



Templet Online

Spring edition...

MARCH/APRIL 2021 - ADAR/NISSAN/1YAR 5781

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Joshua M. Z. Stanton

Wings of Eagles

The retelling of the Exodus did not begin with a Haggadah written for a Passover seder. It did not begin with Moses' recapitulation of his journey with the Israelites in the Book of Deuteronomy. It began within the Book of Exodus itself, when God commands that Moses convey to the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me" (19:4).



Talk about a creative retelling! What does this retelling mean to a group of people who just trudged on miraculously dry land across the Sea of Reeds?

According to our classical commentators, notably Rashi and the Tur, the eagle is the only creature that carries its young on its back, rather than in its talons, because it flies so high that other birds cannot pose a threat from above. While most birdlings look down in flight, young eagles look up. So, too, is it for the Israelites. Their path to freedom enabled them to look up for the first time and behold the wondrous world beyond their bondage in Egypt.

So too is it for a people to look up in wonder and behold what is possible – even when they have 40 years left to wander in the desert and a tenuous day-to-day existence.

This Passover, it feels like we are so close to freedom – and still a long, painful trek to release from the suffering of this pandemic. Many of us are still in mourning for loved ones, melancholy, lonely, angry, impatient, or filled with any number of other emotions.

Our opportunity this Passover is not to ignore or overlook those very real emotions. It is to pay heed to the wonders that exist in addition to our suffering. To the incredible medical advances that have led to miraculous vaccines and budding treatments for Covid-19. To the people who work tirelessly to improve our day-to-day lives. To a restoration of democracy and hope for good governance. To a community filled with love that makes us feel close, even from afar. To people who have found new ways to show us that they care.

Passover is our chance to look up and behold that, even at moments that feel low, we might well be on the back of an eagle that is soaring high.

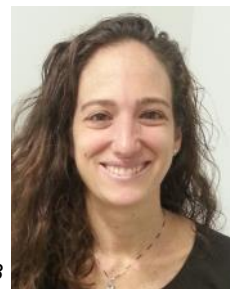
FROM the Co-PRESIDENT

Rebecca Shore

One Year in Retrospect

While we typically take stock and reflect on the past year during the High Holy Days, I have been finding myself repeatedly looking back on the past 365 days since our temple – and our world – shifted from in-person to remote. This is not an anniversary that we commemorate with joy, but is a time to think about the experiences we have had (and shared), lessons we learned, and values and practices we want to take with us as we start to see a glimmer of the future.

continued on pg. 3





245 EAST 17TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10003
212.477.6444 EASTENDTEMPLE.ORG
INFO@EASTENDTEMPLE.ORG

STAFF

Joshua Stanton **Rabbi**
jstanton@eastendtemple.org

Shira Ginsburg **Cantor**
cantor@eastendtemple.org

Mindy Sherry **Education Director**
educator@eastendtemple.org

Sharon Shemesh **Temple Administrator**
sharon@eastendtemple.org

Elyssa Mosbacher **Administrative Assistant**
info@eastendtemple.org
school@eastendtemple.org

Amelia Lavranchuk **Music Educator**
amelia@eastendtemple.org

Ilana Goldman **Cantorial Intern**

Ben Cutler **Youth Advisor**
youth@eastendtemple.org

OFFICERS

Brian Lifsec, Co-President

Rebecca Shore, Co-President
rebecca@eastendtemple.org

Lisa Goldenberg-Corn, VP

Joy Newman, VP

Andrea Pincus, VP

Judy Scherzer, Treasurer

Celia Vimont, Secretary

TEMPLET CONTRIBUTORS

Florence Peloquin, Editor

Marc Block, Men's Club President

Suellen Eshed, Sisterhood President
Sisterhood@eastendtemple.org

Marcia Muskat, Voices

Barbara Ringel, Library Buzz



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.

