



Temple

MARCH-APRIL 2020

ADAR/NISAN/IYAR 5780

MARCH SERVICES

Fridays, 6:15pm

- 6 – Simchat Shabbat Service w/Michael Hunter Ochs and/Birthday Blessing
- 13 – Shabbat Service w/BEET Dinner following
- 20 – Shabbat Service
- 27 – Sisterhood Shabbat Service w/Rabbi Marla Feldman
– Family Shabbat Service @ 5:45pm

Saturdays

- 14 – Shabbat Service/bar mitzvah of Alex Yonteff, 10am
- 21 – HIAS National Refugee Shabbat Havdalah, 6:15pm

MARCH PROGRAMS

- 1, 29 – Food For Families, 12:00pm
– Stitch-A-Thon, 1:00pm
- 4, 11, 18, 25 – Intro to Judaism, 6:30pm
- 6, 13, 20 – Tot Shabbat, 5:45pm
- 8 – Family Purim Carnival, 2:00pm
- 9 – Adult Purim Variety Show, 6:30pm
- 15 – Rosh Chodesh Study & Potluck Brunch, 10:30am
- 17, 24, 31 – Shira w/Shira, 6:30pm
- 22 – Sisterhood Library Event w/Dani Shapiro, 1:00pm

APRIL SERVICES

Fridays, 6:15pm

- 3 – Simchat Shabbat w/Birthday Blessing
- 10 – Shabbat Service
- 17 – Shabbat Service
- 24 – Shabbat Service w/potluck oneg following
– Family Shabbat Services, 5:45pm

Saturdays

- 4 – Shabbat Service/bat mitzvah of Jane Apter, 10am
- 25 – Shabbat Service/bat mitzvah of Dania Bressler, 10am

APRIL PROGRAMS

- 1, 22, 29 – Intro to Judaism, 6:30pm
- 3, 17 – Tot Shabbat, 5:45pm
- 5 – Sisterhood/Cordoba House Potluck Brunch & Discussion, 10:30am
– Passover Family Chocolate Seder, 2:00pm
- 14 – Sisterhood Lilith Seder, 6pm RSVP Only
- 20 – Erev Yom Hashoah program (TBD), 7:00pm
- 26 – Rosh Chodesh Study & Potluck Brunch, 10:30am

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 6:15PM

w/Cantor Shira and
composer-in-residence
Michael Hunter Ochs

Join us for another
Shabbat when our
community learns
a new song by our
Composer-in-
Residence



Michael Hunter Ochs.

Dinner and song to follow services.

*Become a co-sponsor and support Simchat Shabbat programs.
Contact Sharon Shemesh 212.477.6444 / sharon@eastendtemple.org*

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 6:15PM

w/Rabbi Marla Feldman
Exec. Dir. of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ)

Join us in honoring the women
of East End Temple. Hear
from Rabbi Marla Feldman
about how Women of Reform
Judaism have helped shape our
past and are continuing to
mobilize around today's issues
of concern, such as pay equity
and reproductive health.



Special Dinner, provided by Sisterhood, and
presentation to follow services.



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Yahrzeit Memorial Candles Initiative



Plaza Jewish Community Chapel

is now 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.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Joshua M. Z. Stanton

Vote Reform



If I were to tell you to “Vote Reform,” you would probably think that I am talking about reforming the electoral college, improving voting rights, or some uncanny third-party candidate for President. In this case, it is not about the election happening in November, but one that has already begun and will run until March 11, 2020. It is the critically important (if often overlooked) World Zionist Congress election, which determine the allocation of nearly one billion dollars per year for the next five years towards Jewish and Israeli causes, as well as the directorship of key institutions in Jewish life around the world.

More practically, it means the difference between funding settlements in the West Bank and funding religious freedom initiatives in Israel proper. It means the difference between Ultra-Orthodox hegemony within the Jewish people and a powerful Reform Movement which invests in pluralism in Israel and Jewish communities worldwide. It means the difference between progress and regress.

Unfortunately, in the last World Zionist Congress five years ago, less than one percent of American Jews voted. The good news is that if we vote *en masse* this year, we can have a heightened influence on the future of the Jewish people and its internal allocation of resources.

We must not miss that opportunity. Yes, the World Zionist Congress election is bureaucratic. It costs \$7.50 for most people to vote in order to cover internal costs and requires 5-10 minutes to register. Yes, it is probably an organization that few of us have heard of, or which sounds as though it is a vestige of the 19th Century. It is. But it is also one of the key levers of power in Jewish life.

I have the privilege of being on the slate of representatives that Vote Reform is putting forward. If enough of us and enough Reform Jews across the country vote, hundreds of colleagues and I could redefine the place of the Reform Movement within the Jewish people. Let us not miss our opportunity to have our voices heard as Reform Jews.

Please visit www.arza.org, the website of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Just this once, you will hear how I think you should vote. Vote Reform!



This January afforded an opportunity to reflect on the past decade – and to consider the promise of a new one.



The end of the Twenty-Teens gave American Jews a great deal with which to be concerned. We are haunted by images of the violent Charlottesville protests at which hatred towards Jews was literally the central rallying cry. Soon after, congregations in Pennsylvania and California suffered unthinkable tragedies. And at the tail end of the decade, hate struck observant communities in our own metro area. While anti-Semitism is hardly new, historian Deborah Lindstadt explains that today's anti-Semitism is uniquely characterized by the influence of social media, party polarization, and convergence with anti-Zionism. And, some would add, this anti-Semitism is fanned by a political climate both here and overseas that seems to promote hatred of the "other."

