



# Templet Online

## March-April Spring Issue

MARCH/APRIL 2024 - ADAR II/NISAN 5784



# join us

For the Installation of  
Olivia Brodsky as  
Cantor of East End Temple

Friday, March 29, 2024  
6:15 pm Services  
Oneg and L'chaim

### MARCH SERVICES

#### Fridays, 6:15pm

- 1 – Shabbat B'Yachad w/Birthday Blessing
- 8 – Sisterhood Shabbat
- 15, 22 – Shabbat Service
- 29 – Simchat Shabbat Service / Cantor's Installation

### MARCH PROGRAMS

- 1 – Mindfulness, birthday blessings, short service, 5:15pm
- 3 – Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Torah Study, 10:30am
  - Food For Families, 12pm
  - Stitch-A-Thon, 1pm
- 5, 19 – Intergenerational Choir, 6:30pm
- 6 – Sisterhood Getting to Know You, 12pm ([Zoom](#))
- 6, 13, – Adult Ed, Histories of Israel: A Multifaceted Exploration, 8pm ([Zoom](#))
- 8, 15, 22, – Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm
- 17 – Library Event + reception, 3pm
- 7, 21 – Mah Jongg, 11:30am ([RSVP](#))
- 23 – Congregational Purim Celebration: Potluck dinner, Havdalah Megillah reading w/the EET Choir + Men's Club Second Annual Great Hamantaschen Competition, 6pm
- 24 – Purim Family Program, 3pm

### APRIL SERVICES

#### Fridays, 6:15pm

- 5 – Shabbat B'Yachad w/Birthday Blessing
- 12, 26 – Shabbat Service
- 19 – Simchat Shabbat Service, claim your Hebrew name event

#### Monday, 10am

- 29 – Passover Yizkor (in person and [Livestream](#))

### APRIL PROGRAMS

- 3 – Sisterhood Getting to Know You, 12pm ([Zoom](#))
- 3, 10 – Adult Ed, Histories of Israel: A Multifaceted Exploration, 8pm ([Zoom](#))
- 4, 18 – Mah Jongg, 11:30am ([RSVP](#))
- 4 – Men's Club "Pillows for Passover," 6:30pm
- 5 – Mindfulness, birthday blessings, short service, 5:15pm
- 7 – Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Torah Study, 10:30am
  - Food For Families, 12pm
- 9, 30 – Intergenerational Choir, 6:30pm
- 12, 19 – Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm
- 14 – Passover Family Program, 3pm
- 23 – Community Second-Night Passover Seder ([Zoom](#))
- 25 – Sisterhood Lilith Seder, 6pm ([RSVP](#))



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**FROM the CO-PRESIDENT**

Rebecca Shore



**The Mi Chamocha**, our prayer of freedom, has stayed at the front of my mind since our return from Israel in early February. Freedom, and all that it means, hits home even harder as I think about those who were taken from their homes and families by Hamas terrorists. As I write this, 134 people from babies to seniors are still captive, being held by Hamas terrorists in Gaza, and we do not know their condition. I am also thinking about the Israelis and Palestinians who have lost lives, homes, and families and are craving the freedom from war, devastation, and insecurity.

**On our last evening in Israel**, we participated in a prayer service in Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. The tent of the prayer service was filled with families of the hostages, tourists like us, and many teenage students who had come with their schools. In between speeches and prayers made by family members of the hostages, we were led in song, including by our own Cantor Olivia Brodsky. I looked around the room, surprised and comforted by the singing in the face of such sadness. I especially was struck by the vibrant voices of young people. I realized that this was the meaning of freedom: being able to sing out without inhibition or restriction. I thought about the hostages in Gaza, knowing that they could not sing, and prayed that in some way, they could hear our singing for them.

**Earlier in the day**, we had visited the Rossing Center, an organization built with the goal of building bridges and fostering true connections between Palestinians and Israelis. (For those of you who have read *The Lemon Tree*, the Rossing Center is located at the house of the actual lemon tree.) We watched a video about the organization before the war that showed Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Israelis and Palestinians dancing together during their respective winter holidays. The celebration and freedom of the families making these connections was palpable. In speaking with the Palestinians and Arab Israelis at the Rossing Center this February, I saw the sadness, fear, and loss of freedom and hope that they were experiencing due to the war. I was dismayed to hear that, due to the acute pain that each community was experiencing, the gatherings and dialogues of all communities together had been paused. Although each speaker desired a return to the time of dancing together, the personal pain that each community felt due to the war made such a time seem distant.