CANTOR'S

Shira Ginsburg

Mel Brooks, Joan Rivers, Jerry Seinfeld, Lenny Bruce, Sarah Silverman, Adam Sandler... love them or not, you can't deny that Jews are uniquely gifted in the art of storytelling. As we enter this season of celebration, our people's history of storytelling comes center stage. We recount two stories of our people's persecution and triumph that are much like fun house mirror images of one another: Purim, the story of one Queen Esther's bravery resulting in the Jewish victory over Haman's plot to annihilate the Jewish people, and Passover, the story of our freedom from the bondage of slavery under the yoke of Pharaoh's oppression, and the Israelites' journey led by Moses through the Exodus, redemption, and receiving of Torah.



We are commanded to retell both stories through ritual reading; Megillat Esther at Purim, and the Haggadah at Passover, but the retelling for each is unlike that of any other recitation of sacred text. On Purim, we are supposed to gather together in costume for a raucous reading filled with heckling and groggers and cheering and celebrating, eventuating from the hyper-stylized exaggerated text and its accompanying jovial musical trope. Everything about this holiday is in excess, granting us permission to do what Jews have been doing so well for millennia — laughing to ease our struggles and fears.

On Passover, we gather round the table for jovial and creative retelling while delighting in the bounty of food, family and friends, the most sacred representations of freedom imaginable. We are commanded to retell the story in a way that every child present may understand and appreciate the story, through symbolic foods and wine, through music and songs and through asking and answering questions so that each and every one of us can imagine ourselves standing at the parted shores of history. Everything about this holiday is experiential, contextualizing our understanding of history viscerally, not solely intellectually, as is more often the case.

How beautiful that we are a people who inherently understand the value of not just the story, but the storytelling as well. On these spring holidays when renewal and joy are in the air, the messenger is just as important as the message itself. I wish you all a meaningful and happy Purim and Passover filled with creativity, joy, family, friends and an abundance of celebration. And if anyone has an in to Adam Sandler's seder, you know how to reach me!



EAST END TEMPLE EVENTS

We are streaming content via Zoom and Facebook. 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, friends, and colleagues to join us as well. In order to join online, you may need to use new technology. Instructions on how to that are through the link above. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents for a program, please contact us at info@eastendtemple.org.

continued from pg. 1

Each of us during the past year has experienced loss – the very painful loss of a family member or friend, the loss of financial stability, the loss of health, the loss of companionship, and the loss of an expected way of living. As we mourned, and healed, and coped, members of the East End Temple community were always there for comfort, support, and to hold us up.

We have experienced new ways to connect spiritually through meaningful services, holidays, and *simchas*. While we all prefer to attend services in our beautiful sanctuary with our community surrounding us, our community has continued to pray, celebrate, and sing together. I admit being a little skeptical as to how we could ever recreate the joy of our Simchat Torah celebrations in the streets, but our virtual dance party was a lot of fun! And as hard as it was to not be with family and friends in person for Pesach last April, our congregational seder – the first holiday during the pandemic – created a special community feel that crossed the internet divide. At the time, we expected that this would be a one-year occurrence, but as we approach Pesach this year, we look to our second annual virtual seder as a time to again share our traditions and be together with our East End Temple family.

As we adjusted throughout the year to this new world of Zooms, masks, and distanced greetings, the values that are at the core of our congregation came out even stronger. When we were being told to be at a distance, we found other ways to connect with each other. We wrote letters and made phone calls, delivered holiday greetings, stood up for social justice, and gathered to learn. Many of us have gotten to know each other better during schmoozes, learning, Shabbat baking, and virtual congregational Shabbat dinners. Without the rush of the pre-pandemic world, we took the time to welcome, connect, and support.

These are the lessons that I will take from the past year. While there is so much of the year that I want to leave in the past, I want to always remember those moments of connection with each of you, and remind myself that even when we cannot be together physically, we can still welcome, connect, and support. What are the lessons and moments you will be taking as you reflect on the past year?



On Inauguration Day our 4th-5th graders explored the different biblical texts used in the various speeches that day. We discussed how our sacred texts are used and the power of words. The students used different Jewish texts to write their own prayers for the country. Here are some samples of the beautiful prayers they wrote:



“May all who dwell in this country, in its bounty, enjoy its freedom and be protected by laws. May the nation use its power and wealth for justice, peace and equality for all those who dwell on earth. To welcome the stranger and the immigrant and honor the gifts of those who seek refuge and possibility here.”