But optimists recall that periods of pain and challenge are often followed by ones of progress. I read with interest that the 1950s are considered a "Golden Decade" for American Jewry – after the horrors of World War II, the Jewish community took significant leaps. As a 1955 bestseller proclaimed, America had become a Protestant-Catholic-Jewish "triple melting pot," and American Jews experienced greater security, social acceptance, and prosperity.

Seven decades later, as Hebrew Union College President Andrew Rehfeld explains, the Jewish people face three "slow" existential threats – declining Jewish education, lessening Jewish engagement, and weakening Jewish identity. Or, as he says, weakening around the "knowing, being, and doing" of Jewish.

I'm often reminded of the "Think Globally, Act Locally" mantra that's long infused the environmental movement. At our local community, there's great reason to be optimistic. Our temple membership has reached an all-time high. Our religious school thrives with children who are happy to be in community. Our community members bring vastly diverse Jewish backgrounds, upbringings, and family structures – and are able to find a warm embrace no matter what diversity they bring.

But perhaps we can take the greatest lesson from Rabbi Jonathan Sachs: "One of the most important distinctions I have learned in the course of reflection on Jewish history is the difference between optimism and hope. Optimism is the belief that things will get better. Hope is the belief that, together, we can make things better."

With a prayer that our work together can create a hopeful decade ahead.

This month, the Education column is written by our Youth Director, Ben Cutler.



Back in January, Rabbi Josh and I had the privilege of traveling with nine of our teens to Washington DC to go to the Religious Action Center's (RAC) L'taken conference.

L'taken is a wonderful opportunity where teens from all over the country come together to learn about Social Justice issues and how the legislative process works. The teens learned how lobbying works and how money can influence politics. The weekend ends with each synagogue going to Capitol Hill and lobbying their legislatures.

We went to the offices of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. The nine EET teens wrote three powerful speeches on the issues that matter to them: Reproductive Rights, Climate Change, and Gun Control. Each speech was increasingly powerful, no doubt due to the personal impact each of the teens included. As a teacher, I was personally moved listening to our students talk about how active shooter drills have become so much of a reality in their school, they treat them as just a normal part of the school day. As one student said, "We do these drills so much that none of the students care. Preparing for one of the worst things that could possibly happen to human beings has just become a fact of life." Even though the teens who said these words are too young to vote, it was powerful to hear them speak with such passion.

Following our visit, Representative Maloney posted on Instagram about our visit and acknowledged that our Youth Groupers are, "the true leaders of tomorrow!" She also told the group that she was going to co-sponsor a bill on climate change prevention because of their lobbying effort. It was a great trip and was amazing to see what our teens can do when given the opportunity.



CONGRATULATIONS to our March and April bar and b'not mitzvah celebrants:

Alex Yonteff, Jane Apter and Dania Bressler



Mazal tov from your EET Community.

Here is the sermon Cantor Shira delivered to the congregation on January 24, 2020. It has been lightly excerpted.



In the Torah portion Vaera, we read the litany of ways in which God approaches Pharaoh through God's chosen representatives and leaders Moses and Aaron. Most of us are familiar with the ten plagues, but prior to the ten plagues, Moses and Aaron approach the Israelites under the direction of God to tell them they will soon be taken out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, redeemed, and brought to the land of Canaan.

According to our sage and teacher Rashi, they couldn't accept consolation, as they despaired completely of ever being redeemed. At this point in their 430 years of slavery, so mired were they in their servitude, the Israelites lost even the very hope of dreaming, of even imagining a change in their circumstances.

God also instructs Aaron and Moses to simply approach Pharaoh: "Come, speak to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and he will let the children of Israel out of his land." But Moses argues, "If the Israelites didn't listen to me, why would Pharaoh?" And so, God instructs Moses and Aaron to approach Pharaoh with a simple ask and a demonstration of power without might, a tactic of reasoning and solid argument. Aaron throws down his rod; it becomes a serpent. But then Pharaoh summons his servants to throw down their rods and those too become serpents – and though Aaron's serpents eat the other serpents, Pharaoh is unimpressed, his heart is unmoved, and negotiations have entered yet another phase.

Only after the attempts to muster hope from the Israelites and attempts to speak with and reason with the Egyptians fail, does God then begin the infliction of the ten plagues. The plagues were not the first nor even the second or third attempt to free the Israelites.

Pharaoh flat out ignores the first plague, turning the Nile to blood. By the fourth plague the Pharaoh's stubbornness wavers long enough to agree to let the Israelites go, but the moment God ends the plague, Pharaoh hardens his heart. So, God turns up the heat – each plague incrementally creating more difficulty, more instability, more chaos and more pain, each making daily life and business as usual intolerable, less tenable and finally unlivable. After each plague, Pharaoh's heart is hardened. Yet, even as the infliction of the 10th plague – *Makat Bchorot*, the slaying of the first born is underway, God recognizes that the window that will open in the Pharaoh's heart will be small and short, and commands the Israelites to leave their homes and flee Egypt in the middle of the night in great haste. And only then, after all of the negotiating, the struggle, the plagues, after the battle for freedom is won, does the actual journey to Freedom begin.

Exactly 100 years ago, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified. But it was first introduced to Congress 30 plus years prior in 1878. And it was long before then that the fight for women's suffrage began. In the mid 1800s, women organized, petitioned, and picketed to win the right to vote, working tirelessly for their cause that took them decades to accomplish. They, too, utilized various strategies for achieving their goal, lecturing, writing, marching, lobbying, and practicing civil disobedience.

