

EmanuScript

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2010

A LETTER FROM THE RABBI:

A Celebration Begins



The 1988 Columbia Lions went 0-44, the longest losing streak in college football history. The Streak stretched across four seasons; an entire senior class graduated without winning. But in October 1989 the Lions finally found their roar, beating Princeton 16-13 and upsetting everyone's assumptions.

There was one raucous celebration that night. A cartoon in the college newspaper showed a student shouting "Columbia beat Princeton!" into a dazed football player's ear, trying to convince him it wasn't a dream, until his pen-and-ink professor took him aside and told him to leave it alone: "someday you'll understand - victory can be a hard thing to accept."

Many have thought of Temple Emanuel as staid, apathetic, in transition, or in trouble for a long time.

Guess what: hard as it may be to believe, Temple Emanuel is celebrating. We have become confident, generous, and bold. Take a look at just one weekend last month; you'll see what I mean.

Shabbat began with Supper & Study and a lively discussion of the Biblical Book of Ecclesiastes, a collection of the Wisdom of Solomon. The book's mood is dark, bittersweet, and jaded; its religious philosophy seems tantalizingly close to our own. The discussion wrapped up with applause. Words like "revitalized" were in the air.

"Temple Emanuel is celebrating. We have become confident, generous and bold."

My sermon that night dealt with Pride weekend and the debate over repealing the Don't Ask/Don't Tell policy enacted in the Clinton years, which would let gays and lesbians serve in the military. It argued that the Bible is not necessarily

hostile to homosexuality or to equal protection under law for gays and lesbians. The sermon's reception was so warm it was almost embarrassing.

Next morning, Matt Szymkowitz was called to the Torah for the first time as a bar mitzvah. His speech about the power of the Exodus story to inspire peoples around the world and how becoming bar mitzvah made his Jewish identity meaningful was eloquent. It was our first Saturday morning *Mishkan T'filah* service, involving unfamiliar prayers in English and Hebrew, new melodies, new modes, like Torah chanting by Matt's relatives. Not everyone loved everything, but everyone was respectful and accepting. It proved we're capable of growing and changing with the times in keeping with what Reform Judaism is all about.

A delegation of ten Temple members joined the Pride parade on Sunday morning with 15 other Jewish congregations and more than 100 Jewish people marching. Somewhere along the mile-long parade route it hit me: in 1940's Germany, within

(Continued on page 5)

TEMPLE STAFF

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday
Closed
Tuesday-Friday
10 AM—4 PM

(In the event of an after hours emergency, please call 314.432.5877, ext. 2, and listen to the Rabbi's message.)

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

Director Search Update

As you may know, Ellyn Polsky gave notice in June that she would be leaving TE after 21 years to accept a position at a congregation in Little Rock. Despite the late date, we decided to initiate a search for a new Religious School director for the school year that will begin in August.

In order to attract a larger number of candidates we have chosen to continue our search. Accordingly, the Religious School will be directed by a team of parents. We are fortunate to have in our Congregation a number of talented professional educators and committed parents, who have already met to take over the task of managing the school.

We are equally fortunate that Ellyn, who will be staying with us until late August, has already completed the curriculum for the coming

year and has hired all but one of the teachers. At this point, it is just a matter of executing the plan that Ellyn has developed. Many of you may recall that our Religious School was directed for decades by lay leadership, and the Religious School Advisory Board is quite comfortable with this arrangement for this year. We remain open to considering qualified candidates as they come to our attention, and expect a larger pool of candidates this fall and spring.

We would like to thank Sunny Pervil for her wonderful work as chair of the Search Committee up to now, and Amy Wilson, Elaine Goldman, Linda Sayre, Holly Goldblum and Ken Cohen, ex officio, for the time and talent they have brought to the search.