“Bless this country and its many peoples; vigilant, compassionate and brave. To heal and nourish our democracy – many peoples will uproot bigotry, be a voice for justice, peace and righteousness. Like a mighty stream, motivate us to action. Strengthen us, motivate us for justice.”

“Help us to channel our anger so that it motivates us to action. That they may use their influence and authority to speak truth and act for justice. May we be strong and have courage to welcome the stranger and the immigrant and to honor the gifts of those who seek refuge and possibility here.”

Our students are the future of this country and they give me hope! To all the prayers they wrote, we say *Ken Yehi Ratzon!*

Upcoming (online) Programs with Cantor Amelia

Tot Shabbat – Fridays, March 5 and April 9 at 5:45pm

Family Havdalah – Saturday, March 13 at 5:30pm

Family Shabbat – Fridays, March 19 and April 23 at 5:45pm

Boker Tov Shabbat – Saturday, April 17 at 9:30am

Save the Date for a Family Passover Celebration on Sunday, March 21 at 2:00pm (tentative)



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dania Bressler, Matthew Rosenberg, and Judah Shiffman, our April *b'nei mitzvah* celebrants.

Mazal tov from your EET Community.

Sisterhood, Women of Reform Judaism and Leadership

East End Temple has a history of women in leadership, starting in 1972 when Helene Spring became not only our first woman president (a role she held for a total of 20 years) but the first woman president of a Reform congregation in New York City. And this was only the beginning...

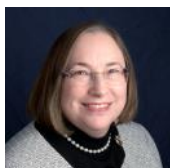


As members of **Women of Reform Judaism** (WRJ), we have access to a wide range of resources and opportunities to collaborate with other congregations on leadership development. Through education and training, they help us to develop new skills and implement innovative programming, as well as champion numerous critical social justice issues. [The Annual WRJ Fried Women's Conference](#) (Friday, March 12-Sunday, March 14) provides multiple opportunities to hone leadership skills, share spiritual experiences, and deepen connections with other sisterhoods. We encourage all EET Sisterhood members to attend any part of this virtual conference.

Our new Sisterhood Leadership Development Fund supports the enhancement of leadership skills of current Sisterhood members and develops future Sisterhood leaders, by encouraging attendance at relevant conferences and implementing new skills training.

Upcoming programs...

- **New! Monthly "Lunchtime Speaker Series."**
On March 3, Michal Nachmany, Israeli artist and educator, will speak on "The Art of Personal Reinvention: Self-Empowerment through Creativity." On April 7, EET member Judge Alice Schlesinger will share the beginnings of her legal career and what inspires her.
- **The Annual Lilith Seder** will be held, virtually, on Thursday, April 1. We'll sing and participate, sharing our own feminist-centered Haggadah, led by one of our EET cantors.
- **Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday, April 30.**
Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director of WRJ will inspire us with stories about how WRJ women have helped shape our past and are continuing to mobilize around today's issues.



And we are continuing our monthly Rosh Chodesh Study sessions, Nighttime Parenting Schmoozes, Stitch in (Virtual) Time, Mah Jongg learn and play, and writing classes, all led by amazing Sisterhood women!

Food For Families The Digital Way!

By Celia Vimont

Food For Families Keeps Feeding the Hungry During Pandemic

When the **COVID-19** pandemic forced the East End Temple Sisterhood Food For Families program to stop making meals in person, City Harvest came to us with an idea. Would we like to run a #GiveHealthy online food drive, allowing our members and friends to donate healthy food requested by local hunger relief organizations? Our answer was an enthusiastic yes. Between October and January, we donated more than 6,000 pounds of food. The online food drive is scheduled to continue at least through April.

The need is great: according to the New York City poverty-fighting organization Robin Hood, nearly one in every three New Yorkers has visited a food pantry this year – up 250% since before the pandemic. An estimated 1.6 million New Yorkers are food insecure, compared with 1.2 million before the pandemic, according to the city.