Thanks to our mothers, grandmothers and the remarkable generations of women who led the incredible fight to freedom for women's rights, thanks to women of our own East End Temple Community – Judith Lorber, who is one of the foundational theorists of [social construction of gender difference](#), who literally wrote the textbooks on gender inequality, thanks to Helene Spring who served as our first woman president, thanks to Florence Peloquin who in her 50 years in the magazine business was at the battle front-lines for equal pay, vacation time, maternity leave and sick time, and thanks to so many others of that generation, my generation of women grew up believing that that we could do anything we wanted to do, be anything we wanted to be, and be rewarded for our work in our chosen field in exactly the same way. After all, the world was equal, the world was fair.

I did not question this belief through most of my teenage years. It was only when I got to college and began to question certain interactions with professors and peers that I realized all was not equal. Certainly, as a young professional actress in New York I had encounters at auditions, and at my waitressing jobs that were unpleasant, uncomfortable, but were also experiences that I accepted as part of the reality of life as a woman.

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- After all, in 1948, though they were allowed to serve as permanent members of the military, women were expressly prohibited from combat positions. That only changed in 2013 when the combat ban was lifted.
- Only in the 1970s when the Amateur Athletic Union, the governing body of U.S. track and field, including most road races, lifted their ban could women run in races and marathons.
- Only in 1974 with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act could women have their own credit cards without a husband co-signing for them.
- Only 45 years ago in 1975 could women serve on juries in a court of law and,
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, In the third quarter of 2019 women's median weekly earnings were a mere 82.3% of men's.

If we zoom our focus more specifically to Jewish institutions, there, too, do we find examples of inequality for women.

The very first recognized female rabbi was Regina Jonas, a 1930s graduate of Academy for the Science of Judaism in Germany. Despite her completion of coursework and thesis, the faculty did not ordain her and she was ordained privately.

After Rabbi Jonas, it was not until 1972 that the next female rabbi, Sally J. Priesand was ordained by Hebrew Union College. The first female rabbi in the United State, Priesand, faced far more challenges finding placement in a synagogue and being accepted for the skilled religious leader that she was, then did she succeed in her journey to ordination.

Not until 1983 did the conservative seminary JTS ordain Rabbi Amy Eilberg, and not until 1975 was my colleague Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, ordained as the first female cantor.

We at East End Temple pride ourselves on being visionaries and dreamers. We are the small synagogue with mighty aspirations who like to be on the cutting edge of modern Reform Jewish life. We are a community of people who believe wholeheartedly in equal rights and equal welcoming to all community members no matter background gender, race or sexual identity. And yet, we at East End Temple live within the context of our time and the realities of progress. Progress that is often slow, often mired in complexities and opinions, even as it is combined with hard facts and real stories.

It may or may not surprise you to know that I have personally been on the receiving end of many inappropriate comments, allusions, and physical advances right here at East End Temple while serving in the capacity of cantor of your clergy. Comments the speaker perhaps thought innocuous and innocent, others well knowing how inappropriate, yet saying them anyway.

- 'Dang, if my cantor looked like you, I would have gone to Hebrew School every day.'
- 'Wow cantor, nice legs.'
- 'Cantor, are you married? Because I'd marry you, just look at you.'

Would anyone dare say any of these things to a male clergy member? To our rabbi?

I do not offer these examples to you lightly or without serious consideration. I offer them to you because I am certain that you, too, are offended, not only on my behalf, or on the behalf of women clergy, and women in general, but on behalf of East End Temple – on your own behalf – you the members and congregants who are the heart of this wonderful institution.

As such, a few years ago, I approached the leadership with the desire to do some learning and training around appropriate conduct. We brought in an expert who led a training for the staff and a separate training for the board, drawing clear lines of distinction around what is appropriate and what is not in a synagogue and workplace setting. This coincided with the daily revelations of the #metoo movement that finally shined light on, and gave voice to, so many women who had experienced sexual harassment in the workplace and in their personal lives. And when I say so many women – I mean almost every woman I know.

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TEMPLE FUNDS

El Emet Fund

helps beautify and maintain our temple; underwrite holiday festivities, projects.

Note: simcha, mishebeirach, yahrzeits.

Cantor Discretionary Fund

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

Floral Fund

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

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 Spring Memorial Fund

dedicated to supporting our Livestream service and unfunded temple projects.

Oneg Shabbat Fund

provides refreshments after Shabbat evening services.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

Sara A. Spencer Children's Educational Fund

provides educational materials for the Religious School.

Simchat Shabbat Programs

provides musical Shabbatot, diversified community programs.

Naming Opportunities

Memorial Board Plaque
Simcha Tree Leaf

SISTERHOOD FUNDS

Sisterhood Birthday Fund

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

Helene Spring Library Fund

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

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.

After our training we took next steps to form a committee to research, draft and create a Brit – a sacred covenantal agreement for our entire community to serve as a guidepost of how we can be the best version of ourselves here at East End Temple.

A synagogue is a sacred space where all should feel comfortable and safe.

It is a place where people come to let down their guard and be vulnerable in an effort to communicate directly with God and to connect to community. This is the place people come to connect to their most essential and visceral selves. It is precisely for these reasons that we have created this covenantal agreement which binds ALL of us together as partners in creating and protecting a safe and welcoming community. I stress *all*, because while this surely is about ensuring safety for women, it is also about ensuring safety and sanctuary for all of us, men and women, transgender, LGBTQ alike.

