

EmanuScript

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 5 | DECEMBER 2010

A LETTER FROM THE RABBI:

A Call to Righteous Action



I think I'm going bald.

No, not naturally. Instead, I'm concerned about hair loss because lately I've been tearing out big chunks from frustration.

According to a report recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 50 million people in the United States are hungry ("food-insecure" is what we're calling it these days). Seventeen million of them are children. Half a million of them have inadequate diets, even missed meals for lack of money to buy food.

Yes, you read that correctly: "in the United States." It's not just the staggering scale of the problem of hunger I find frustrating. It's the location. I would not have believed this to be possible

in my own country. The problem is spreading, worsening and affecting people that it didn't before. Hunger is gaining on us, and is closer to home than we like to believe.

People of faith, like us, consider it our sacred obligation, our *mitzvah*, to feed the hungry as part of our mission to heal, repair and transform the world. Of course, we'll be out there to do our part this holiday season. From Dec. 13 to Dec. 18, St. Elizabeth's Parish in north St. Louis City will feed about 500, maybe 600 people a day for a solid week. Our members will be there, assisting our neighbors as they distribute food, clothing and toys. I sincerely hope everyone who is able will consider volunteering for at least an hour or two, especially on Dec. 4 or Dec. 18.

And please, again, I ask you to give generously of your money and time to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. There is nothing like seeing hungry people to jolt us out of our own doldrums, to make us realize how blessed,

fortunate and even wealthy we are.

But feeding hungry people is not the whole issue when there are so many in need. When did "the pursuit of happiness" cease to be an inalienable right? Who is free to pursue happiness when they are "food-insecure?" We can't fail to answer the call to help others, because it's in our Torah, in the call of our prophets, in our very nature, yet we know something is wrong. It is wrong when public policy fails so many of our fellow citizens catastrophically and leaves it to organized religion to fill the gaps.

In the aftermath of yet another acrimonious political campaign, I don't feel like proposing any political solution except to say that this is everyone's problem. *Tzedakah* is a *mitzvah*. But so is *Tzedek*, righteous action. "Justice, justice, shall you pursue," exhorts Moses in the midst of Deuteronomy. This holiday season, please don't just give to *Tzedakah*. Give to *Tzedek*.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday
Closed

Tuesday-Friday
10 AM—4 PM

(In the event of an emergency, please call (314) 432-5877 and listen to the Rabbi's message.)

A Note From Our Office

Please remember to RSVP for special events at Temple Emanuel. Contact the Temple office at (314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

Do you subscribe to Temple Emanuel's weekly E-blast? Stay on top of what's happening week-by-week at TE and be the first to know about breaking news and events. If you aren't already receiving our weekly email (usually sent on Wednesdays), subscribe by contacting us at office@testl.org.

A special "Thank You" to TE board member John DeMott, for hand-crafting the beautiful wooden screen surrounding the Starbucks machine in the Temple Social Hall.

Please let us know if you have moved or changed your phone number or email address.

NEWS & EVENTS

Inside the Besa Exhibit at TE

By Gail Armstrong
TE Executive Director

Little did I dream when I listed myself as the contact on the TE press release for the Besa Exhibit that I would be deluged with responses, inquiries, stories and even criticism, from around the world.

First, a short history - KSDK Channel 5's Leisa Zigman did a wonderful piece on the exhibit, which was soon picked up by CNN's Belief Blog. Since then, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* article on Besa has also been featured on *The Huffington Post* and in the *Houston Chronicle*.

The first day our story hit CNN, I received at least a dozen email responses from around the globe. Since then, there has been a steady worldwide response from such fascinating individuals that I wanted to share some of their stories with you.

One of my first emails was from Alberto Colonomos in Miami, Florida, who wrote, in part: "I have read your article about the Albanian Muslims saving Jews during the war. I am one of them and was pleased to see that these fine people are receiving some kind of

recognition for their deeds. I was 10-years-old in those days and vividly remember when we arrived from the occupied territories of Yugoslavia to seek shelter in Albania, then ruled by Italy. There I learned what Besa meant and the way it was applied. Our Albanian Muslim hosts protected us with their lives and gave us unconditional support for our wellbeing. Unfortunately for 50 years after the war we could not communicate with our saviors due to a closed totalitarian regime that prevailed in that country."