Food For Families has a long history of feeding hungry New Yorkers. We donated 158,085 pounds of food to City Harvest between November 2007 and March 2020. Now, instead of making peanut butter and jelly or cheese sandwiches, we can go online to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as non-perishable food items. At the end of each month, the food is delivered to the City Harvest warehouse in Long Island City for distribution to food pantries, soup kitchens and community organizations throughout the city ([click here for the full list](#)). City Harvest's Supply Chain Manager, Ellen Granger, explains that the #GiveHealthy platform has allowed the organization to maintain food drive initiatives despite disruptions due to COVID-19.

To donate to the Food For Families digital food drive in February, visit: <https://amplify.ampyourgood.com/user/campaigns/3668>. There's a new link every month – check the eblast for March and April.

#GIVEHEALTHY
BECAUSE HUNGER IS A HEALTH ISSUE



Please check our [Sisterhood page](#) on the EET website for further details.

Come [join](#) us! Please feel free to contact me at: Sisterhood@eastendtemple.org.

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



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

Ruth Simon and Tom Polton: Part of the Conversation

At the Wall Street Journal, Ruth is a Senior Special Writer covering small business and entrepreneurship. For East End Temple, she creates inviting spaces where members get to know each other better.

After more than three decades leading worker safety and environmental programs at Pfizer Inc., Tom shares his passion for environmental issues as a consultant and adjunct professor at Clarkson University. From his seat on the EET Board of Trustees, Tom works to support the clergy.

Ruth grew up in a kosher home in Cleveland, Ohio. Her bat mitzvah was at a Conservative synagogue where, as custom would have it, girls chanted Haftarah but not Torah. In Paterson, New Jersey, Tom was a bar mitzvah and confirmand at the Reform temple where his grandparents were members for decades. He continued his Jewish education at after-school programs that meshed together Reform and Conservative teens.

A year at Vassar College preceded Ruth's BA in Economics from Yale in 1980. Likewise, in 1980, Tom received a BS in Biochemistry from Brandeis University; he later received an MS in Environmental Health from Harvard University.

Ruth and Tom met at a party in New York hosted by a mutual friend. They married in 1988, settled in Greenwich Village and later in Chelsea and volunteered at The Village Temple's soup kitchen. In 2005, they joined EET where their



younger daughter, Michelle, a podcast producer in New York, was a bat mitzvah. Their older daughter, Alison, a bat mitzvah at Village Temple, is a software engineer in San Francisco.

Ruth and Tom's home has been a stomping ground for a Syrian Supper Club, a Shabbat dinner to meet Rabbi Josh and congregational Shabbat dinners. And when getting together is out of the question, Ruth arranges virtual dinners where everyone still gets to feel a part of the conversation.

Share your story with us in future Voices articles, email me at info@eastendtemple.org. Please include your phone #.



East End Temple Adult Ed – Spring 2021

SCIENCE, TRUTH AND JUDAISM IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 EAST END TEMPLE & SCIENTISTS IN SYNAGOGUES

OUR STUDY CONTINUES...

Jewish Approaches to Medicine: 3/9, 3/16, 3/23

From Maimonides to Jonas Salk, Jewish physicians have redefined excellence in care and pioneered new approaches to painful ailments. How does Jewish tradition approach medicine (and vice versa)?

What Makes Us Human? 4/6, 4/13, 4/20

Rabbinic tradition defines human beings as “the creature that speaks.” When does our humanity begin, when does it end, and what does it mean?

Big Data and Artificial Intelligence: 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

At what point do machines deserve rights? At what point do they surpass human capacity? At what point should we be worried? Jewish tradition speaks extensively about the positive potential of science and human ability to create. How does it reflect on the dangers and drawbacks of human creations?

OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV and CONGRATS TO EET members on recent life *simchas*...