David Sherman III
President

Religious School 2010–2011 Important Dates

- August 22—First day of Religious School
- Sept. 5— Labor Day/ No classes
- Oct. 1—Consecration
- Nov. 7—Jewish Education Fair/No classes
- Nov. 28—Thanksgiving Break/No classes
- Dec. 3—Festival of Lights Dinner and Service
- Dec. 5—Family Chanukah Celebration
- Dec. 26 & Jan. 2—Winter Break/No classes
- Jan. 16— MLK Weekend/No classes
- Feb. 20—President's Weekend/ No classes
- March 20 & 27—Spring Break/No class
- April 17—Chocolate Seder
- May 1—Last Day of Religious School

Goodbye Ellyn

Please join us at 4 p.m., August 15, 2010,
as we say farewell to longtime
TE Religious School Director Ellyn Polsky.

You're invited to a BBQ at Temple Emanuel in her honor.
Please RSVP to the
Temple Office,
(314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

TE Introduces Upgrades and Efficiencies

Executive Director Gail Armstrong with an inside look at what's new (and better).

At a Glance: What's New

- Print production upgrade.
- New phone service.
- Building repairs.
- Event checklist review.
- Office organization.
- Improvements to security.
- Record accuracy.

It has been a real pleasure to take on more responsibility at Temple Emanuel, as Executive Director. At this point, my feet are beyond getting wet and it seems appropriate to re-introduce myself to the TE community.

At the outset, I had no idea where the mechanical closet was located, how to find the water shut-off for the building, or why our primary copier jammed with such frequency (especially when large, critical projects were due). I have since learned much, researched more and taken responsibility for the varied workings of this organization, while hopefully providing a fresh outlook and strong sense of purpose.

My mantras usually involve the words "organizational management," "cost containment (or efficient spending)," and "attention to detail." My overarching goals have been to provide top-notch service and to link communications more seamlessly through the multiple operations of this vibrant and active congregation, while continuing to provide support and work closely with Rabbi Justin.

There are many people who have enhanced my learning curve: Joe Goldberg who shares the intricate workings of the temple building, Mike Szymkowicz who will yet make me an electrical engineer, Paul Goldblum who provides the institutional memory upon which I rely, and a host of others to whom

I've turned to for advice or temple history – so many thanks to all of you!

Since April, when I took on the expanded position of Executive Director, a great deal has been accomplished. I am pleased to share a brief review of some of the upgrades and initiatives undertaken since early spring.

- Our copy machines have been upgraded (without a significant upgrade in cost), enabling us to print far more professional pieces. The last two months we have produced the *Emanuscript* in-house and with added color. Improvements are still slated to come to our monthly bulletin. The striking Cabaret Night invitation, designed by Re, our fabulous office administrator, is further proof of the capabilities of our new equipment.

- To cut costs, without cutting services, we have contracted with a new telephone service provider. This also allowed us to cut internet costs while adding Uverse services to select sites in the building. Our custodial staff has worked to organize and freshen up our interior spaces, and I believe our "physical plant" is in better shape each week. Doors have been repaired, the kitchen is better maintained, and many of our light fixtures are being replaced with long lasting energy efficient bulbs.

- Our events checklist has

been updated and I have enjoyed working with our congregants to plan their *simchas* and ensure a seamless celebration.

- Our office has been completely reorganized and is now a more efficient workplace. Similarly, our office systems and initiatives are providing better and more timely responses and services to our congregants.

- We are finalizing plans for installation of a front door camera system that will allow us to let our congregants and visitors enter the building more quickly, without lessening security.

Although we can all take satisfaction in the completion of these projects and the positive direction in which we are moving, our work is still ahead of us.

We will be asking for your help and support as we undertake our next big project - that of ensuring the accuracy of our congregant information. You will receive a customized form in August; I trust each of you will take a moment to check the data provided, update it as necessary, and return it to the temple as quickly as possible.

Re and I look forward to completing the final phase of our organizational "housekeeping" as we strive to strengthen all aspects of our temple community!

Gail Armstrong

What's Happening at the Temple

GOODBYE BBQ FOR ELLYN POLSKY **SUNDAY, AUGUST 15**

4 PM

Join us for a festive goodbye as TE's longtime Religious School Director, Ellyn Polsky, prepares to relocate to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Please RSVP to the Temple Office at (314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

TE BOOK CLUB **THURSDAY, AUGUST 19**

7:30 PM

We will discuss Michael Chabon's book *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, (Copyright 2007 HarperCollins.) It is available at the St. Louis County Library in sufficient quantities.