**When we returned to New York the next day**, I was determined to attend Shabbat services that night. Even more than the spiritual connection, I needed to hear the voices of our community singing together in freedom. Each time we sing and pray together, I am reminded of the feeling of freedom, and the need to continue to fight for others who are not free. Each time I hear the beautiful voices of our religious school students singing joyfully at *t'filah*, I know we are giving our children freedom.

**As we approach this Pesach season**, I pray that the hostages will be free. I pray that all will be able to sing together in freedom soon. In the meantime, please keep singing – to celebrate our freedom and to sing for those who are currently unable to sing.



**Yahrzeit Memorial Candles Initiative**



**Plaza Jewish Community Chapel** is providing our EET members with a yahrzeit memorial candle to light on the anniversary date of your loved one's death. The candles are free of charge and can be picked up from the temple office during the week of the yahrzeit.

# THE AMERICAN JEWISH LANDSCAPE AFTER OCTOBER 7th

By Rabbi Joshua Stanton, Cantor Olivia Brodsky, and Director of Education Mindy Sherry, RJE

Since the **October 7th atrocities** that Hamas wrought against Israeli civilians, and the ensuing war, American Jews have faced an onslaught. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there has been a [337 percent increase](#) in antisemitic incidents, including physical assaults, hundreds of incidents of vandalism, harassment and intimidation, and expressions of support for terrorism against Jews in Israel and the United States. In addition, American Jews are feeling excluded from public gatherings, villainized on college campuses, targeted by community organizations that have never before issued statements on American foreign policy, and used as political pawns in partisan positioning.

**American Jews are rethinking their identities** and re-examining how they understand Judaism itself. The growing notion of a wisdom tradition with universal appeal is largely being eclipsed, at least for the moment, by the visceral call to peoplehood as a group under threat by an increasingly hostile society. The widespread conflation of Israel with Jewish identity since October 7th challenges efforts to separate anti-Zionism from antisemitism, leaving many Jews feeling the binary choice of either claiming their Judaism and absorbing anti-Israel hate, or abandoning their Judaism and being assumed to reject Israel. The rising death toll of Gazans and widespread hunger and disease amongst displaced civilians and Hamas's refusal to return remaining hostages, articulate recalcitrance, or surrender pushes many American Jews into a quandary of competing values.

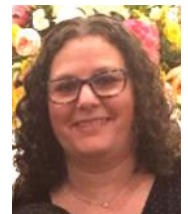
**Many have looked** to longstanding organizations for leadership, not only in national discourse as representatives of the Jewish community, but also on the local level, particularly with physical safety and social integration in question. While some mainstay organizations have maintained a national presence, their "ground game" in local communities is largely diminished due to cost-cutting measures. This includes denominations, notably our own, which used to have regional directors and leadership gatherings that could have been called upon to address the needs of specific communities and bring together clergy and lay people to create meaningful, proactive strategies.

**Within this lacuna**, startups connected to Israel and antisemitism have come to take center stage – as have national organizations resourced and able to put down local roots. [Zioness](#) redoubled its strategy of community

organizing, affirming Zionist voices in progressive efforts that had begun freezing out supporters of Israel. The right-leaning [Jewish News Syndicate](#) has provided timely reporting and sui generis analysis that clergy have used for their sermons and lay leaders have used to lead local discussions. American fundraising wings of [United Hatzalah](#) have inspired grassroots b'nei mitzvah projects and hosted galas across the country to support an Israeli startup that is readily becoming a mainstay for American philanthropists and Israeli volunteer first-responders. [The Hostages and Missing Families Forum](#), though founded by and for impacted Israeli families, has shaped the discourse around October 7th across the United States and engaged thousands of American and American-Israeli Jews in activism at the United Nations and other centers of political and diplomatic power in the United States. In our own New York region – and, perhaps soon others – the Anti-Defamation League strengthened a [Signature Synagogues Program](#) for congregations seeking educational programs, organizing resources, and support in combatting antisemitism.

**October 7th may be the defining event of our time** for Jewish communities not only in Israel, but also in the United States. While we are just beginning to make sense of its long-term impacts, we suspect that they will accelerate institutional change while reanimating conversations on Jewish peoplehood, particularism, and purpose. These may vary significantly by generation and geography and will cause local communities and national behemoths alike to articulate with greater clarity their higher purpose and how they seek to achieve it.

