—to the highest of comedy.

East End Temple has established

a database of the Hebrew names of our members. Please fill out this form, using additional blank paper for all other members of your family. Please use transliteration. If you don't know someone's Hebrew name, please provide his/her English name. Return these forms to the temple office attn: Member Services.

Date _____

Member #1

Your English Name _____

Your Hebrew Name _____
(Written in English)

Your Father's Hebrew Name _____

Your Mother's Hebrew Name _____
(please provide English names if no Hebrew)

Member # 2

Your English Name _____

Your Hebrew Name _____
(Written in English)

Your Father's Hebrew Name _____

Your Mother's Hebrew Name _____
(please provide English names if no Hebrew)

Children

1. English name _____

Hebrew name _____

2. English name _____

Hebrew name _____

3. English name _____

Hebrew name _____

If you don't have a Hebrew name and would like one, please see the Rabbi.

Thank you, the Member Services Committee.

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Charles S. Salomon

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