Another email, from Heba
(Continued on page 3)



Above: Rabbi Justin Kerber addresses a group of visitors from Malaysia before they tour the Besa exhibit. **Photo by** Lisa Mandel

(Continued from page 2)

Diab in Southern California reads:

"I came across the article 'Albanian Muslims risk their own lives to save Jews from Nazis during World War II' on ksdk.com through CNN. Upon reading such a wonder, I couldn't help but be filled with warmth and hope. Hope that amidst all the bigots and the hatred directed towards Islam and the Muslims, there are people who can look past that and see the truth. People who can understand that amongst the crates of followers in every religion, there are bad apples and there are good.

Shock filled me when I understood the story behind the Besa exhibition at Temple Emanuel. The awareness of an unspoken past, I hope, will bring about

a positive understanding of a group of people [Muslims] as well as build a bridge amongst two groups of people [Jews and Muslims]."

There are far more stories to share than we have space. The exhibit has also been visited by a group of young Malaysian politicians and lawyers of Muslim, Buddhist and Christian backgrounds as part of the Legislative Fellows Program hosted by Mike McMillan, St. Louis City License Collector in collaboration with Charles Lowenhaupt. They visited our Besa exhibit to understand more about how the United States deals with inter-religious issues and the capacity to live in harmony.

Additionally, we have hosted Maryville University student groups, a teen

group from the JCRC, and a *chaverah* (Jewish learning group) from Shaare Emeth. Although public viewing hours for the exhibit ended in November, we continue private showings of the exhibit this month, hosting students from Roosevelt High School and Central Christian School.

Comments from our guest book have included:

- "The expressive faces in the photographs manage to convey a story of real life heroes."
- "We moved from Albania 13 years ago. Today we saw the book "Besa" at the exhibit. It was a surprise because we saw our cousins. We felt proud... to be [Muslim Albanians]. We have respect for the Jewish people."
- "A wonderful representation of

unconditional faith and blind love. Thank you for sharing. More stories of this nature should be celebrated."

- "The world should know about these brave people. All should emulate them!"
- "We are all one human family."

A most special thank you to our wonderful team of volunteer docents for this exhibit: Rena Abrams, Sue Cohen, Judith Garfinkel, Marilyn Levinson, Shirley Mosinger, Shelly Strauss, Patty Szymkowicz and Diane Weitman.

Special thanks, also, to Ken Cohen, Karen Platt, David Sherman, Steve Strauss and Mike Szymkowicz for their assistance in opening and closing the building, and to Rena Abrams and Susan Sherman, exhibit co-chairs.

Security in the Spotlight

By **Gail Armstrong**
TE Executive Director

As the package mail bombs from Yemen garnered our attention in October, it was also a reminder that we are still in need of ongoing diligence in our security measures at Temple Emanuel. We believe the best protection is community-wide observation and common sense — we all need to be alert and vigilant.

The same perspective was mirrored in a Nov. 3 article in the *Jewish Light*, which quoted two experts on

"We are doing everything within our power to protect the Temple and be prepared."

security, particularly in regard to Jewish institutions. Steve Sheinberg, who oversees the ADL's Jewish community security program said "There is no need for panic. This is an occasion to look at security measures in place, make adjustments as necessary and move forward." In this regard, Temple Emanuel is in good stead. As an example, last May I attended a comprehensive workshop on "Securing

Your House of Worship," which provided practical and economical solutions and strategies to reduce our potential vulnerability to property crime, as well as crimes against people, financial fraud, vandalism, arson and hate crimes.

We have also been diligent in our usual measures, similar to those described by an expert quoted in the *Jewish Light*. Rolly Cohen,

(Continued on page 8)

From the Religious School

By **Liz Singer**

Religious School Director

During this time of year, we often talk about things for which we are grateful. After settling into this position, I feel fortunate for every second I have spent with my new Temple Emanuel family.

I'd like to thank you for your support and making me feel at home. I'd also like to share some of the remarkable things I think we all should take note of happening within our Religious School.

Following are some highlights of the past month:

- Our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students made some tasty *challah*, which they were gracious enough to share with me.
- I briefly joined the first and second-graders on the playground. They all very politely introduced themselves and shook my hand. It was my pleasure to meet all of them.
- The third and fourth graders had a great CelebraTE service. The service was very integrative and had a lot of activities. The kids spoke and led the service beautifully.
- I sat in on the fifth and sixth grade classroom and listened to a stimulating and very impressive conversation about prophets, a topic not often covered in Religious School. I was glad to see our teachers delving into a topic that is new and different.
- I visited the seventh and eighth-grade class, where we discussed advocacy and education. They explained both their personal experiences and suggested ways to teach others to be more tolerant.