The journey from slavery to freedom is indeed long, but as the Etz Hayim Torah Commentary says of this week's portion: "It is not enough to remove the burden of slavery; those who have been enslaved must also have the proper circumstances that will permit them to flourish as God's people," We, as our Israelite forbearers did, have experienced a journey from lack of hope through vision, through reasoning, through well thought out and presented arguments, through acts of learning, of strength and solidarity, to reach this place where we have the capacity to create the proper circumstances that will permit us to flourish as God's people.

Included in this Templet (page 4) is our East End Temple Brit for a Respectful Community. I urge you to read it, to think about the work it has taken for us to reach this milestone and to caution us all to remember that it is not our arrival at this moment that enables us to be the wonderful community that we are, it is our continued commitment day after day to the work of being the just, welcoming, and safe community that we strive to be. That is the real journey



Can't Get to EET's Services?

Our livestream Will Put You in the Picture

EET's Livestreaming makes Shabbat Services and select special events available online to EET members, relatives and friends who are at home or traveling. All you have to do is log on to our website eastendtemple.org and click on "Livestream Our Services" to virtually close the distance and feel connected to our community.

And, if you want your faraway relatives and friends to see you on the bimah (for example, receiving a blessing during your birthday month) or to hear a special service, let them know how to "tune in" as well.

To support our critical Livestreaming service, complete the donation form by checking Leonard Spring Memorial Fund, or online @eastendtemple.org.



East End Temple Brit for a Respectful Community

East End Temple is a vibrant downtown Manhattan Reform Congregation. Our mission is to cultivate relevant Jewish life through **connected community**. We seek to expand avenues into **Torah** (Jewish learning and practice), **God** (all forms of spiritual connection) and the **Jewish people** (locally and globally) to help one another live lives of meaning. Our kehillah (community) therefore commits to this Brit (sacred covenant) to maintaining East End Temple as a **welcoming, safe, inclusive and respectful** synagogue for all who come through our doors.

Reasons for being in community and engaging at East End Temple are as varied as there are community members, and we all come to worship in different ways. In all interactions, our community members should **assume best intentions** and **act with respect** toward each other. We strive for each community member and visitor to enjoy being at East End Temple and feel fully a part of the East End family.

As members of the East End Temple kehillah, we commit to providing a community where all are welcome to worship and participate in congregational programs and activities, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and where everyone can feel a deep **sense of comfort and belonging**.

Being a part of our spiritual community therefore requires each of us — including **members, clergy, and staff** — to act with respect, with the following expectations:

- **Everyone** of every age, ability, national origin and citizenship, gender identity, and sexual orientation and choice who desires a spiritual home at East End Temple is **welcome**.
- To ensure that **our community is both respectful and welcoming**, all community members are expected to be mindful of the varied ways in which inappropriate behaviors can be expressed.
- **We understand** that **members of our community** may have healthy disagreements. Each community member should recognize that utterances that are ill-spirited or hurtful, whether intentional or not, can negatively **impact others and their spiritual experience**.
- All members of our sacred community will be aware of how our **behavior impacts others**, and be sensitive to a need to redress any harm that is caused.
- We expect that all members of our community will not engage in interactions that are hurtful, demeaning, or bullying and will ensure that **East End Temple is a place free from such behavior**.
- **Harassment is not welcome** in our community. Examples of harassment include:
 - **verbal** abuse;
 - sex-oriented verbal **kidding, teasing or jokes**;
 - repeated **unwanted flirtations, advances or propositions**;
 - offensive **visual conduct**, including leering, making sexual gestures, the display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons or posters;
 - offensive or unwelcome **physical contact**, such as patting, grabbing, pinching, or brushing against another's body;
 - sexual **favoritism or bias**; or
 - **inappropriate** or derogatory **remarks** — verbally or in writing — based on one's ability, appearance, age, national origin, gender, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation and choices.
- East End Temple will be a place **free from** physical confrontations (e.g., shoving or mean hand gestures); verbal assaults (e.g., teasing, name calling or spreading rumors); indirect **disrespectful**, bullying, or hurtful behaviors (e.g., gossiping, demeaning a person's viewpoint, or excluding); and inappropriate cyber **behavior** (e.g., using social media or technology to threaten, insult or harass people)

By committing to membership in our East End Temple community, each of us pledges to further our **respectful, safe, welcoming, and inclusive** congregation.

Elyssa Mosbacher: Grounded in Reform Judaism

The daughter of two university English professors, EET's new administrative assistant, Elyssa Mosbacher, always enjoyed her family's Chanukah celebrations. And since the time that her family joined Mt. Sinai Congregation in Wausau, WI., and enrolled then eight year-old Elyssa and her younger brother in religious school, Elyssa has been smitten with Reform Judaism.

At the URJ camp that was recommended by Elyssa's rabbi, 17 year-old Elyssa met fellow camper, Joel Mosbacher, a future rabbi and her future husband. Accordingly, Elyssa and Joel sent their children to URJ's Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA. Today Ari, their older child, is a senior at Rutgers, and Lev is an 11th grader at Brooklyn Tech.

NFTY, The Reform Jewish Youth Movement, and URJ's Inside Israel program afforded a teenage Elyssa two Israeli trips, one of which included a stint as lifeguard on Kibbutz Yahel. Elyssa's academics comprise a 1992 BA in Political Science from Cornell and a 1993 Masters in Comparative Government from the London School of Economics.