*This article was adapted from a piece that Rabbi Stanton co-authored for eJewishPhilanthropy with Rabbi Benjamin Spratt, based on their book, Awakenings.*



Join us  
for our

**Purim Family Program**

**Sunday, March 24**  
**3:00-5:00pm**

Come in your best costume  
and be ready for games,  
fun, and surprises!

RSVP to [school@eastendtemple.org](mailto:school@eastendtemple.org)

**PASSOVER FAMILY PROGRAM**

**Sunday, April 14**  
**3:00-5:00pm**

Save the date!

**Tot Shabbat / Shabbat B'Yachad**

Join us on Fridays as we welcome Shabbat with music, stories and service.

- **Tot Shabbat (select Fridays at 5:30pm):** March 8, 15, 22; April 12, 19
- **Shabbat B'Yachad (monthly first Fridays):** Start with a pre-neg snack (instead of an oneg) at 5:45pm, and begin singing together to welcome Shabbat at 6:15pm. This service is designed for all ages to worship together, and will include songs, stories, and birthday blessings. 3/1, 4/5, 5/3

**I recently returned from an educator's mission to Israel.** Thirty Reform Jewish educators spent five days in Israel, bearing witness, learning, volunteering and hugging. Here are just some of my experiences: As we were preparing to land at Ben Gurion Airport, I noticed this was not the same approach I had seen many times before. For those who have never been to Israel, you typically land flying over Tel Aviv beach and seeing the Tel Aviv skyline. If you don't know where you are, you might think it was Miami's South Beach. But this approach felt different. We were flying through a rainstorm, and when lightning struck, the entire plane, including the flight attendants, all gasped. For a split second, I think we all had the same thought – was this a rocket? But it wasn't. We landed safely and began our experience.



**Our time in Israel was a roller coaster of emotions.** We had Havdalah at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, and across the street was a protest for new elections. We spoke with the family members of some people who are still being held hostage. We heard from survivors who live on Kibbutz Nahal Oz who are displaced because their homes were destroyed by Hamas. We spent time in elementary schools hearing how staff are supporting their students, and we spoke with students, answering their questions. What I will share are a few of the take-homes from the people we heard from.

Every person we saw asked how we are doing. They hear what is going on here, and they are worried about us and want to know how to help us. Also, while all of Israel and everyone in it is in deep pain, hope is not lost. We met people who are still working towards and believe in the possibility of peace, and they want us to make sure that lines of communication always stay open.

I think the most important thing we were reminded of is "Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Le Zeh" – "All of Israel is responsible for one another." We are all part of the People of Israel, and we need to take care of each other.

Am Yisrael Chai!

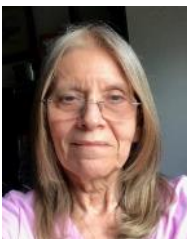


**WISH LIST:**

People sometimes ask how they can help the school, so I have created an [Amazon Wish List](#). If you have any questions about it, please let me know. You can also support the East End Temple Religious School and any of our programming for kids by donating to the [Sara A. Spencer Fund](#). Thank you.

### Spring Ahead With the Sisterhood of East End Temple!

This month, we are grateful for this submission from our Sisterhood Leadership Team member and Past President, Fern Stampleman.



**KUDOS** to the facilitators and attendees of our ongoing programs:

1. **Food For Families** (March 3, April 7), feeding hungry New Yorkers (*Cynthia Dubensky, Celia Vimont, Marian Fish, Andrea Pincus*)
2. **Women's Rosh Chodesh Brunch, Study and Discussion** (March 3, April 7), "Rebekah, Second Matriarch of the Jewish People" (*Fern Stampleman, Elissa Macklin, Laurie Treuhaft*)
3. **Stitch-A-Thon** (March 3), make scarves and hats for our Cold Weather Project, donated to New York's needy (*Fran Kolin*).
4. **Getting to Know You** (March 6), Andrea Nimberger: Being Part of an EET Founding Family. Lunchtime Zoom (*Ellen Ettinger*)
5. **Mah Jongg** (first and third Thursday mornings), play or learn (*Marcia Muskat*)
6. **Shake Your Soul®: the Yoga of Dance** (Tuesday am), move to fun rhythms (*Ronni Aronow*)
7. **Claim Your Hebrew Name** (ongoing), choose a Hebrew name (*Fran Kolin*)

"Springing Ahead" are 4 exciting additions:

1. **Sisterhood Shabbat followed by Festive Dinner and Speaker** (March 8), Rabbi Marla Feldman, author of *Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash*. Rabbi Feldman will explain what midrash is and share how the stories of the 10 biblical women featured in her book continue to be relevant today.
2. **Helene Spring Library Event** (March 17), Jennifer Rosner will speak about her book, *Once We Were Home*, followed by Q&A, book signing and homemade dessert buffet.
3. **Claim Your Hebrew Name Shabbat Celebration** (April 19), to honor those with newly chosen names
4. **Women's Potluck Lilith Seder** (April 25), with tambourines in hand, Miriam's Cup and an orange on the seder plate, celebrate Passover, read from our own Haggadah, pray, sing, dance, and dine together. Open to Sisterhood members and their guests, using she/her pronouns.

Check out our [Sisterhood page](#) for more details.

**The Sisterhood of East End Temple  
Belong. Connect. Grow.**

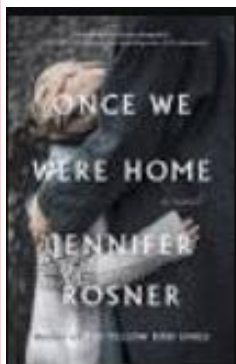
Member of  **WOMEN OF  
REFORM JUDAISM**

### LIBRARY BUZZ

Barbara Ringel

#### Our 20th annual Helene Spring Library

Event is just a few weeks away, Sunday, March 17 at 3pm. It is with great pleasure that I will introduce award-winning author, **Jennifer Rosner**, who will discuss her engaging new novel, ***Once We Were Home***. Based on the true stories of children taken from their homes during World War II and placed in Christian settings, this moving story raises the issues of complicity, responsibility, belonging, identity, and what it really means to find home. Jennifer's talk will be followed by a Q & A, after which we will gather in the social hall for our always highly anticipated dessert buffet, together with a book sale and signing, where you will have the opportunity to speak further with Jennifer. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon event, and I do hope you will be there. There is no charge for this event, and all guests are most welcome. Looking forward to seeing you on March 17 at 3:00pm.



#### Sisterhood Stitch-A-Thon Sunday, March 3, 1-3pm



We provide free yarn and friendly congregants who can teach you a simple stitch to make a scarf or hat for needy New Yorkers, and eventually for yourself and your loved ones. Knitters and crocheters are all welcome. Bring along a project you're already working on and join the camaraderie.

#### JUDAICA SHOP

Fran Kolin

Spring is the right season for checking out our Judaica Shop. Now's the time to [order](#) your hamantashen for Purim (in March), and to [order](#) chocolate-covered macaroons for Passover (in April)! Maybe it's time for a new seder plate, or to check out the 30-Minute Haggadah, or to buy a lucite matzah box to corral those crumbs! Have you seen our Inflatable Matzah Ball? And there is also the Magic Tea Box, kosher for Passover, filled with many flavors of Wissotsky Teas, that makes a wonderful host gift if you are attending someone else's seder. We even have a few hand-painted baseball kippahs. Treat yourself to something new for the new season. Come take a look, and shop The Shop.

## More from your Sisterhood...

### FOOD FOR FAMILIES

By Celia Vimont



**Our Food For Families** season is going strong, with a total of 2,533 meals made by our wonderful volunteers during our January and February sessions. Thank you! By participating in this valuable East End Temple Sisterhood program, you are helping to feed hungry New Yorkers.

**Our last two Food For Families sessions** this season will be March 3 and April 7. We will make sandwiches and bag meals to be picked up and distributed by City Harvest to a food pantry or shelter. Advance sign-up is required (<https://signup.com/go/DjQsOSg>). All participants must be age 12 or older (ages 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult) and everyone must wear a mask. Each participant should bring at least five loaves of whole wheat sliced bread (six loaves per person would be greatly appreciated) and 20 pieces of fruit (preferably apples and oranges) and wear a hat to comply with Department of Health regulations. Food For Families is a great way for teens to get community service credits.

Your donations to Food For Families through Sisterhood (<https://eastendtemple.org/contribute/>) help us buy supplies to make meals.

### SISTERHOOD SHABBAT, MARCH 8, 6:15PM

Special prayers and festive dinner with speaker Rabbi Marla Feldman, former executive director of Women of Reform Judaism and author of *Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash*



### Passover Macaroon Orders

Order your kosher-for-Passover macaroons in time for Passover (4/22-29) and help support the Sisterhood of East End Temple.