The school would be nothing without our teachers, so I'd also like to share with you some highlights from our first staff meeting.

I asked the group why they taught here at Temple Emanuel. After all, it is a Sunday morning, one of few precious days that they might have alone. They don't get paid an exorbitant amount, and it is not always easy.

They said that it is important for their kids to be here, therefore it is important for them to be here. They have a sense of belonging, there is a sense of family here, and they love it! I also heard from the teachers that they love filling in "the holes" for our students, and they get as much from the children as the kids get from them.

We have such a great group of children and teachers. I hope in this season of thanksgiving you express your gratitude to them. Have a fabulous and safe holiday season. Enjoy every second with your loved ones!

Religious School 2010–2011 Important Dates

Dec. 3—First Friday
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 classes
April 17—Chocolate Seder
May 1—Last Day of
Religious School

Simcha Corner

*Congratulations
to Emma Huber
on her recent
bat mitzvah.*



CELEBRATE

Our Family. Our Community. Our Future.

Sunday, December 5, 2010

CelebraTE Sunday Community Service

9:00AM 'Bagels and Nosh' in the Social Hall

**9:20AM Processional to Sanctuary for the
CelebraTE Community Service**

Don't miss this wonderful spiritual and musical experience featuring the 5th and 6th Grades, Rabbi Justin Kerber, Joel Miller, David Lizzo, Elisa Recht, TE community singers, musicians, and many other special guests! Don't forget to invite family and friends to experience this beautiful service!

10:30AM Don't miss a very special "Coffee Talk" following the CelebraTE Service with special guest,

**Marcia Mermelstein, MSW! Who Gets Grandma's
Yellow Pie Plate**

*For more information visit www.testl.org or
contact Liz Singer at the Temple Emanuel at 314.432.5877 x5*

Celebrating the Besa Exhibit



Panelists at Temple Emanuel's Nov. 18 discussion of the Besa obligation.

From left: Father Gregory Mohrman, Rabbi Justin Kerber and Dr. Ghazala Hayat.



Left: Besa panel moderator Alan Pervil talks with panelist Father Gregory Mohrman.



Above: Besa Exhibit co-chairwomen Rena Abrams and Susan Sherman.



Top: Temple Emanuel member Lois Gould studies a photo and its story from the Besa exhibit.

Below: The film crew from Alhurra shoots on location at Temple Emanuel the night of the Besa panel.

Photos by Lisa Mandel

Besa Bits:

- More than 230 people have signed the guest book while visiting the Besa exhibit since it opened October 20.
- Temple docents have hosted 16 dates in November for visitors to tour the exhibit.
- Multiple synagogues, campus interfaith groups and other organizations from as far away as Israel have inquired about obtaining the Besa exhibit.
- Alhurra, the Middle East Broadcast Network financed by a grant from the U.S. government, filmed TE's Nov. 18 Panel Discussion on BESA and interviewed its panelists.

Alhurra (Arabic for "The Free One") is primarily news and information programming and hosts a number of discussion programs that examine political and social issues of interest to the audience in the Middle East, airing viewpoints not often discussed freely in the region.

Social Action Update

CHANUKAH GIVING:

Remember Chanukah is early this year!

Chanukah Hugs Plus

Temple Emanuel's December Social Action project is "Keeping the *Mitzvah* going and doing *Tikkun Olam*: Repairing the World." Every year, Temple Emanuel takes up a collection for Chanukah Hugs. This program, sponsored by the JF&CS, strives to provide every needy child they serve with at least one new gift for the holiday. This year, we would like to include matching donations for "Father Bob's Giveaway," a program run from a North Saint Louis Catholic Parish which was the *Mitzvah* Project for Matt Szymkowicz. Both programs provide toys and clothing to families who have none.

Please give a new toy to Chanukah Hugs and match that gift with a new or gently used toy to Father Bob's Giveaway. For more information, contact the Temple Office or call Patty Szymkowicz at (636) 332-9570 or (314) 800-7397, or Hallie Huber at (314) 394-0440.