Elyssa's career as an administrative assistant to an HUC professor and rock climbing instructor was followed by work as a features writer for the *Atlanta Jewish Times* and a freelance writer and copy editor for the URJ and elsewhere. Prior to Rabbi Mosbacher's current position as senior rabbi at Shaaray Tefila on the Upper East Side, he spent 15 years as the rabbi at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom in Mahwah, NJ where one of his rabbinic interns was our Rabbi Joshua Stanton.



In 2017-18 Elyssa co-chaired Shaaray Tefila's successful effort to bring an Iraqi refugee family to safety in New York. Be it as parent, professional or clergy spouse, Elyssa relishes the sense of possibility and promise that is Reform Judaism.

Share your story with us in future Voices articles, email me at marciany@me.com. Please include your phone #.



-The Towne Sisters Present-

A PURIM VARIETY SHOW

STUY & VESANT

Join us for an evening of megillah reading, poetry so bad it's great, improvised songs, and a show-stopping dance from the rabbi. (He doesn't know he's doing it yet.)

Monday, March 9
6:30pm

East End Temple 245 E.17th St New York, NY

EAST END TEMPLE

PURIM CAR NIVAL

PIE IN THE FACE Buy a raffle ticket to throw a whipped cream pie at Rabbi Josh or our Educator Mindy! Funds raised to benefit charity.

MAR 8
2-4PM

PARTY PLAN

2-2:30 PM, Purim Sing-a-long
2:30-3 PM, Games, Crafts
3-3:30 PM, Purim Spiel
3:30-4 PM, Purim Nosh

JOIN US!
Open to EET members and the community.
To RSVP, please email school@eastendtemple.org

EAST END TEMPLE 245 E.17TH ST, NEW YORK, NY 212-477-6444

JUDAICA SHOP

Fran Kolin

Purim is in early March. If you missed the date for placing an order for hamantashen, you can stop by the Judaica Shop to pick up a box of those delicious fruit-centered treats.

The Judaica Shop will be ready for Passover in plenty of time for the first seder on Wednesday, April 7th. We have a small selection of lovely Passover Seder plates, and The Wissotsky Tea Box, kosher for Passover, which makes a terrific host/ess gift. Prismatic stickers and inflatable matzah balls for the kids, assorted Passover items, and the 30-Minute Seder for those hungry impatient adults can also be found here, so come take a look and shop The Shop.

STITCH-A-THON

Sundays, 3/1 & 29, 1:00-4:00pm



Join us for Sisterhood's two Stitch-A-Thon days this spring. 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.

THEATER PROGRAM

Six: The Musical, March 25
The Lehman Trilogy, April 29
Flying Over Sunset, May 20
Plaza Suite, June 24



There is a limited number of tickets so order soon. For more information, contact Linda Hetzer at EETtheaterLH@gmail.com

CARNIVAL OF JEWELS

We are now accepting donations of jewelry, things you've inherited, gifts that are not quite your style, and items you are willing to part with, for our sale in fall of 2020. You can leave items in the temple office with my name on them.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this important Sisterhood fundraiser.



Linda Hetzer lheter@aol.com

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Celia Vimont

Next Dates: March 1, and 29, 12:00-2:00pm

For 25+ years, Food For Families participants have been preparing meals for hungry New Yorkers. In February, in just two hours, temple members of all ages joined together to make 1,433 meals.

Join us. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Each participant (including children) should bring five loaves of whole wheat bread and 16 pieces of fruit. Please wear a cap or hat to comply with NYC Health Dept. rules.

Your donations to Food For Families help sustain this important East End Temple social action program, sponsored by Sisterhood. The actual cost of each session is approximately \$1,700. Donations of \$18 or more can be made by check made out to "East End Temple Sisterhood" with "FFF" in the memo line.

For more information contact Marian Fish mfish1211@aol.com or the temple office.



FOOD FOR FAMILIES MEAL TICKET

Our highly praised temple program, **Food For Families**, feeds the city's hungry men, women and children, and needs your support. Your contribution will provide meals for hungry families. Return this Meal Ticket with your check, payable to:

"EET Sisterhood" and write **"FFF"** on the memo line.

Your contribution of:

- ☐ \$18 will provide 10 meals
- ☐ \$36 will provide 20 meals
- ☐ \$54 will provide 30 meals
- ☐ \$360 will provide 200 meals, + designation of co-sponsor for a day (\$1,700 approximately makes about 1000 meals)



Name _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Phone No. _____

In honor/memory of _____

Mail check to: East End Temple, 245 East 17th Street, NYC 10003.

Building Community and Advocating for Women's Rights

We are the women of East End Temple.

We are your daughters, mothers, sisters, grandmothers and aunts. We are all ages. Sisterhood is committed to building and supporting East End Temple community using our women's voices. We program, we fundraise, we donate to worthy causes. We are connected to, and supported by, the global network of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).



Throughout history, women have faced many unique challenges. As a result of our advocacy and the building of critical networks, we gained the right to vote, the right to own property and are recognized as leaders in many organizations, including East End Temple. It is urgent that we continue to work together to advocate for our rights and freedoms. There is so much work to be done. For over 100 years, WRJ has played a significant role in the historic battles for justice, from equal rights to civil rights to today's current challenges of pay equity and reproductive health.

On Friday night, March 27, please join us as we honor our network of EET women and WRJ. Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director of WRJ, will speak to us about how WRJ women have helped shape our past and are continuing to mobilize around today's issues. According to Rabbi Feldman: "Our voice has never been more important than it is right now".