- Josh and Jackie Rubin on the birth of their daughter, Callie
- Joey and Jane Orgel-Swidler on the birth of their son, Leo David



DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO

- Fang, Marc, Hannah and Jacqueline Block on the death of Fang's mother Yulian Hao
- Jonathan Cohen and Zeena Meurer on the death of Jonathan's father Edward Cohen
- Roger, Carin, Andrew and Ethan Ehrenberg on the death of mother and grandmother Lenore Kaufman Ehrenberg
- Amy, David, Danielle and Joshua Feldman on the death of Amy's aunt Isabel Goldstein
- Miriam Gross, on the death of her husband David Gross
- Ysatis Llano on the death of her cousin Kelly Marie Llano
- Allison Knight and Michael Scolnic on the death of Allison's grandmother Mildred Campbell
- Mara, Douglas and Benjamin Wedeck on the death of Mara's brother Adam Steven Engel

For those who have lost loved ones recently, as well as those who are mentioned above, may their memory be of a blessing.



THE EET LEGACY CIRCLE



East End Temple has received a bequest from Babette Solon Hollister, member of The EET Legacy Circle, who joined our community in 1996. Babette was a devoted attendee at services and dedicated supporter of Sisterhood's Food For Families program. She also established and was the sole financier of the travel and babysitting initiative, which provides support to those who need help to attend services when we hold them in person.

We are grateful to Babette's thoughtfulness, and to the many members who have already notified us that they have named East End Temple in their estate plans. Please let the office know if you too have included East End Temple in your planned giving so that we may thank you appropriately.



The Brackett Family: Arielle, Jordan, Amy and Asher

"Since we first walked through its doors over fifteen years ago, East End Temple has been a warm and welcoming home in the middle of this big City. We are proud to support EET's legacy – a place where you're only a stranger once – for generations to come."

– Amy & Jordan Brackett

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 our rabbi or co-president.

L'Dor V'Dor, From Generation to Generation

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club seeks to strengthen the important social bonds between and among our community. During these odd and troubling times, it is so very easy to let traditions and events pass us by, as days, weeks and months fade and pass. Social interactions become fewer as we socially isolate ourselves for health and safety reasons. However, social interactions are so very important. A wonderful example of our mindfulness of constraints while working to maintain connections, we are engaging in Zoom meet-ups and virtual card games between members. If you would like to join, please contact the [office](#).



OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

Virtual Shabbat Dinners

On the first Friday in January, 75 East End Temple members joined together to celebrate Shabbat at seven virtual tables. Attendees ranged in age from 2-years-old to at least 80.

When we first suggested last fall going virtual for this year's collective Shabbat dinners, we aimed to bring light and community to some of the darkest days of the year, made perhaps even darker in 2021 by a solitary holiday season. No one could have expected that we would gather two days after the storming of our nation's Capitol. Many participants reported that the opportunity to gather safely with others was even sweeter given the events of that week.

Feedback also suggests that, for now, with our inability to gather in person, our annual tradition of *hamish* community get-togethers should become more frequent. Please **SAVE THE DATE** for **EET Community Shabbat Dinner #2 on Friday, April 23**.

The evening's program will repeat the format we used in January. Following the conclusion of Shabbat services at 7pm, those staying for dinner will collect on Zoom for a brief moment of collective kibbitzing and greetings. At 7:15, the dinner parties will assemble in their own Zoom dining rooms for 45 minutes of conversation. At the end, we will all gather again in the Zoom social hall for brief concluding remarks.

Congregants who attended in January reported that one of the enjoyable parts of the evening was meeting people in the congregation they did not previously know. We hope everyone feels welcome, especially those who do not, yet, have a wide circle at the temple. We also hope that keeping the event relatively short eases the exhaustion for anyone whose weeks are filled with virtual events and makes the dinner an easy activity for families. To those who wonder about eating in front of others – some folks chose to do so, others did not, and both choices were respected.

We'd like to double the number of attendees when we hold our April dinners and hope that you will join us. Look for a sign-up announcement from the temple for the April 23 dinner. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to us at info@eastendtemple.org.

