

EmanuScript

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A LETTER FROM THE RABBI:

Change and Adaptation



During their weekly sharing time, Elaine Goldman's pre-K and Kindergarten class recently met Bobby Bluey, a Blue-Footed-Booby stuffed animal brought back from the Galapagos Islands. The Blue-Footed-Booby and the Galapagos are icons of Charles Darwin's insights into the origin of species by natural selection. It is sometimes said that the species that survives is not necessarily the strongest, nor even the most intelligent, but the one that is most adaptable to change.

I hope that every family in the Temple makes a point of sending at least one member to Supper and Study on Nov. 19, Dec. 17 and/or Jan. 28, for our series "Re-forming Judaism: the changing face of the

Reform movement, 1885-Tomorrow." We are learning about the many ways Reform Judaism has adapted itself over 200 years. Jewish movements, too, originate and thrive or disappear by natural selection – from Pharisees vs. Sadducees ca. 70 CE, to Rabbanites vs. Karaites ca. 1100 CE; to Chassidim vs. Misnagdim in 19th century Poland and Lithuania, to the competing streams of our time.

At Supper and Study we have read and discussed how modernity rose in Europe in the 1800s, gave birth to Reform in Germany, and resulted in the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform. By reading later platforms of Reform Judaism, we see well how history has presented us with choices. From the Holocaust and the founding of Israel, to more recent events, each era has had impacts we feel here, now.

Adaptation and response to challenge are not abstract topics around TE these days. Some of us are concerned about how to honor our "Classical

Reform" past. It's clear that the amount of Hebrew in our services is a sensitive topic. Many of us – both older and younger members – are concerned that our service should remain accessible to those who don't know Hebrew. The tension between our own comfort level and our need to remain appealing and relevant in today's world is not easily resolved. I am listening to you and I am responsive to your needs. Everyone seems to understand that there is a wide range of opinion on these questions, especially about Hebrew, in our community. Everyone seems to understand that not everyone can or will be entirely satisfied. What we can't afford is to let the most recent complaint carry the day.

Therefore, I am at work on a document that I plan to share with both the Liturgy Committee and the TE Religious School Advisory Board (TERSAB). I plan to share in greater detail why I think Hebrew matters, how much is enough, and

(Continued on page 10)

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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.

Please note, the Temple Emanuel office will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you to everyone who responded for the recent BESA exhibit opening. Your thoughtfulness helps us to better plan our special TE events!

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

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A Teachable Moment



Dear Friends,

I would like to relate to you a wonderful experience I had as the beneficiary of Rabbi Justin's fascinating teaching. Recently, Rabbi Justin and I had a meeting at the Temple regarding the BESA exhibit with Rena Abrams, Dan Reich of the Holocaust Museum, and two Muslim women, Zubaida Ibrahim and Dr. Ghazala Hayat of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, our area's largest mosque.

When the meeting ended, Rabbi Justin invited Zubaida and Ghazala to see our Sanctuary. He, Rena and I welcomed them inside and took them up onto the bimah, where Rabbi Justin gave them some background about Judaism and the meaning of various features of the Sanctuary, including opening a Torah for them.

It was really quite stirring to see the reverence on the faces of these two Muslim women as Rabbi Justin gave

them a glimpse of this 50 year-old example of the ancient document. They had never seen a Torah scroll before and asked questions about how it was made, about the scribe who set down the text, and about the customs of its handling.

Rabbi Justin then went into a fascinating explanation of the various theories of the origin of the Torah text. He contrasted the Rabbinic viewpoint, that the five books of Moses were dictated by God to Moses, with the modern school of textual criticism, which identifies four different strands of Torah text woven together. He provided background on the "two beginnings" of Christianity, the first being the "false start" by Palestinian Jews in Rome-occupied Palestine, and the second being the sustained movement after Jesus' death among Diaspora gentiles outside of Palestine, when Paul of Tarsus wrote of Jesus' conquest of death. We learned about the role of prophets in the three major faiths, and how Christians and Muslims believe that Moses, one of our prophets, pointed the way along the road to their prophets and their religious doctrines. Rabbi Justin and the two women discussed the great reverence both Judaism and Islam have for the prophet

Abraham, and how much our faiths share.

I looked at my watch and 40 minutes had passed seemingly in an instant. I had been hanging on every word and so had Rena, who I noticed had been sitting in the pews listening that entire time. The two Muslim women thanked us profusely for the visit and made their departure. At this moment, I had two realizations. First, it was the BESA exhibit at TE which brought us together with Muslims and made possible this dialogue, this learning, and this mutual understanding of different religions and cultures. And second, we have a very special Rabbi. All Reform Rabbis must complete a uniform course of study, but I can assure you that not all are alike. Rabbi Justin is a brilliant teacher, and he instills in those who take the time to learn from him a thirst for even more knowledge. I urge you to take advantage of this amazing resource right inside our Congregation.

As always, if you have any questions about this letter or any other matter involving Temple Emanuel, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Sherman III

NEWS & EVENTS

Introducing TE's New Religious School Director

The Board of Trustees of Temple Emanuel recently approved Liz Singer as Director of the TE Religious School. It extends its thanks to Search Committee Chair Sunny Pervil, and Committee members Holly Goldblum, Elaine Goldman, Linda Sayre and Amy Wilson for their time and effort in making this selection.