A busy spring is coming up for Sisterhood programming. Besides our Sisterhood Shabbat, I hope to see you at one of our many events listed in this Temple. We also have just added another joint EET/Cordoba House women's potluck brunch and discussion on April 5 and are looking to start mahjong lessons and play for the community. All of our events are open to the entire community, unless otherwise indicated.

If you are not a member of Sisterhood, please email me at sisterhood@eastendtemple.org. A minimum donation of \$36 helps us to succeed in providing service to our community.

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



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

LIBRARY BUZZ

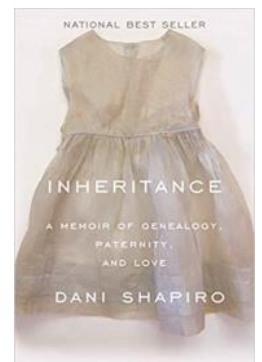
Barbara Ringel

Our 17th annual Helene Spring Library Event

is just a few weeks away, Sunday, March 22 at 1:00pm. It is with great enthusiasm that I will introduce noted author, Dani Shapiro, whose exceptional memoir, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*, recently received the 2019 National Jewish Book Council Award for best Autobiography and Memoir. This impossible-to-put-down book explores the question of what happens when you discover that the person you thought you were is actually not who you are. This is Dani's story, a mystery revealing itself bit by bit after she has DNA testing done years after the death of both her parents. She had always experienced a level of discomfort about herself in relation to how different she looked as compared to the rest of her birth family, and the DNA testing done dramatically confirmed her suspicions. She allows us as readers to accompany her on this emotional, often disturbing journey of discovery, that also sheds light on the shady world of fertility treatment in the 1960's.



Please be with us for what I know will be an exciting, informative presentation, at the conclusion of which Dani will respond to comments and questions about her memoir. Following the presentation, there will be a reception with book sale and signing in our social hall, with the addition of our always anticipated homemade dessert buffet.



ROSH CHODESH STUDY SESSIONS

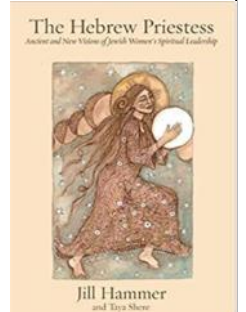
Sundays, 10:30am-12:00pm

Engaging study and discussion about women in Torah and feminist Jewish theology, led by Judith Lorber, Professor Emerita of Sociology and Women's Studies, CUNY Graduate Center. Women-only potluck brunch, reservations required. Open to all East End Temple women and their female guests. **CONTACT:** Judith.lorber1@verizon.net

THE HEBREW PRIESTESS

(From Jill Hammer and Taya Shere, *The Hebrew Priestess*)

March 15 – Mourning-Woman
April 26 – Seeker
May 17 – Fool



OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

EET LEGACY CIRCLE OFF TO A STRONG START



We are grateful to the following members who notified us that they have already included East End Temple in their estate plans, and are now in the EET Legacy Circle. Please let the office know if you, too, have included EET in your planned giving so that we may thank you.

Initial EET Legacy Circle members as of January 31:

Barbara and Evan Bell
Joan Beranbaum and John Stackhouse
Derek Dorn and Salvatore Gogliormella
Elaine Lavine, Judith Lorber, Jodi Malcom
Wendy and Rick Muskat, Judy and Marty Scherzer
Andrea Nimberger, Carol Nimberger
Nancy and Larry Schneider
Rebecca Shore and Matthew Diaz
Helene Spring, Judith Sussman, Mary Swartz, Jill Vexler



From left: EET founder Carol Nimberger, daughter Andrea and grandson Brandon

Leaving a legacy is leaving a mark on something that is hopefully everlasting. That is what being a founder of East End Temple meant to my mother. To honor her legacy and help ensure that the temple continues to be a place for supportive community benefiting many future generations, both my mother and I made planned gifts long ago and have now joined the EET Legacy Circle.— Andrea Nimberger

Act today to ensure a strong foundation for our community's tomorrow. If you are thinking of including East End Temple in your estate planning, please contact the office for more information, or to schedule a confidential discussion with Rabbi Josh Stanton or Co-President Derek Dorn.

L'dor Vador, from Generation to Generation

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Gregg Fish and Lauren Deokule
- Kate and Steve Fisher
- Lily Thrope
- Kim and Ken Turchin



MAZAL TOV TO

- Beth Hermelin, on the recent marriage of daughter Dr. Taylor Wynn Wolmer to Taylor Lee Huffman
- Dr. Eugenia Siegler and David Hochman on the up-coming marriage of son Daniel to Jenny Smolen
- David and Lindsay Levine on the marriage of son Zachary to Eva Kassel
- Cynthia and Ron Dubensky, on the up-coming marriage of daughter Tracey to Lyell Scherline
- Madison Wright and Darin Milmeister, on the birth of their son, Daxton Esher Milmeister
- Rachel Silverman and Thomas Combs, on the birth of their son, Bentsion Leo "Bentsie" Silverman-Combs

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO

- Lee Anne Baer, Marc and Jeremy Gurvitz family on the death of Helga Baer, Lee Anne's mother
- Cynthia and Ron Dubensky, Lyssa and Tracey Dubensky, on the death of Bernice Morgenstern, Cynthia's mother
- Fern and Steven Stampleman, Hannah Stampleman, on the death of Morris Todras, Fern's father

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING: Select Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Origins of Anti-Semitism

February 25, March 3, and March 10

Why do some people resent Jews? We study some of the early theological and social motivations in Catholicism, Protestantism, and Sunni Islam and try to discern how ancient anti-Semitic tropes and ideas have resurfaced.

Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary

April 28, May 5, and May 12

In the period between Passover and Shavuot, it is customary to study "The Ethics of Our Ancestors." We delve into this new social justice commentary and some of the new wisdom it unearths.

OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

MEN'S CLUB

Marc Jonas Block

The Men's Club mission is to strengthen and support East End Temple, the congregation and its Jewish heritage, promote and foster Jewish ideals of mitzvot, service, learning and education, to support Israel, to raise religious consciousness, and to confirm and enhance a sense of community through congregational life. The goal is to create a setting to explore being *menschen* in this modern world, where gross and improper behavior and language is shrugged off as "locker room talk." In furtherance of our mission, we are hosting several events.



The Men's Club hosted a brunch and discussion on February 2, about the President's Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism, issued on Dec. 11, 2019. Rabbi Stanton led us in wide ranging discussion over bagels and nosh.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

- March 25, 6:30-8:30pm – Discussion of *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos* by Jordan B. Peterson
- April 21, 6:30-8:30pm – Men's Club Movie Night
- May 17 – Men's Club Barbecue on Roosevelt Island

Todah Rabah to our Donors and Volunteers:

The Caine family for their ongoing donation of cookies for our onegs; Don Sussman and family for our landscaping; our ushers, generous donors, lay leaders and volunteers. Thank you.



EET strong at the **No Hate. No Fear.** march against anti-Semitism on January 5, 2020



Save the date for the second **HIAS National Refugee Shabbat**



event at East End Temple on **Saturday evening, March 21, at 6:15pm.** Please join us for dinner, Havdalah, and a speaker from HIAS, Melanie Nezer, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs.

In the face of asylum seekers forced to endure terrible conditions on our southwestern border, drastic cuts in the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., and refugees from even more countries banned from the U.S., we will gather to reaffirm our commitment to welcome the stranger. We'll recognize the work we have already done on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, hear about what else we can do, and sign petitions and write letters on the spot. Ms. Nezer will inform us about the overall situation of refugees and asylum seekers internationally and in the U.S. Brotherhood Synagogue will be co-sponsoring, and members of several neighboring congregations will be joining us.

Follow the weekly EET eblasts for more details. We look forward to seeing you at this event that will help us understand and take action on this urgent human rights crisis facing the U.S. and the world.

Sponsor an Oneg, Contribute Sanctuary Flowers

Are you celebrating a birthday, graduation, anniversary, new baby or grandchild, other celebrations, or honoring a loved one?

Commemorate the event with an oneg after Friday night services or with fresh flowers for the sanctuary.

Contact our office for more information at 212.477.6444.



RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Charles S. Salomon
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212-362-6600

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to the Jewish Community**

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Recipe for Matzah Brei

Fran Kolin, from "Welcome to Our Table"

2 boards of matzah for each person eating
1 egg for each 2 boards of matzah
Butter

Break matzah into small pieces, into large mixing bowl. Fill bowl with cold water, soaking all matzah pieces. Pour water out, reserving matzah pieces in bowl (press out as much water as you can). In separate bowl, beat eggs. Pour eggs over matzah and mix until well coated.

Melt a large amount of butter in a large frying pan. Pour in matzah/egg mixture, spreading evenly in pan, and let it start to fry. When it starts to brown, turn it over a spoonful at a time, essentially scrambling it. Keep frying until edges and surfaces get a little crispy. You may need to add butter as you continue.

I don't salt while cooking, because no matter how much you add, you can't taste it. Serve hot with sour cream and honey, and let the people make their own decisions!



THE SISTERHOOD OF EAST END TEMPLE INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK WOMEN'S LILITH SEDER

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 6:00 PM AT EAST END TEMPLE SOCIAL HALL

Sisterhood members plus one guest* are welcome, ages 13 and up.



WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT OUR LILITH SEDER? We all participate in honoring women's roles and activities in gender-sensitive language, using our own custom Haggadah. We have a Miriam's Cup for water and a symbolic orange on the seder plate. Under the leadership of our cantorial intern, Sara Anderson, we sing and dance to the music of Debbie Friedman.

Please return the completed reservation form to the Sisterhood President's mailbox or send an email with all reservation information and questions to sisterhood@eastendtemple.org. Space fills up quickly so you are advised to respond as soon as possible. ***Please note that any guests of Sisterhood members will be placed on a waiting list until April 3.** (If you are not a current Sisterhood member, we welcome you to join or renew for a minimum contribution of \$36 for the 2019-20 membership year.)

✂ =====
Send to: East End Temple Sisterhood, 245 E. 17th Street NY, NY 10003 (212) 477-6444

LILITH SEDER RESERVATION FORM: please complete one form per member/guest, and please print)

Member's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guest's Name: _____ I/we will bring _____

(Please specify quantity and item. Recommended contributions should be enough to serve 6, for both member and guest).

Food should be kosher-style, follow Passover guidelines (e.g., Kosher for Passover noodles) and be dairy-free (meat will be served). A member of Sisterhood will contact you to confirm your attendance and provide additional guidance for food, drink or ceremonial seder contributions.



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SANCTUARY SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS

Minyan lights: The ten lights hanging over the congregation, each individually designed and blown, represent the ten individuals traditionally required for Jewish communal prayer.