Chanukah Adopt A Family

Jewish Family & Children's Services will sponsor the Chanukah Adopt A Family for its 16th year. We are asking all members of Temple Emanuel to help these families enjoy the holidays by donating:

- Schnucks, Dierbergs, Wal Mart, Target or Kmart gift cards.
- Cash donation (make checks payable to Temple Emanuel with Adopt A Family in the memo line).

All donations should be brought or mailed to Temple Emanuel (attn. Adopt A Family).

Holiday Food Drive

Join a group of TE members as they volunteer for a holiday food and gift distribution for 4,000 needy families in north St. Louis. Donations of new and used clothing and toys will be collected in Room 7 at Temple Emanuel.

The drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m, and on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To sign up, contact Patty Szymkowicz at patty.szym@gmail.com or call (314) 800-7397.

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education director of the Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago said in the Nov. 3 article, "[Our schools] are stepping things up a bit, making sure doors are locked, checking to see who's there before opening them, putting security measures back in places they might have become more lax about."

At Temple Emanuel, we have heightened our awareness and safety with the installation of our new security camera, which allows the Temple staff to view, from the office, the

vestibule and parking lot area, as well as admit guests remotely. We have also recently had our security company do a thorough review and update of all smoke detectors, motion sensors and alarm panels in the building. Our office staff has been thoroughly trained to be alert to suspicious packages and has specific postal guidelines to follow regarding mail security, as well as a bomb threat protocol.

Our ongoing relationship with multiple security organizations has been

productive in creating greater security for the Temple. Members of the Creve Coeur Police have toured our campus to check our security and are often hired to be a presence at our larger events. Our connection with Karen Aroesty of the ADL and our membership in the URJ helps us stay abreast of the latest alerts and to take adequate precautions. We also belong to the community-wide St. Louis Metro Assistance Network, where religious organizations can keep each other attuned to security issues in the greater St.

Louis area. Additionally, the Temple has produced and is updating its Emergency Preparedness Handbook.

The safety and security of our congregation is always uppermost in our minds. Current events will always garner our attention, but we have a solid plan in place and are confident we are doing everything within our power to protect the Temple and be prepared.

Tributes and Transitions

GENERAL FUND

Margot D. Schwab in memory of Myra Friedman.

Nina and Edgar Wolff in honor of Judy and Alfred Goldman.

Arnie and Joan Jacobson in memory of Toby Broderson.

RABBI KERBER

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Maxine Goldman in honor of Rabbi Kerber.

Tova and Carl Zimmerman in memory of Rose Zimmerman.

Alan Sunshine in memory of Jeanette Sunshine.

Mary Marblestone in honor of Rabbi Kerber.

Maurine Burstein, David Burstein and Marianne Burstein Mullenix in memory of Dr. Robert Burstein.

Ruth and Joe Goldberg in honor of Barbara Lewington's special birthday.

RABBI ROSENBLOOM DISCRETIONARY FUND

Betty Spitzer in memory of A. Fuller Glaser and Norman Spitzer.

Maurine Burstein, David Burstein and Marianne Burstein Mullenix in memory of Dr. Robert Burstein.

Linda and Tom Langsdorf in memory of Sam Langsdorf, Jr.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Maurine Burstein and family in memory of Heim Jacobs and David Jacobs.

FLORAL FUND

Eunice Eckstein in memory of Pauline Goren.

Blair and Selma Balk in memory of Fannie and Harry Balk.

Herb and Diane Weitman in memory of Marie Weitman.

The Null family in memory of Victor Null.

John Nachbar and Suzanne Yee in memory of William Nachbar.

GROUNDS

BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Margot D. Schwab in memory of James L. Schwab Jr.

Barbara and Harry Schukar in memory of Lucille Lipson.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Lea Braff in memory of Helen Cramer.

ANNIVERSARIES

David and Margie Frank

Allan and Ruth Gallup

Michael and Elaine Goldman

Louis and Maxine Heyman

Merle and Marjorie Horowitz

Lee and Claire Kaufman, Jr.