Following is Liz's self-introduction to the Temple Emanuel membership. Find out more by stopping by TE soon and welcoming her to our community.

"I grew up in University City, which gave me a great perspective on the diversity and of the history of the St. Louis Jewish community. My father's favorite joke used to be: 'What makes University City so beautiful? There is a Rosenbloom (Rose-in-bloom) on every corner.'

Of course that joke is no longer as true for the current generation, but it really embodies the love and familial feeling that existed back then. My first impression of Temple Emanuel is the same; people are attracted to this environment because of the personal relationships everyone has to each other and to the institution. I am excited to be a part of the Temple Emanuel family.

I received my undergraduate degree from Drake University, where I earned a B.A. in Theater. I later went on to receive a

Master's in Social Work from SLU. Following my time at SLU, I decided to pursue an interest in International Social Work and volunteered for a summer in Mexico. The Mexico trip precipitated a trip to Israel, where I ended up staying for two years on a fellowship at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.

Even though I had taught and served as a youth director for many years prior to moving to Israel, my experience there led me to pursue a career in informal Jewish education more seriously. I am completing the Teacher's Certification Program through St. Louis's Central Agency for Jewish Education and have been involved with Jewish Educator Services of North America both here and in Israel. I am also a community educator at Jewish Family and Children's Service, where I organize programs about

social issues.

One of my favorite quotes is: "Let them be sure that every deed counts, that every word has power, and that we all can do our share to redeem the world in spite of all absurdities and all frustrations and all disappointments. And, above all, let them remember to build a life as if it were a work of art." This is something that I would like to impart to your children. The concept of living consciously is something that everyone, no matter how old or young you are, cannot learn enough.

Temple Emanuel is such an exciting place right now. I am excited to meet its families and especially the children that make it so unique. I look forward to getting to know you all personally and continuing the growth throughout the year."

Liz Singer

BESA

Albanian Muslims Who Saved Jews in WW II

a nationally-acclaimed exhibit of photography by

Norman H. Gershman.

On display at Temple Emanuel October 21 – December 1

See pages 10 and 11 for dates and hours.

From the Religious School

It has been our pleasure to serve as Religious School Directors, ensuring its continued success.

During our tenure, enrollment increased by 30 percent and Hebrew has had a 275 percent increase.

We are proud of our teachers and their commitment to our children's Jewish education. We know that Liz Singer, our new Religious School Director, will enjoy working with our dynamic team.

- Leslie Weil Masaki, Linda Sayre, and Amy Wilson

Religious School 2010–2011 Important Dates

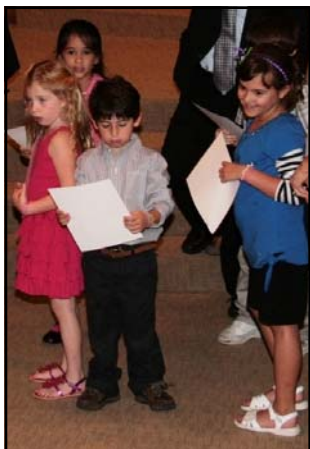
- Nov. 7—Jewish Education Fair/No classes
- Dec. 3—Festival of Lights Dinner and Service
- Dec. 5—Family Chanukah Celebration
- Dec. 26 & Jan. 2—Winter Break/No classes
- Jan. 16— MLK Weekend/No classes
- Feb. 20—President's Weekend/ No classes
- March 20 & 27—Spring Break/No class
- April 17—Chocolate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

Highlight: 2010 Consecration Service

Photos by Andy Wise

Right: Parents gather around consecrants from left: Sela Masaki, Lihi Hall, Eli Kerber, Sophie Andrews, and Elijah Rutherford.

Left: The consecrants receive their certificates and mini-torahs.



CELEBRATE

Our Family. Our Community. Our Future.

Sunday, November 14, 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 3rd and 4th 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 author/pediatrician,

Sharon Vermont!

**Teaching Our Children
Appreciation and Gratitude**

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

OPEN FROM OCT. 21—DEC. 1

BESA Exhibit Opens at Temple Emanuel



Above: A visitor looks over the BESA exhibit on display at Temple Emanuel.

Left: Rabbi Justin Kerber and Imam Mufti Minhajuddin Ahmed view the sanctuary.

Middle top: BESA Co-chair Susan Sherman speaks with special guest Stuart Huck, assistant to photographer Norman Gershman.

Middle: Rabbi Justin talks with Judith Garfinkel.

Middle bottom: Temple Emanuel member Shirley Mosinger chats with exhibit guests.

Right top: Stuart Huck speaks at the exhibit opening.

Right middle: BESA Co-chair Rena Abrams with a visitor to the exhibit.

Right bottom: BESA Committee.



Photos by Lisa Mandel



Social Action Update

Cheshvan, the Jewish Social Action Month, ends November 7, but the spirit of social action can last all month long with your help. Please consider assisting one of these worthy causes.