Ark doors: Our beautiful ark doors are made of cast bronze. Their design includes a tree motif, evoking Torah as the “tree of life.” They are comprised of twelve panels, representing the tribes of ancient Israel. Their overlapping textures also subtly create six-pointed Jewish stars. Incorporating the Asian Buddhist tradition of burning written prayers in the crucible when Temple bells are made, members were invited to write their own prayers on pieces of paper, which were then placed in the mold when our doors were cast. We then inscribed on the door handles, “Within these doors are cast the prayers and wishes of Congregation El Emet.”

Room orientation: The sanctuary is oriented toward true East (as opposed to Manhattan East, which is actually southeast), as is traditional for Jewish prayer. This direction also gave us the opportunity to orient toward the corner, and therefore sit in a ninety-degree arc for a more intimate arrangement.

Lectern: The wood for the lectern closely approximates the acacia of the Tabernacle in Exodus, as described in Torah. The handle-holds at the lectern’s front ends also evoke the portability required for the Tabernacle in the desert.

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 to East End Temple, 245 East 17th Street NYC 10003. All contributions are per listing and your canceled check is your receipt. Email or call the temple office at info@eastendtemple.org, 212.477.6444 for further information.

FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EAST END TEMPLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Emet Fund _____ \$10 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard Spring Memorial Fund _____ \$18 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor’s Discretionary Fund _____ \$36 min.
(Separate check required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund _____ \$36 min.
(Separate check required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund For The Future _____ \$100 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sara A. Spencer Children’s Ed. Fund _____ \$18 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamermesh Music Fund _____ \$18 min. | <input type="checkbox"/> Simchat Shabbat Programs _____ \$54 min. |

For the following gift opportunities, please contact the EET office via phone or email:

Floral \$75, Kehila min. \$5,000, 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.
Chair: Jodi Malcom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Families Day Sponsor _____ \$360 min. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helene Spring Library Fund _____ \$18 min.
Chair: Barbara Ringel (Separate check required, made out to <u>East End Temple Library</u>) | |











Name of contributor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name & address of recipient to be notified: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Message: _____

~ March 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12p Food For Families 1p Stitch-A-Thon 	2 4p Chofshi B'Manhattan	3 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens 6:30p Adult Ed: Origins of anti-Semitism	4 4p Religious School 6:30p Intro to Judaism	5 4p Religious School	6 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Simchat Shabbat w/MHO & Birthday Blessing 	7
8 Daylight Savings 2p Family Purim Carnival 	9 4p Chofshi B'Manhattan 6:30p Adult Purim "Variety Show"	10 Purim 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens 6:30p Adult Ed: Origins of anti-Semitism	11 4p Religious School 6:30p BOT mtg 6:30p Intro to Judaism	12 4p Religious School	13 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Service w/6th grade 7:45p BEET Dinner	14 10a Shabbat Service & bar mitzvah of Alex Yonteff
15 10:30a Rosh Chodesh Study and Potluck Brunch 	16 4p Chofshi B'Manhattan	17 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens 6:30p Shira w/Shira 	18 4p Religious School 6:30p Intro to Judaism 6:30p Sisterhood mtg	19 4p Religious School	20 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Service w/5th grade	21 6:15p HIAS National Refugee Shabbat Havdalah 
22 1p Library Event: Inheritance, by Dani Shapiro	23 4p Chofshi B'Manhattan 6:30p Teens at HUC soup Kitchen	24 4p Religious School 6:30p Shira w/Shira 	25 4p Religious School 6:30p Intro to Judaism	26 4p Religious School	27 5:45p Family Service w/2nd grade 6:15p Sisterhood Shabbat w/Rabbi Marla Feldman 	28
29 12p Food For Families 1p Stitch-A-Thon 	30 4p Chofshi B'Manhattan	31 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens 6:30p Shira w/Shira 	<div> <p>For May and June contribution listing, please have your messages and checks sent to the office by April 10.</p> </div>			

~April 2020~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4p Religious School 6:30p Intro to Judaism	2 4p Religious School	3 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Simchat Shabbat w/Birthday Blessing	4 10a Shabbat Service and bat mitzvah of Jane Apter
5 9a Cordoba House 10:30a Sisterhood/ Cordoba House Potluck Brunch 2p Passover Family Chocolate Seder	6 4p Chořshi B'Manhattan No Religious School- Passover break	7 No Religious School- Passover break	8 Erev Pesach No Religious School- Passover break	9 Pesach begins No Religious School- Passover break Office Closed	10 Pesach (Cont.) 6:15p Shabbat Service	11 Pesach (Cont.)
12 Pesach (Cont.)	13 Pesach (Cont.) Religious School Closed - Spring Break	14 Pesach (Cont.) 6p Liilth Seder Religious School Closed - Spring Break	15 Passover ends 8a Pesach & Yizkor Religious School Closed - Spring Break	16 Religious School Closed - Spring Break	17 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Service	18
19 9a Cordoba House	20 4p Chořshi B'Manhattan 7p Erev Yom Hashoah program (location TBD)	21 Day Holocaust Remembrance 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens	22 4p Religious School 6:30p BOT mtg 6:30p Intro to Judaism	23 4p Religious School	24 5:45p Family Service 6:15p Shabbat Service w/7th grade Shabbat 7:30p Potluck oneg	25 10a Shabbat Service and bat mitzvah of Dania Bressler
26 10:30a Rosh Chodesh Study & Potluck Brunch	27 4p Chořshi B'Manhattan	28 Yom HaZikaron 4p Religious School 5:45p Teens 6:30p Adult Ed: Pirkei Avot	29 Yom HaAtzma'ut 3:30p RS Open House 4p Religious School 6:30p Intro to Judaism	30 3:30p RS Open House 4p Religious School		