See you around the virtual Shabbat dinner,
Ruth Simon and Amy Weisser



WEEKEND PROGRAMMING:

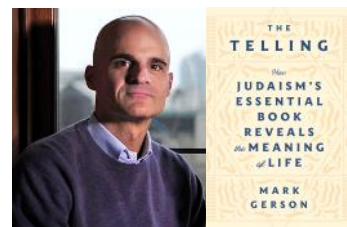
- ♦ **Friday, March 5, 6:15pm: Simchat Shabbat services – HIAS National Refugee Shabbat**, with guest speaker Melanie Nezer, HIAS senior VP for Public Affairs
- ♦ **Saturday, March 6, 8:00pm: HIAS National Refugee Shabbat – Musical Havdalah.** Join hundreds of fellow refugee advocates and activists across the globe to send out Shabbat with a joyful Havdalah led by HIAS Rabbi-in-Residence Rachel Grant Meyer, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, and Rabbi Annie Lewis.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 7, 1:30pm: HIAS National Refugee Shabbat – Panel on the international refugee crisis.** We will hear from colleagues at HIAS and other organizations working in collaboration with Jewish communities in Europe, Canada, Latin America, and the United States.

Click [here](#) for login information.

"The Night to Remember: How to Make Your Seder the Most Interesting, Instructive and Meaningful Night of the Jewish Year" **Thursday, March 18 at 8:00pm**

Mark Gerson, in conversation with Rabbi Josh, will discuss his book *The Telling*, which shows how to make the Seder the most engaging, inspiring, and important night of the Jewish year. Mark Gerson is an investor, philanthropist, author, and host of the podcast "The Rabbi's Husband."

Click [here](#) for more.



RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Charles S. Salomon
76th & Amsterdam Ave.
212-362-6600

**For Generations
a Proud Commitment
to the Jewish Community**

Riverside Memorial Chapel is a Subsidiary of Service Corporation International, 1929 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX, 77019, (713) 522-5141



PASSOVER'S ORIGINS (Erev Pesach is March 27, 2021)

Passover (*Pesach* in Hebrew) 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](#).

On the 15th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, Jews gather with family and friends in the evening to read from a book called the [Haggadah](#), meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover seder. The *Haggadah* helps us retell the events of the Exodus, so that each generation may learn and remember this story that is so central to Jewish life and history.

[Passover is celebrated for either seven or eight days](#), depending on family and communal custom. In Israel and for most Reform Jews around the world, Passover is seven days, but for many other Jews, it is eight days.

VIRTUAL SEDER Sunday, March 28, 5:00-6:30pm



Let's connect again for what could be the World's Largest Virtual Seder! Everything you need to know: Zoom link, items to have in your home, an online Haggadah, and guidelines for joining our Zoom seder, can be accessed via [this link](#). Do join us.

Thank you to all who participated in our January coat drive with our colleagues at First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem. Two large bags stuffed with coats were collected as well as a wonderful contribution of hats and scarves from our Sisterhood's Cold Weather Project.



LAG BAOMER'S ORIGINS (APRIL 29-30)

Lag BaOmer is a minor, festive holiday that falls on the 33rd day of the seven-week period between [Passover](#) and [Shavuot](#), a period of time is known as the [Omer](#). (The numerical value of the Hebrew letter *lamed* is 30, and the value of *gimel* is three; *lamed* and *gimel* together are pronounced "lahg.") This holiday gives us a break from the semi-mourning restrictions (no parties or events with music, no weddings, no haircuts) that are customarily in place for some Jewish communities during the *Omer*.

The Omer has both agricultural and spiritual significance: it marks both the spring cycle of planting and harvest, and the Israelites' journey out of slavery in Egypt (Passover) and toward receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai (Shavuot). An *omer* ("sheaf") is an ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Biblical law forbade any use of the new barley crop until after an omer was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of Leviticus (23:15-16) also commanded: "And from the day on which you bring



the offering...you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete." This commandment led to the practice of the *S'firat HaOmer*, or the 49 days of the "Counting of the Omer," which begins on the second day of Passover and ends with the celebration of Shavuot on the 50th day. Lag BaOmer commemorates a variety of historical events, including the end of a plague that killed many students of Rabbi Akiva (c. 50-135 C.E.), the *yahrzeit* of 2nd-century mystical scholar Shimon bar Yochai, and a Jewish military victory over Roman forces in 66 C.E. In remembrance of these events, some people celebrate with picnics and bonfires. Many couples in Israel choose to get married on Lag BaOmer, and many people also choose to wait until that day to get a haircut or beard trim.