The Yiddish Policemen's Union is a 2007 novel by American author Michael Chabon. The novel is a detective story set in an alternative-history version of the present day, based on the

premise that during World War II, a temporary settlement for Jewish refugees was established in Sitka, Alaska, in 1941, and that the fledgling State of Israel was destroyed in 1948. The novel is set in Sitka, which it depicts as a large, Yiddish-speaking metropolis.

The premise is that, contrary to real history, the United States voted to implement the 1940 Slattery Report, that recommended the provision of land in Alaska for the temporary refugee settlement of European Jews who were being persecuted by the Nazis during World War II. The novel's divergence point from real history is revealed in the first dozen chapters to be the death of Anthony Dimond, Alaska Territory delegate to the U.S. Congress, in a car accident; Dimond was one of the congressmen responsible for preventing a vote on the report. It imagines a temporary independent

Jewish settlement being created on the Alaskan coast. As a result, two million Jews are killed in the Holocaust, instead of the estimated six million in reality.

RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY CLASS **MONDAY, AUGUST 23**

10 AM

The Religious Philosophy Class led by Rabbi Rosenbloom will meet this month in the Temple Library.

The group will continue reading *The God Delusion* by the biologist Richard Dawkins. It has been published in paperback and is available at your local bookstore or online.

While Dawkins is an outstanding scientist, he is also a controversial polemicist for his causes. His book is a serious challenge to those who believe in the existence of God. He holds that those who believe in God are deluding themselves, as well as causing harm to

themselves and others.

We look forward to you joining us this month as we meet for stimulating discussion, conversation and enlightenment. Our discussions are free-wheeling and open-ended with no holds barred.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL **OPENING DAY**

SUNDAY AUGUST 22

9:30 AM

Temple Emanuel will welcome back it's Religious School students for a new year of instruction with an opening day breakfast and family worship service at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend!

SABBATH SUPPER & STUDY **AUGUST 27**

6:30 PM SUPPER

8 PM WORSHIP

Please RSVP to Marilyn Levinson at (314) 993-3645 or email mylml6@gmail.com with the number of people and the dish you will bring.

Religious School begins

August 22

Join us for a special welcome back breakfast and family service to kick off the year!

Services: 9:30 AM

For questions about the religious school, or to enroll your child, please call the Temple office at (314) 432-5877.

Tributes and Transitions

TRIBUTES & TRANSITIONS

ENDOWMENT FUND

Steve and Shelly Strauss in memory of Joseph Strauss.

FLOWER FUND

Helene Keller in memory of Maurice Keller.

Lewis and Leslee Levey in memory of Julie Levey.

The family of Zoe and Robert Glik in memory of Charles Jeffers Glik.

Herb Weitman in memory of Fanchan Arkush Weitman.

Gene and Marlene Zafft in memory of Max Dreyfus.

JOSEPH R. ROSENBLUM LIBRARY FUND

Ann Lux in memory of Catherine Lux.

JOSEPH R. ROSENBLUM DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Ann Lux in memory of Catherine Lux.

ANNIVERSARIES

Kenneth and Susan Cohen
 Jeff and Linda Kintz
 John and Barbara Lewington
 John and Francine Lizzo
 Jeffrey and Maggie Loeb
 John and Elizabeth Morrison
 Steven and Shelly Strauss
 Roger and Christy Waxelman
 Stephen and Diane Weinstock
 Richard and Susan Weitzer
 Andrew and Shirley Wise
 Gene and Marlene Zafft

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy to the family of Bernard L. Bearman, husband of Peggy, father of Jane, Michael, Bob, Tom, Ted and Buddy Bearman, and brother of Morton Bearman.

" IN THE RISING OF THE SUN AND IN ITS GOING DOWN, WE REMEMBER THEM. "

- Union Prayer Book

If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one by participating in our worship service (kindling the Sabbath candles or blessing the Torah), sponsoring our bimah flowers or the Oneg Shabbat refreshments, or by making a memorial contribution to the Temple, please contact us.