**Dark Chocolate-Covered Coconut Macaroons**  
**\$14.00 per pound (1 box), with 14 pieces/pound**  
~ All orders must be in pound increments. ~

**Place your order no later than Friday, April 5,** and come pick it up from EET beginning April 17 10am-4pm (other times by appointment only). Click [here](#) to order. Email [info@eastendtemple.org](mailto:info@eastendtemple.org) or call 212.477.6444 should you have questions regarding the order.



### JOIN THE SISTERHOOD OF EAST END TEMPLE FOR OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK LILITH SEDER

Created By and About Women

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 6pm @ EET SOCIAL HALL** Sisterhood members, using she/her pronouns, plus one guest, are welcome, ages 13 and up.

**Led by Cantor Brodsky**, everyone participates in reading from a Haggadah written especially for us, focused on the women in the Passover story, praying in feminized Hebrew. We sing songs and dance with tambourines, honor women of valor, use a Miriam's Cup for water and place a symbolic orange on the seder plate.

Please click [here](#) to register, indicating whether you will join in person or on Zoom. Indicate name(s) of participants. If attending in person, space is limited so please reserve as soon as possible and indicate your contributions to the potluck dinner or seder items. If you are not a current Sisterhood member, we welcome you to join or renew for a minimum contribution of \$36 for the 2023-2024 membership year. For further information, please email [sisterhood@eastendtemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@eastendtemple.org).



### THE HAMANTASCHEN ARE COMING...

**Order your Hamantaschen in time for Purim (on 3/24) and help support Sisterhood**

Available in an assortment of flavors:  
Raspberry, Apricot, Prune, Poppy

**\$14.00 per pound (1 box), with 14 pieces/pound**  
~ All orders must be a minimum of 1 pound ~

**FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 8**

Hamantaschen will be available for pick up at EET on March 20, 21, or 22, 10am-4pm (other times by appointment only). Click [HERE](#) to order. Email [info@eastendtemple.org](mailto:info@eastendtemple.org) or call 212.477.6444 should you have questions regarding the order.

# OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Matthew Eshed
- Julia Friedman and Kyle Rosen
- Seema Mody and Jeffrey Kaplan, Shana
- Jonathan Stone and Hagit Hamus, Ariel
- Karen Weiner, Lucie



## MAZAL TOV AND CONGRATS TO

- ☺ Harrison and Jill Remler on the birth of Lila Blake Remler



## Adult Ed, Histories of Israel: A Multifaceted Exploration, 8pm ([Zoom](#))

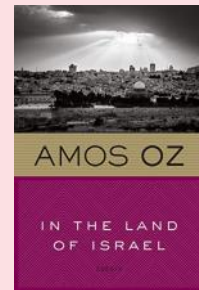
**March 6 and 13:** Sayed Kashua, *Native: Dispatches from an Israeli-Palestinian Life*

<https://www.amazon.com/Native-Dispatches-Israeli-Palestinian-Sayed-Kashua/dp/0802126294>

**April 3 and 10:** Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel*

<https://www.amazon.com/Land-Israel-Harvest-Translation/dp/0156481146>

Looking forward to learning together with you.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Boris Eshed**  
1953 – 2024



East End Temple mourns the death of Boris Eshed, husband of Suellen, father of Matthew, and EET member. Deepest condolences to the family near and far.

*Zichrono Livracha, may his memory be for a blessing.*

Join the EET community for our **Virtual 2nd Night Seder, on Tuesday, April 23, at 5:00pm** via [Zoom registration link](#).

Our online seder will be interactive, led by Rabbi Josh, and open to all. Feel free to invite friends and family! Advance registration is required.

**Passover holiday information** and EET's Haggadah will be posted in the coming weeks on our Passover Seders page: <https://eastendtemple.org/passover-seders/>.



## DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO EET MEMBERS WHO LOST LOVED ONES RECENTLY...

- Jason Bisnoff and family on the death of his grandfather Alvan Bisnoff
- Cantor Olivia Brodsky on the death of her grandmother Dina Brodsky
- Matan Frenkel and family on the death of his mother Reeva Frenkel
- Danielle Goodman and family on the death of her uncle Rafail Teitel
- Elissa Macklin and family on the death of her sister-in-law Chaya Kaplan

And for those who have loved ones who died recently and are not mentioned above, may their memory be for a blessing.