YOM HAZIKARON & YOM HAATZMAUT'S ORIGINS (APRIL 15-16)

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, four new holidays have been added to the Jewish calendar – [Yom HaShoah](#) (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day), and Yom Y'rushalayim (Jerusalem Day, which celebrates the reunification of the city in 1967). In Israel, these days are observed as national holidays; around the world, they are observed in various ways by Jewish communities.

The Israeli Knesset (parliament) established the day that precedes Yom HaAtzmaut as Yom HaZikaron, a day to memorialize soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the War of Independence and subsequent battles, as well as a day to remember civilian victims of terrorism. The official State name given to the day is *Yom HaZikaron LeHalalei Ma'arakhot Yisrael ul'Nifge'ei Pe'ulot HaEivah* (which means "Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism" and was enacted into law in 1963.

Yom HaAtzmaut marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel. It is observed on or near the 5th of the Hebrew month of Iyar on the Jewish calendar, which usually falls in April.

Plaza Jewish Community Chapel



Serving the
Community for
19 Years



630 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10024
(212) 378-0825
(800) 227-3974
www.plazajewish.org
www.plazepreplan.org

Pre-need services
are available

Serving the metropolitan
New York area, Florida,
and Israel — 24 hours a day

Arranging for funerals in all
50 states and Europe

*Understanding
the needs and
providing a
Jewish funeral
from the only
not-for-profit,
community-
owned and
operated Jewish
funeral chapel in
New York City*



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Florence Peloquin



My Guilt Runneth Over

She lived in a fourth-floor walkup in a dilapidated building on Sterling Place in East New York. Rose Simon arrived from the Baltic state of Lithuania, widowed before the Second World War. She earned a borderline living sewing blouses on a piecework basis in an old factory, to support herself and her son.

I was newly married to her son and working as a junior editorial assistant at Women's Wear Daily at the time, absorbing the grand world of fashion, getting acquainted with the smart young women reports who came from distant places like Walla Walla, WA and Burlington, VT, and who shared apartments on MacDougal Street in Greenwich Village. At that time, my husband and I lived in a studio apartment on West 20th Street.

My then husband, Jerry Simon, and I frequently went to visit his mother and ate dinner in her dreary kitchen in a walk-up apartment on the fourth floor of an old building. It was pouring rain on the Sunday we were scheduled to visit Rose, and I was tired from a busy work week. I convinced my husband to cancel the visit with the excuse that I had a sore throat; he then called Rose to cancel. I went back to reading the *Sunday Times*.

About two hours later, the doorbell rang and there was Rose, dripping wet, with two heavy shopping bags containing large glass jars of beet soup with meat, in each hand. She was dripping wet as she didn't have a hand free to hold an umbrella. I fumbled an excuse and proceeded to set the table – embarrassed and filled with guilt. That day, I appreciated my mother-in-law more than ever and vowed to make the trek to her East New York apartment in the future, rain or shine.



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 Spring Memorial Fund

dedicated to supporting our Livestream, Zoom and Facebook Live services and unfunded temple projects.

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.

Naming Opportunities *(contact the office)*

Memorial Board Plaque; Simcha Tree Leaf

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 benefitting women and girls, selected annually.

Sisterhood Leadership Development Fund – NEW FUND

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

FUNDS ARE ALSO ACCESSIBLE VIA OUR WEBSITE

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

For next publication of contribution listing, please have your messages and payments sent to us by April 9.