Phone: (314) 432-5877

or

Email: office@testl.org



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living memory, people could have been hounded, robbed, beaten, even deported and exterminated for being Jewish or being gay; in 2010 St. Louis Jewish people are free to support the rights for others we've won for ourselves, even to be openly both. "Daddy, what's Pride?" Eli asked. "We're proud that in our country people can be whoever they are and love whoever they love without being ashamed," I told him. I'm proud of our Social Action committee and our members

who took part. Next year, I hope Temple Emanuel will participate officially.

It still wasn't over – about 20 adults, by no means all members, came to Temple

"Folks, this is what a vibrant congregation looks and feels like."

Emanuel on Sunday evening to hear Gillian Rosenberg, Midwest Director of J Street, present the views of this upstart organization on the political debate over the future of Israel. J Street bills itself "Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace." Its detractors call it naïve and dangerous. But Gillian's presentation was professional and crisp, and in my view, absolutely right. One thing is for sure: Temple Emanuel will be a place where different points of view can be shared. (I hope to see you on July 28 as Rabbi Joe and I discuss the future of Israel and

the outlook for peace.)

Folks, this is what a vibrant congregation looks and feels like. The adult son of a member, on hand Friday night for his first visit in two years, could hardly believe his eyes and ears. "What is this place?" he asked in wonder. It's your place. "Ki va mo'ed," we sing – "the time has come" – to put our old assumptions and sad narratives away. The celebration is just beginning.

CALENDAR

AUGUST 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5		7 9:30 AM Torah Study
					8 PM Shabbat Worship	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30 AM Torah Study
					8 PM Shabbat Worship	
15 4 PM Goodbye Picnic for Ellyn Polsky	16	17	18	19 7:30 PM TE Book Club	20 8 PM Shabbat Worship	21 9:30 AM Torah Study
22 9:30 AM RS Opening Day Family Worship	23 10 AM Religious Philosophy	24	25	26	27 6:30 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Shabbat Worship	28 9:30 AM Torah Study
29	30	31				

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE 2010/5771

SELICHOT SEPTEMBER 4, 2010

Special Event

Worship Service
8:00 p.m.

SHABBAT SHUVAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

Sabbath of the Return

8:00 p.m.

Please join us for a special Sabbath eve of reflection

ROSH HASHANAH SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2010

Wednesday, September 8
Evening Service 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 9
Family Service 9:00 a.m.
(Suggested Ages 7-12)

Traditional TE Service 10:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah Discovery 10:00 a.m.
(Ages 0-6; childcare available during & after the program)

Tashlich at Tillis Park Following
Traditional TE Service

YOM KIPPUR SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2010

Friday, September 17
Kol Nidre 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 18
Family Service 9:00 a.m.
(Suggested Ages 7-12)

Traditional TE Service 10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur Discovery 10:00 a.m.
(Ages 0-6; childcare available during & after the program)

Torah Study 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Service 3:00 p.m.

Yizkor/Memorial &
Concluding Services 4:00 p.m.

All events to take place at:

Temple Emanuel
12166 Conway Road
St. Louis, Missouri

*For questions regarding the High Holy Days
Schedule, please call the Temple office
at (314) 432-5877*

TEMPLE EMANUEL:

August Worship Schedule

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6
8 PM

Av 26 R'eih
Deut. 11:26-16:17

*Please Note: There will be no
First Friday services this
month.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13
8 PM

Elul 3 Shof'tim
Deut. 16:18-21:9

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20
8 PM

Elul 10 Ki Teizei
Deut. 21:10-25:19

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
8 PM

Elul 17 Ki Tavo
Deut. 26:1-29:8
"Supper & Study"
Dinner at 6:30 PM
Worship at 8 PM

August-at-a-Glance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
4 PM

Goodbye Picnic for Ellyn Polsky

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19
7:30 PM

Book Club

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
9:30 AM

RS Opening Day

MONDAY, AUGUST 23
10 AM

Religious Philosophy Class with
Rabbi Joe Rosenbloom

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
6:30 PM

Supper & Study

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