## Lily Thrope Enables Connections Through Judaism

**On a fateful Friday evening in 2019**, Lily Thrope felt welcomed by the EET congregation and Rabbi Josh. At a different event, later that evening, Lily met her future husband, Ethan Levine-Weinberg. Turns out that Lily, Ethan and Rabbi Josh share an interest in connecting young people through Judaism, in or out of synagogue. Together they have spearheaded EET's Young Professionals.

**Lily loved growing up in the tight-knit** Jewish community of Port Washington, NY. She was a steadfast student at its Reform temple, Port Jewish Center, via Hebrew school and Hebrew High School. She proudly earned the titles of bat mitzvah and confirmand. Her connections to Judaism also abounded at Camp Wah-nee and amongst dear family and friends.

**Lily experienced** her four years (from 2011 to 2015) at Occidental College in LA as being light years away from the preponderantly Jewish Port Washington, no less from NYU Silver School of Social Work, where Lily earned her

2017 MSW. At both undergraduate and graduate schools, Lily was drawn to their Hillel communities.

**At the 2017 URJ Boston Biennial**, where 5,000 Reform Jews engaged in learning and leadership development, Lily renewed her covenant to care about others (aka *tzedakah*), hence her career in clinical therapy. Over the last year, the Young Professionals have met-up to celebrate Purim at the home of Rabbi Josh, Chanukah at the home of Cantor Olivia, and at a local pub to celebrate connections.

**The way the YP group sees it**, each person has a story to tell and each deserves to tell their story. So, EET Board member and LCSW Lily Thrope, along with EET choir member and director of operations at Synergy Sports, Ethan Levine-Weinberg, continue to find fun spaces in which young people can connect through Judaism, in or out of synagogue.



Share your story with us in future Voices articles, email me at [info@eastendtemple.org](mailto:info@eastendtemple.org) and include your phone #.



## MEN'S CLUB

### A Focus on Service



**The Men's Club** was founded to focus on three key principles: developing social activities for male identifying members of our community (including activities for friends and families within EET), creating opportunities for education and building awareness of issues that impact the Jewish community, and providing service to the EET community. Much of what we have done in the last 18 months (as we have built our organization) has focused on the first two of these. While we expect to continue offering strong social and educational programs, in the coming months we will also seek to enhance how we provide SERVICE to our community.

**Among our service initiatives are:** plans for an exciting Legacy Project (which will serve to celebrate and archive the rich, ongoing history of EET); coordinating of this season's *Mishloach Manot* (Purim gift boxes); and working with temple administration to identify ways that we can help support the physical infrastructure of our building (including the contribution we recently made of a brand new dishwasher for the social hall kitchen).

**If there are ways the EET Men's Club** can be of service to you, or you have ideas for how we can provide service to the greater community, please reach out and let us know by emailing us at [mensclub@eastendtemple.org](mailto:mensclub@eastendtemple.org). We want to be there for you!

### SIMCHAT SHABBAT W/CANTOR OLIVIA BRODSKY

**March 29** (Cantor's Installation),  
**April 19, May 31 at 6:15pm**



Join Cantor Olivia and the East 17th Street Band for joyful musical Shabbat services followed by light dinners.



## OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY— Reflections on the Solidarity Mission to Israel

**Vulnerability.** We saw it in everyone we met, and in Israel as a place. In Dani Miran, who openly shared how his son Omri was brought out of saferoom hiding at Kibbutz Nir Oz by a Hamas terrorist ruse and captured right in front of Omri's wife and two toddlers (whose lives were miraculously spared). And at the Rossing Interfaith Center, grappling with how to support their mission of building better relations among Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Israel in a post-October 7 reality. Vulnerability. We saw it in ourselves.

**Strength. Resilience. Resolve.** We saw it in all of the people with whom we spoke, especially survivors. Liora Eilon from Kfar Aza, whose son was among the first murdered but not before he sounded the kibbutz alarm, opened the locked arsenal, and notified kibbutzim in the surrounding area of the terrorist attacks. We saw it at Hadassah Hospital where we met Timor Cohen, the first police officer to have been shot on October 7. Despite damage to his dominant arm by Hamas terrorists dressed in IDF uniforms, he was able to drive away from danger, and save his own life and that of another officer. We saw it in Millet Ben Haim, who went to Reim to enjoy music and friends at the Nova Music Festival. Running for hours, dodging bullets, seeing festival friends gunned down/murdered, she found coverage in the bushes with three friends and waited for a rescue six hours later. Millet survived and has committed to telling the truth about what happened on that day. She is doing that now: at the festival site, around Israel, in the United States, and around the world. Strength. Resilience. Resolve. We committed. I committed to bear witness and to share with you.



by Elizabeth Weisser

**On our solidarity mission to Israel,** clear patterns emerged from the scores of people we met. Person after person spoke about how strong the civic engagement is now. About how Israelis are amazing, resilient, and resourceful, and how they've come together unlike ever before. From forming NGOs to support displaced families, to feeding hungry soldiers on the frontlines, to treating the wounded, to taking care of the pets of the murdered.

