

E manuscript

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 1 | JULY 2011

A LETTER FROM THE RABBI



Sacred community costs money. It seems ironic, even inappropriate to mention something as profane as money in the same sentence as sacred community. But it's true, and has been for a long time.

When Caesar still ruled, a rabbi in Roman Palestine preached a sermon quoting from the Biblical book of Job: "God says, 'I will requite those who confront Me.'" Even though the original context seems to say that God will not tolerate questioning by mere mortals of God's motives and methods, this rabbi offered a novel interpretation of the verse. He took "requite" as meaning "to pay back," literally, not as a punishment for talking back to God. This rabbi made the daring promise that God would reward those people who prioritized the commandments by supporting Jewish life, even despite privation, with a sermon that went something like this:

"Whoever proclaims My holy name even though I have not given him children; obeys the commandment to make a safety railing even though I have not given him a roof; builds Me a sukkah even though I have not given him room for it, makes Me a lulav even though I have not given him the money to pay for it, leaves a corner for the poor when harvesting even though I have not given him a field, separates out a share of grain for the Temple priests even though I have not given him a threshing floor; sets aside a lump of dough for charity when baking challah though I have not given him the starter dough; brings an animal to the Temple for an offering even though I have not given him herds or flocks; I must pay such a one back by giving him the money, oxen, sheep, or goats, or the children."

Our people were dominated by the legions of the foreign, idolatrous Roman Empire. Leaders like Rabbi Akiba martyred themselves to ensure the survival of Judaism. But ordinary people also did their part in more ordinary ways to ensure that Torah values and ethical conduct would endure.

So I'm grateful to, and inspired by, the members of two committees I've been working with lately. One committee is about the money we raise, the other is about the money we spend. The first is the Dues

Committee: Ken Cohen, Andy Glaser, and Steve Strauss. As announced last month they have begun evaluating all requests for reduced dues in a fiscally sound and equitable manner. I sincerely hope everyone will understand that this is not about turning away families who can't pay, but rather ensuring everyone pays their fair share. Some younger and less affluent members need the support of older, wealthier members—through paying dues, joining the Guardian Society, or by making a bequest to our Temple.

The second is the Budget Committee: Steve Strauss, Sam Platt, and Robyn DeMott. They have been poring over long columns of numbers for long hours to make conscious choices about our congregational priorities, with the goal of submitting a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. We would be one of only a handful of Reform congregations in the movement to balance its books.

So please join me in thanking Andy, Ken, Robyn, Sam and Steve for taking to heart the dictum of Rabbi Yosei in the Sayings of the Sages (Pirkei Avot, 2.17): "Let your neighbor's property be as dear to you as your own." Your work is holy, for it enables Temple Emanuel to carry out its sacred obligations.

TEMPLE STAFF

JUSTIN KERBER
Rabbi
rabbi.justin@gmail.com
(314) 432-5877 EXT. 2

JOSEPH R. ROSENBLOOM
Rabbi Emeritus/
Senior Scholar
rabbijoe@testl.org
(314) 432-5877 EXT. 3

GAIL ARMSTRONG
Executive Director
gail@testl.org
(314) 432-5877 EXT. 101

LIZ SINGER
Religious School Director
liz@testl.org
(314) 432-5877 EXT. 5

EGAN O'KEEFE
Office Administrator
office@testl.org
(314) 432-5877 EXT. 4

OFFICE HOURS
Monday
Closed

Tuesday-Friday
10 AM—5 PM

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

A Note From Our Office

The office donates all of the usable lost and found items after a sufficient amount of time has passed for them to be claimed. If you feel you may have lost something at temple, please come by to check the box in the office as we are getting ready to make a donation.

Tribute envelopes for Temple Emanuel can be found on the table in the front foyer at all times. Alternatively, if you would like to have some tribute forms sent to you to keep at home, feel free to call the office. Please remember to fill out all the necessary information on the back of the tribute envelope and write clearly, so we can accurately acknowledge your generous tribute gifts.