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"/> Cantor's Discretionary Fund _____ → \$36 min. (Separate check required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard Spring Memorial Fund _____ → \$18 min. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Emet Fund _____ → \$10 min. | <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 East End Temple Library) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Leadership Development Fund _____ → \$36 min. Chair: Cynthia Dubensky |








Name of contributor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name & address of recipient to be notified: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Message: _____

| ~ March 2021 ~ | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | 1 7:30p Intro to Judaism 6:30p Sh'ma mtng | 2 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5p Book Club 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 6:30p First Tuesdays w/ Cantor Shira, music prog | 3 4p RS grades 4 & 5 7p Sisterhood board mtg | 4 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 | 5 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Simchat Shabbat w/Birthday Blessing & Melanie Nezer, HIAS | 6 8p HIAS Nat'l. Refugee Shabbat — Musical Havdalah |
| 7 1:30p HIAS — Int. refugee crisis , Panel | 8 7:30p Intro to Judaism | 9 12p BELL 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 8p Adult Ed: <i>Jewish Approaches to Medicine</i> | 10 12p Culture Corner 4p RS grades 4 & 5 6:30p Board Meeting | 11 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 | 12 6:15p Shabbat Services | 13 5:30p Family Havdalah |
| 14  | 15 7:30p Intro to Judaism | 16 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 8p Adult Ed: <i>Jewish Approaches to Medicine</i> | 17 4p RS grades 4 & 5 | 18 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 8p Night to Remember, Passover prog. w/Rabbi Josh and Mark Gerson | 19 5:45p Family Service 6:15p Shabbat Services | 20 Spring Begins  |
| 21 10:30a Rosh Chodesh Study 2p Passover Family Prog.—tentative 4p Stitch in Virtual Time | 22 7:30p Intro to Judaism | 23 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 8p Adult Ed: <i>Jewish Approaches to Medicine</i> | 24 4p RS grades 4 & 5 | 25 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 | 26 6:15p Shabbat Services | 27 Erev Pesach 1st seder  |
| 28 Cong. 2nd night Seder  | 29 <i>Passover (Cont.)</i> | 30 <i>Passover (Cont.)</i> | 31 <i>Passover (Cont.)</i> | | | |

| ~ April 2021 ~ | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 <i>Passover (Cont.)</i> 6p Sisterhood Lilith Seder  | 2 <i>Good Friday/Passover (Cont.)</i> 6:15p Shabbat Services w/Birthday Blessing | 3 <i>Passover (Cont.)</i> |
| 4 <i>Easter / Passover (End)</i>  | 5 | 6 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 6:30p First Tuesdays w/ Cantor Shira, music prog 8p Adult Ed: <i>What Makes Us Human?</i> | 7 4p RS grades 4 & 5 | 8 Erev Yom HaShoah 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1  | 9 Yom HaShoah 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Services | 10 10a Shabbat services and bar mitzvah of Judah Shiffman |
| 11 | 12 | 13 12p BELL 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 8p Adult Ed: <i>What Makes Us Human?</i> | 14 Erev Yom HaZikaron 12p Culture Corner 4p RS grades 4 & 5 6:30p Board Meeting | 15 <i>Erev Yom HaAtzma'ut</i> 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1  | 16 Yom Ha-Atzmaut 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Simchat Shabbat  | 17 9:30a Boker Tov Shabbat 10a Shabbat services and bar mitzvah of Matthew Rosenberg |
| 18 10:30a Rosh Chodesh Study 4p Stitch in Virtual Time  | 19 | 20 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 8p Adult Ed: <i>What Makes Us Human?</i> | 21 4p RS grades 4 & 5 7p Sisterhood board mtg | 22 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 | 23 5:45p Family Service 6:15p Shabbat Services 7pm Virtual Cong. Dinners | 24 10a Shabbat Services and bat mitzvah of Dania Bressler |
| 25 | 26 | 27 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grades 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grades 8-12 | 28 4p RS grades 4 & 5 | 29 4p RS grades 2 & 3 4p RS grades pre-K - 1 | 30 Lag B'Omer/Arbor Day 6:15 Sisterhood Shabbat w/WRJ Executive Dir. Rabbi Marla Feldman |  |