**And person after person** said that they've felt a hug from Jews in the United States. Dani Miran, the father of hostage Omri Miran, thanked us for the hug. The soldiers taking a quick break from fighting in Gaza thanked us for the hug. Liora Eilon, a survivor of the Kfar Aza massacre, thanked us for the hug. Adir Schwartz, who organized 6,000 volunteers to help Israelis displaced from their homes, thanked us for the hug from the diaspora. But he made clear that this hug cannot end. He said that Israel and the diaspora had grown apart. And this can never happen again. When a soldier we were visiting asked me why we

came, I instantly said, "Because you're family." He thanked me, smiled, got on a bus and went back to Gaza.

**The message is clear** that part of our mission is to maintain our embrace of our millions of relatives in Israel. Omri and Dani and Liora and Adir and the rest of our family there need us.

**And we need them.** When we embrace them, we feel that hug in return. For too long, we let anti-Zionism fester in our communities and on our campuses until it exploded. That has hurt Israel and it has hurt us in the diaspora. If we learned anything from the aftermath of October 7, it is that we need to stand together. And even if we are critical of its government, we have to stand with Israel. That means sending donations, standing up to anti-Zionist politicians and college administrators and activists. And when you can, that means visiting Israel. You won't regret it.



by Jordan Brackett

**Israel is still very much the country that I love.** The community and civic society that have come together to support each other were beautiful to see in every setting.

**What we saw at K'far Aza and the Nova memorial** concert site, and heard and saw from survivors and rescuers of the October 7 massacre and families of those still captive, is unspeakable and it is our duty to speak of them, to share the atrocities that Hamas terrorists committed, and the pain and loss that Israelis are now experiencing. What we saw showed to me how little had been reported in New York of October 7.

**Universally,** every person we spoke with, regardless of their political leanings, said that the country is suffering a threefold trauma: (1) the trauma of October 7, (2) the trauma of the war, and (3) the trauma of a loss of trust in safety and the government. Ultimately, the last will be the hardest to overcome. Adir Schwartz, who ran the community center providing support to displaced Israelis, concluded his talk with these words: "Play a game with me. Ask any Israeli about peace. They will smile, but you will see behind the smile there is sadness and no hope." Before the hope can return, everyone will need to regain their trust that they can be safe.

**I went to Israel for three reasons:** (1) get reassurance that Israel was still the country that I love; (2) provide support to Israelis; and (3) bear witness to the atrocities that occurred on October 7, 2023. Although I left Israel having accomplished all three, the impact was much greater.



by Rebecca Shore

## OUR JEWISH HOLIDAYS...

excerpts taken from [ReformJudaism.org](https://ReformJudaism.org)



**Purim (3/23-24/24) is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history.** With celebrations including costumes, skits and songs, noisemakers, and gifts of food, Purim is definitely full of fun! The main communal celebration involves a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther (M'gillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday. [Click here for more...](#)



**Passover / Pesach (4/22-29/24) is a major Jewish spring festival celebrating freedom and family as we remember the Exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.** The main observances of this holiday center around a special home service called the [seder](#), which includes a festive meal, the prohibition on eating [chametz](#), and the eating of [matzah](#). [Click here for more...](#)



### CAN'T GET TO EET SERVICE OR PROGRAM?

Join us via Livestream (some via Zoom). Check our website <https://eastendtemple.org/east-end-temple-everywhere/> for current listings. We look forward to staying connected and welcome you to invite family and friends to join us as well. Instructions on how to access all platforms is through the link above.

To support our critical Livestreaming service, please complete the donation form by checking the *Leonard & Helene Spring Mem. Fund* on pg. 13 or [online](#).

## FRAN KOLIN'S BROCCOLI KUGEL

### Ingredients:

2 boxes frozen chopped broccoli  
cooked 3 eggs beaten  
Half an envelope onion soup mix  
2 large onions, fried  
Quarter cup mayonnaise Pam spray  
Corn flake crumbs, or matzah meal

### Direction:

Drain chopped broccoli and combine with eggs, onion soup mix, fried onions, and mayo. Spray square pan with Pam. Pour in mixture. Top with crumbs or matzah meal. Bake at 350 degrees for an hour.