If you are interested in sponsoring an oneg or flowers for a Shabbat service, in memory of or in honor of an event or a loved one, please call the office to make special arrangements.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Celebrating our common Jewish heritage is one of our themes for the year. We must ask ourselves what that means and, once each has answered for himself or herself, attach a community meaning which can incorporate all of our answers. That part may not be easy.

We hear what is not “common” in our heritage when we consider the debates of the past years at Temple Emanuel: Whether the service contains “too much” Hebrew or “too little” Hebrew, whether a yarmulke or a tallis is an appropriate piece of clothing in our Temple, whether a relationship with Israel should be prominently promoted or should be set aside as a political rather than a theological issue are just a few of the issues over which our congregation has argued in recent years. We reasonably have concluded to vary our services so that our members can choose among more and less Hebrew, have concluded that clothing is a matter of personal preference, and have recognized that many of our congregants feel a spiritual connection to Israel but many do not believe we should formally embrace Israel as a nation. So we seem to be

dealing with our differences. But how do we find what is common?

I recently met a wise, Jewish philanthropist. Her family built a quite substantial charitable foundation and has directed all of its resources to its local community and to Jewish causes. She herself has become a writer and speaker throughout the U.S. on the mandate in Judaism to give of oneself and one’s resources generously to help others – tzedakah she calls it. She told me that if there is any common Jewish heritage, it is the willingness, the sense of obligation, to help the world

“As we celebrate our common Jewish heritage, we can all join in dedication to the community around us.”

become a better place. Reform, Conservative and Orthodox, American, European, Eastern European, Middle Eastern, and Asian Jews represent that ideal. She can cite chapter and verse from the bible, from the supporting scriptures and from Jewish lay literature endorsing that principle. Indeed it is one of the themes Jesus drew from Judaism and continued in Christianity.

On this basis, as we celebrate our common Jewish heritage, we can all join in dedication to the community around us,

another of the three themes we are focusing on this year. Philanthropy and service engagement in the outside community is how we demonstrate our common Jewish heritage. Lisa Eisen, the national director of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, writes about Jewish philanthropy becoming “Catalytic Philanthropy” – advancing entire fields and focusing on tangible social impact. (“Six Key Trends Transforming Jewish Philanthropy” in the *Philanthropy News Digest* and on her blog.) She specifically mentions “cross organizational collaboration.” Consider in this regard some of the programs we saw last year centering around the Besa exhibit and our engagement with the Islamic Foundation. Already we are having preliminary conversations with Roosevelt School, Sisters of Mercy Foundation, and others. These are only the most recent of some of the fine collaborations over the past year led by Hallie Huber and her colleagues on what is now the Repair the World Committee.

We have formed a Task Force under Hallie’s leadership to consider exactly how we can build our Repair the World Committee to engage more members and to be even more effective in reaching out to address collaboratively the needs of our greater community. If you would like to join this effort, let me know by email at cal@lowenchas.com.

(Continued on page 3)

From the Religious School

By **Liz Singer**

Religious School Director

A little known fact about me, but one that you may have discovered from reading this column, is that I collect quotes. I feel like there have been so many wise people that have walked this earth. Many of them seem to have that talent to be able to beautifully articulate others' feelings on any given subject. They can find the perfect word which is not always so easy. I was looking through my stockpile of quotes; I was looking for the perfect quote about change. This task wasn't so easy. Similarly, when I first started in the position as Religious School Director many asked me what my dreams were for the Religious School. If I could change anything what I would change? I guess it is an interesting parallel that finding the perfect quote about change was just as hard as me articulating what I wanted to change. Everyone has difficulties with it. However, here at Temple Emanuel there seemed to be a culture of wanting to make things better and more efficient. Why else would I have been asked that question?

Initially, back in October I thought it was an overwhelming question. My response: let me figure this place out first and I will get back to you in a year. So give or take a few months I am now addressing that question.