Charles and Sally Kopman

Kenneth and Phyllis Langsdorf

Marvin and Marilyn Levinson

Charles and Rosalyn Lowenhaupt

Samuel and Susan Luten

Drew and Nissa Reichenbach

John and Linda Roos

Gene and Barbara Spector

**" 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

What's Happening at Temple Emanuel

"FIRST FRIDAY" CHANUKAH DINNER & SERVICES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

6 PM DINNER

7:15 PM WORSHIP

Join us for our contemporary worship service and dinner hosted by John and Robyn DeMott, Maria Roundtree and Hope Kerber. Please RSVP to the Temple Office at (314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

CELEBRATE FAMILY SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

9 AM BAGELS AND NOSH

9:30 AM WORSHIP

10:30 AM COFFEE TALK

The fifth and sixth grades of Temple Emanuel's Religious School will be featured in this musical and spiritual experience.

At 10:30 a.m., don't miss a special Coffee Talk. "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate," with guest Marcia Mermelstein.

BOOK CLUB THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 7:30 PM

December's TE Book Club will discuss *Messages From My Father, A Memoir* by Calvin Trillin, an author and an essayist for The New Yorker magazine. Sufficient quantities of the book are available at the St. Louis County and St. Louis City Public Libraries.

The *Detroit Free-Press* says of the book:

Messages from My Father first appeared in *The New Yorker*, where it reportedly drew more mail than anything else the prolific Trillin has written. No wonder. There are bits of Abe Trillin in everyone's father - everyone, at least, who has known a father's love, been molded by a father's dream, cracked up at a father's antics. It is a measure of Trillin's skill as

an essayist that this slim volume is both a detailed portrait of one particular dad and a meditation on American fatherhood that comes close to being universal."

SABBATH SUPPER & STUDY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 PM SUPPER

8 PM WORSHIP

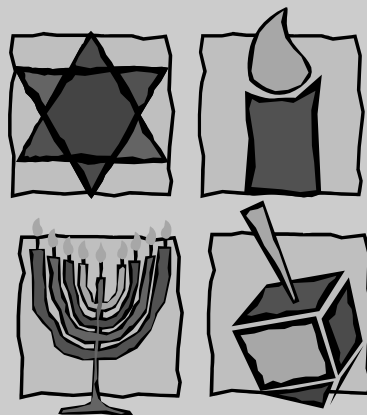
Please note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Supper and Study will take place a week earlier than normal. RSVP to Marilyn Levinson at (314) 993-3645 or email mylml6@gmail.com with the number of people and the dish you will bring.

RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 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.



A celebration of friends, family and light

Join us for First Friday at Temple Emanuel

A festive Chanukah dinner followed by a contemporary worship service led by Rabbi Justin Kerber.

Friday, December 3

6 p.m. Dinner

7:15 p.m. Worship

Dinner hosted by Maria Roundtree, John & Robyn DeMott and Hope Kerber.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 9:30 AM Torah Study 6 PM First Friday Chanukah Dinner 7:15 PM Shabbat Worship
5 9:30 AM CelebraTE Community Service	6	7	8	9	10	11 9:30 AM Torah Study 8 PM Shabbat Worship
12 9:30 AM Religious School Family Service	13	14	15 6:30 PM TERSAB Meeting Library, TE	16 7:30 PM Book Club	17 6 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Shabbat Worship	18 No Torah Study
19 9:30 AM Religious School Family Service	20 10 AM Religious Philosophy 7 PM Board of Trustees	21	22	23	24 8 PM Shabbat Worship Office Closed	25 No Torah Study
26 No Religious School/Winter Holiday	27	28	29	30	31 8 PM Shabbat Worship	

TEMPLE EMANUEL:

Shabbat Worship Schedule

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3
6 PM FIRST FRIDAY DINNER
7:15 PM WORSHIP
Kislev 26
Mikeitz, Gen. 41:1-44:17

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17
6 PM SUPPER & STUDY
8 PM WORSHIP
Tevet 10
Va-y'chi, Gen. 47:28-50:26

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
8 PM WORSHIP
Tevet 24
Va-eira, Exod. 6:2-9:35

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10
8 PM WORSHIP
Tevet 3
Vayigash, Gen. 44:18-47:27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
8 PM WORSHIP
Tevet 17
Sh'mot, Exod. 1:1-6:1

December at-a-Glance

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3
6 PM
First Friday Chanukah Dinner
7:15 PM
Worship

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
9:30 AM
CelebraTE Community Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
6:30 PM
TERSAB Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16
7:30 PM
Book Club

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20
10 AM
Religious Philosophy
7 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting

REQUESTED
SERVICE
CHANGE

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
Permit No. 686

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St. Louis, Missouri 63141