The recipe may be doubled to fit an 8x13" pan. Frozen cauliflower may also be used.



  
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## TEMPLE FUNDS

### Cantor Discretionary Fund

used for charitable giving; enrichment of the congregation & community.

### El Emet Fund

helps beautify and maintain our temple; underwrite holiday festivities, projects. Note: simcha, mishebeirach, yahrzeits.

### Floral Fund *(contact the office)*

purchases flowers to decorate our pulpit on Shabbat and the High Holy Days.

### Fund For The Future

helps ensure future growth in all temple activities.

### Hamermesh Music Fund

provides special music programs and resource materials.

### Kehila Fund *(contact the office)*

ensures the growth and permanence of our Temple. At the \$1,800 level, your name will be inscribed on the honor roll mounted on the Sanctuary lobby wall. Starting at \$5,000, your name and/or the name of an honoree will be engraved on a bronze plaque.

### Leonard and Helene Spring Memorial Fund

dedicated to providing safety and comfort-based enhancements for the sanctuary and throughout the temple building. Materials that aid the physically and mentally challenged are the focus of this fund.

### Oneg Shabbat Fund *(contact the office)*

provides refreshments after Shabbat evening services.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

used for charitable giving; enrichment of the congregation & community.

### Sara A. Spencer Children's Educational Fund

provides educational materials for the Religious School.

### Simchat Shabbat Programs

provides musical Shabbatot, diversified community programs.

### Social Justice Fund

Used to provide service to those in need in our neighborhood, city, nation, and world.

## SISTERHOOD FUNDS

### Food For Families Fund

purchases the food and meal supplies volunteers need to use for filling the bags of meals prepared to feed the hungry.

### Food For Families Day Sponsor

underwrites this social action program. Contribution designates you as co-sponsor for the day.

### Helene Spring Library Fund

helps purchase new and archival books, library equipment and additional materials for our library.

### Sisterhood Birthday Fund

contributes to a social action fund benefiting women and girls, selected annually.

### Sisterhood Leadership Development Fund

supports the enhancement of leadership skills of current Sisterhood members and to develop future Sisterhood leaders.

## FUNDS ARE ACCESSIBLE VIA OUR WEBSITE

*(unless otherwise noted)*, at <https://eastendtemple.org/contribute/>

### Naming Opportunities *(contact the office)*

Memorial Board Plaque; Simcha Tree Leaf

For next publication of contribution listing, please have your messages and payments sent to us by April 10.

## 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. Send checks directly to KESEF, POB 418 Montvale NJ 07645, or to East End Temple, 245 East 17th Street NYC 10003. All contributions are per listing and your canceled check is your receipt. Email [info@eastendtemple.org](mailto:info@eastendtemple.org), or call the temple office at 212.477.6444 for further information.

### FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EAST END TEMPLE

- |  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor's Discretionary Fund _____         | \$36 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund _____          | \$36 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Emet Fund _____                        | \$10 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sara A. Spencer Children's Ed. Fund _____ | \$18 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund For The Future _____                 | \$75 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Simchat Shabbat Programs _____            | \$54 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamermesh Music Fund _____                | \$18 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice Fund _____                 | no min.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard and Helene Spring Mem. Fund _____ | \$18 min. |  |           |

For the following gift opportunities, please contact the EET office via phone or [email](mailto:info@eastendtemple.org):

Floral \$108, Kehila \$1800 min., Memorial Board Plaque \$720 each, Oneg \$400/\$250, Simcha Tree Leaf \$234 each

### FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EET SISTERHOOD

- |   |            |   |           |
|---|------------|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Families, Chair: Celia Vimont _____ | \$18 min.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Birthday Fund _____               | \$18 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Families Day Sponsor _____          | \$360 min. | Chair: Jodi Malcom  |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helene Spring Library Fund _____             | \$18 min.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Leadership Development Fund _____ | \$36 min. |
| Chair: Barbara Ringel   |            | Chair: Cynthia Dubensky _____   |           |

Name of contributor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & address of recipient to be notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



"We will remember you forever, with the light and the joy that was silenced forever," a mural at the Nova memorial concert site



Hostage Square in Tel Aviv



From left: Elizabeth Weisser, Rebecca Shore, Jordan Brackett, and Cantor Olivia Brodsky