Hebrew: Currently, enrolling in the Hebrew class is elective. The students that have participated in the class are doing very well with reading and have requested more of a focus on vocabulary. We are looking at ways to keep students current with their peers despite absences. Some options that have been discussed

are skyping a Hebrew session or filming the Hebrew class and posting it on YouTube. This can also be a useful tool for the various grades to use in the regular classrooms to help with absence. Another goal is to have Hebrew be more integrated into the service at the beginning of the day. Each student should be able to explain the meaning of each prayer. This is a good way to introduce the younger kids to Hebrew before they actually get introduced to the alef bet.

Curriculum: Over the past number of years the school has been utilizing the Chai curriculum. I am working with Maxine Weil at CAJE to evaluate what is currently being used and to assess if it continues to meet the school's needs. The goal is to make the curriculum more progressive within the school, to avoid an overlap within grades and to assure that lessons make sense in the progression of a student's development. We are structuring a formal Madrichim Leadership Program. In this program the teenagers will have the opportunity to discuss in depth Judaism's stance on various social issues. In addressing these social issues it will give the students the opportunity to also place a focus on Jewish values. These values will be related to leadership skills which will aid them in the classrooms.

Tefillah: The prayer service will involve more education. The same format will be used as last year with updated translations. Creative readings will be added as an addendum in the back of service packet. These English readings will be diverse, and will have similar themes as an individual prayer or a portion of the service where it may be

interchanged at the leader's discretion. The services will be bound in a more permanent fashion to ensure use for a number of years.

Confirmation: The confirmation class will once again be just 10th grade. The year will conclude with a trip scheduled for the spring of 2012.

The core focus areas include:

- Knowledge of Reform Judaism past and present
- Student's role in Temple Emanuel as well as the St. Louis Jewish community and the global Jewish community.

Community: Community days will be held quarterly; these may be related to holidays or may be focused around a themed subject matter. This is an opportunity for the entire community to learn and celebrate as a community. The first one will take place on September 25 at Trout Lodge as a short retreat. Watch your mail for the Save-the-Date postcard. The retreat will be an opportunity to reflect prior to Rosh Hashanah, resulting in attendees identifying the qualities in themselves that they want to strengthen.

To conclude, the quote that I settled on is not about change at all. It is an Emily Dickinson quote: "We turn not older with years, but newer every day." I thought that it was appropriate because instead of looking at change as getting rid of the old, to me it means that we are looking at how we can take the old and, utilizing our wisdom, make it new again.

(Continued from page 2)

So let us start our list of items making up our Common Jewish Heritage here: involvement in social responsibility—repairing the world. Let me urge each of

you to ask how you can help others in your community. Do this within or without the Temple, but do it as part of what makes you Jewish.

And have a peaceful, healthy and happy summer of 2011!

Please feel free to contact me at any time at cal@lowenchas.com

Charles A. Lowenhaupt

Repairing The World

While we at Temple Emanuel are searching for “Repair the World” opportunities for our members during the summer months and beyond, it is important to recognize those members who do not wait for an event, but initiate their own!

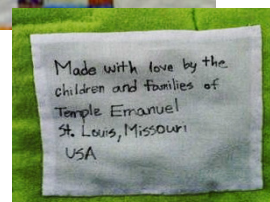
Suzanne Yee is one such member. She participated in making the quilts below and felt they would be of comfort to survivors of the Japanese tsunami.

She shares: “These two quilts are on their way to the children of the tsunami victims in Japan.

The first one (*bottom left*) is a quilt top made from squares that families made when we had an introduction to quilting event at the temple when the 50th anniversary quilt project was launched. The 5th/6th grade class helped assemble the back to the batting and the top, helped pin the layers together, and did some of the tying. The quilt is both quilted and tied. Pictured is the quilt top and a photo of the label.

The second quilt (*bottom right*) is a top that our previous office administrator, Kimberly Frost, pieced together for the quilt project. This quilt is tied. I’m sure these quilts will be of comfort to whomever receives them in Japan. Thanks to all who helped with them.”

Suzanne, thank you for taking the initiative to help us to “Repair the World” and for representing Temple Emanuel globally!



Tributes and Transitions

GENERAL FUND

Charles and Sally Kopman in memory of Ethel Kopman.

Al and Ruth Brown in memory of Florence Corman.

Richard and Mary Weinstock in honor of their parent's 70th wedding anniversary.

Ronald and Kathy Hyken in memory of Samuel Hyken.

Ronald and Lisa Waxman in memory of Manuel Waxman.

Charles and Rosalyn Lowenhaupt in memory of Frances Weinstock.

Joseph and Marylin Smith in honor of the wedding of Don Horowitz and Sondra Andrews.

Harry and Barbara Schukar in memory of Samuel Schukar.

RABBI KERBER DISCRETIONARY FUND

Gloria Goldblatt in memory of Fannie Goldblatt.

Marvin and Marilyn Levinson in honor of David Lizzo earning his Master's Degree.

Anonymous Donor

Roger and Louise Sirota in memory of Florence Corman.

Roger and Louise Sirota for a speedy recovery for Al Brown.

Donald Horowitz and Sondra Andrews in honor of Rabbi Kerber officiating their wedding.

David and Sheri Corman for Rabbi Kerber officiating Florence Corman's funeral.

RABBI ROSENBLUM LIBRARY FUND

Arthur and Jeanne Ansehl in memory of Frances Weinstock.

FLOWER FUND

Harold and Shirley Mosinger in memory of Anne Yudelson.

Harold and Shirley Mosinger in memory of Birdie Lewis.

Maxine Hirsch in honor of Louisa Goldman's Bat Mitzvah.

Judith Garfinkel in memory of Dr. Bernard Garfinkel.

Diane Weitman in memory of Henry Gottschalk.

Dr. Fredric, Beverly and Mark Simowitz in memory of Joseph Simowitz.

Dr. Fredric, Beverly and Mark Simowitz in memory of Sam Seigal.

Herb Weitman in memory of Fanchon Weitman.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Dr. Fredric, Beverly and Mark Simowitz in honor of the wedding of Don Horowitz and Sondra Andrews.

David and Lynn Phillips in honor of the wedding of Don Horowitz and Sondra Andrews.

David and Lynn Phillips in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Louisa Goldman.

Eric and Maria Roundtree in honor of the wedding of Don Horowitz and Sondra

Andrews.

Suzanne Yee and John and Katherine Nachbar in honor of Louisa Goldman's Bat Mitzvah.

RABBI ROSENBLUM DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES FUND

Gloria Goldblatt in memory of Fannie Goldblatt.

ANNIVERSARIES

Laura & Cheryl Glaser
Richard & Faye Levey
Blair & Selma Balk
Jacob & Leslie Reby
Jerome & Joy Sandweiss
Jeffrey & Jamie Strauss
Arnold & Joan Jacobson
Robert & Jane Feibel
Paul & Barbara Weil
Robert & Phyllis Kessler
Steven & Mary Schoolman
Lawrence & Shirley Schermer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy to the family of Louis Sachs, husband of Mary Sachs.

Sympathy to the family of Frances Fuller Weinstock, wife of Robert Weinstock and mother of Richard and Thomas Weinstock.

Sympathy to the family of Leon Rennard, brother of Dr. Marvin Rennard.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Szymkowicz on the marriage of their son, Joseph Robert to Meghan Michelle Mary Ziebarth.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Mont Levy and Sally Levy on the marriage of their daughter/granddaughter Joanna Levy to Joe Kyger.

"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 FRIDAY, JULY 1 7 PM Worship

Join us for our contemporary worship service. We are always delighted to have our members lead a reading from the prayer book, give a creative reading of their choice, sing, or play music—we offer a chance to learn by doing something different.

Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur is used at this service.

If you are interested in participating in a future service, please contact Rabbi Justin Kerber (314) 432-5877 or rabbi.justin@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT WORSHIP FRIDAY, JULY 8 6 PM Dinner 7 PM Worship

A complimentary dinner will be served prior to the Shabbat Worship Service. *Please call the office (314) 432-5877 or email office@testl.org to place your reservation.*

Multigenerational worship featuring an ensemble of Temple musicians, members and guest songleaders, instrumentalists and soloists. *Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur* is used at this service. Join us!

NOTE: Our complimentary dinners are now being celebrated on the second Friday of each month at the Celebrate Worship Service. *RSVPs are required!*

SHABBAT WORSHIP FRIDAY, JULY 15 8 PM Worship

Our emphasis is on an updated, interpretive translation of prayers, with familiar melodies for Hebrew prayers. *Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur* is used at this service.

YOUNG MEMBERS BBQ SUNDAY, JULY 17 1 PM—5 PM

The Young Adult Members will be having a BBQ at a location to be determined. We will be grilling, enjoying the sunshine and having a great time!

The function of the YAMs is to bring together a community of young adults who have a common desire to build a sense of camaraderie through putting on events which inspire, entertain, serve the community, and support Temple Emanuel.

For more information, please call Rachel Wolff at (636) 236-4775.

We hope you will join us!

RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY MONDAY, JULY 18 10 AM

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

Through the years, our Religious Philosophy class has been challenged not only by the material of the books we have read but, more importantly, by the insights of the members of our group.

Recently, a few men have joined the very bright and articulate women who have been together for decades. Rabbi Joe says "Hey, guys, come and join us with your minds and ideas."

SUPPER & STUDY FRIDAY, JULY 22 6:30 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Worship

Study materials for Supper & Study are sent in advance by email and also posted on the website at www.testl.org.

RSVP to Marilyn Levinson at (314) 993-3645 or email mylml6@gmail.com with the number of people and the dish you will bring. If you are not already on our email list to receive the materials for Supper & Study, you can be added by contacting the Temple office at (314) 432-5877.

The Worship Service features familiar musical selections and English responsive readings using the *Union Prayer Book*, Chicago Sinai ed.

FRIDAY, JULY 29 8 PM Worship

The Worship Service features familiar musical selections and English responsive readings using the *Union Prayer Book*, Chicago Sinai ed.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

TEMPLE EMANUEL'S 2011-2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers:

Charles Lowenhaupt, President
Steve Strauss, Vice President
Mike Szymkowicz, Vice President
Sam Platt, Treasurer
Lynn Phillips, Secretary

Trustees:

Rena Abrams
Eric Axelbaum
Norm Berkowitz
Becky Cohen
John DeMott
Beth Knight
Marilyn Levinson
Joel Miller
Maria Roundtree
Susan Warshaw
Amy Wilson

Past President:

David Sherman III

CALENDAR

JULY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 First Friday 7 PM Worship	2 9:30 AM Torah Study
3	4 Fourth of July	5	6	7	8 6 PM Dinner 7 PM CelebraTE Worship	9 9:30 AM Torah Study
10	11	12	13	14 7 PM Social Programming Committee Meeting	15 8 PM Worship	16 9:30 AM Torah Study
17 1-5 PM Young Members BBQ (location to be announced)	18 10 AM Religious Philosophy NO BOARD MEETING	19 7 PM Liturgy & Religious Philosophy Committee Meeting	20	21	22 6:30 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Worship	23 9:30 AM Torah Study
24 31	25	26	27	28	29 8 PM Worship	30 9:30 AM Torah Study

TEMPLE EMANUEL:

Shabbat Worship Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 1
7 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
First Friday
Chukat, Num. 19:1-22:1

FRIDAY, JULY 8
6 PM DINNER
7 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
CelebraTE Shabbat
Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9

FRIDAY, JULY 15
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Pinchas, Num. 25:10-30:1

FRIDAY, JULY 22
6:30 PM SUPPER & STUDY
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Supper & Study
Mato, Num. 30:2-32:42

FRIDAY, JULY 29
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Mas'ei, Num. 33:1-36:13

July at-a-Glance

FRIDAY, JULY 1
7 PM
Worship Service Only—No Dinner

FRIDAY, JULY 8
6 PM, 7 PM
Dinner and CelebraTE Service

SUNDAY, JULY 17
1 PM
Young Adult Members BBQ

MONDAY, JULY 18
10 AM
Religious Philosophy

REQUESTED
SERVICE
CHANGE

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 686

12166 Conway Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