ENDING IN NOVEMBER:

Electronic Recycling Drive

Sponsored by Congregation B'nai Amoona, the City of Creve Coeur, and MERS/Goodwill Industries (324 S. Mason Road) this year's electronic drive will be held Sunday, November 7 and Monday, November 8. There is no charge for recycling items. For hours and more information, call (314) 576-9990.

JCRC Children's Book Drive

Now until November 7, the JCRC will collect new and gently used books for ages 3 to 5 and ages 8 to 13 to benefit children in Head Start and St. Louis City public schools. Donations can be dropped off at the JCRC office, Congregation BSKI, Congregation Shaare Emeth or Clothes Tree Boutique at 2538 S. Brentwood Blvd.

JCRC Annual Outerwear Drive

Now through November 19, donate gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens to those in need. Donations can be made in the following locations: JCRC at the Jewish Federation Building, JCC Staenberg Building, JCC Fox Building Congregation, B'nai Amoona, BSKI Congregation, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Central Reform Congregation, Shaare Zedek, Synagogue Clothes Tree at 2538 S. Brentwood Blvd., Distinctions -12354 Olive Blvd. Items will be distributed through the International Institute and the Little Bit Foundation to recent immigrants and others in need.

With Earth and Each Other

At 11:30 a.m. November 14, join Mandy Patinkin, Pete Seeger, Ian Anderson and viewers of all ages, races, religions and nationalities for an Internet-based rally celebrating positive efforts for cooperation in the Middle East and the importance of joining together to find solutions for environmental problems. Local programming will follow the live Web broadcast.

The event will take place locally at Washington University's Brown Hall, Room 100 and is hosted and co-

sponsored by Washington University's International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy & Sustainability. Co-sponsors include the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, the Jewish Community Relations Council, Central Reform Congregation and Congregation Bnai Amoona.

Register online at www.withearthandeachother.org. For more info, contact gwechsler@jrcrstl.org or (314)442-3894.

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&CFS, 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. Donations will be collected in Room 7 of the Temple Emanuel Religious School. 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) by Sunday, Nov. 21.

Tributes and Transitions

GENERAL FUND

Mary Lieber in memory of Sylvia and Alan Mayer.

Jane and Robert Feibel in honor of the High Holy Days.

Brian Newman in honor of Leslie and Jacob Reby.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Esgró in honor of Ed Kent.

Verdie Behan in honor of Ed Kent.

RABBI ROSENBLOOM DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judy and Al Goldman in memory of Philip Hirsch.

RABBI KERBER DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lois and Marvin Chait in honor of High Holy Days.

Marilyn and Marvin Levinson in honor of Ed Kent.

Marlene and Gene Zafft in memory of Harry J. Zafft.

Tova and Carl Zimmerman in memory of Rifka Neuman.

Mary and Philip Marblestone in honor of Rabbi Kerber.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Donna and Robert Grossman in memory of Lois Horowitz.

LIBRARY FUND

Joseph Balk in honor of the High Holy Days.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Maurine Burstein in memory of Dora Josephson.

Shelly and Steve Strauss in memory of Sylvia Strauss.

FLORAL FUND

Barbara and Gene Spector in memory of James Zachary Pugash.

Shirley and Harold Mosinger in memory of Gus Mosinger.

The Null family in memory of Harriet Addas.

Jane and Robert Feibel in memory of Adolf and Ruth Claire Feibel.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Gloria Goldblatt and family in memory of Ben J. Golblatt.

Claire and Lee Kaufman in honor of the marriage of Ellen Livingston and Ed Levitt.

ANNIVERSARIES

David and Susie Rubin
Alfred and Judith Goldman
Harvey and Cynthia
Frohlichstein

Jack and Carol Goralnik
Mont and Karen Levy
Jeff and Jessica Clay

Richard and Micki
Meyerhardt

Susan and David Sherman,
Jr.

Arthur and Jeanne Ansehl
Warren and Maralin Davis
Walter and Nora Stern

John A. and Laura
Blumenfeld

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy to the family of Patricia Ann Scherck, wife of Gordon Scherck, Jr.

**" 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

BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4
7:30 PM

Please join us for the next Book Club meeting, where we will discuss some of the short stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer. He is the sole Yiddish writer to receive the Nobel prize.

We will read a selection of stories from his book, *Singer - Collected Stories - Gimpel the Fool to The Letter Writer*, issued by The Library of America. The book is available at the St. Louis County Library and several municipal libraries. There are also other editions which contain collections of his writings. The selected stories are: "Gimpel the Fool," "Spinoza of Market Street," "Taibele and Her Demons," and "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy."

"FIRST FRIDAY"

DINNER & SERVICES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6 PM DINNER

7:15 PM WORSHIP

Join us for our First Friday

dinner and contemporary worship service. This month's dinner will be hosted by David and Lynn Phillips and Sondra Andrews. Please RSVP to the Temple Office at (314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

CELEBRATE FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:30 AM

This month's Celebrate series will highlight TE's third and fourth grade Religious School students. Everyone is invited to attend, as well as to come early and enjoy bagels and nosh at 9 a.m. before the service. No RSVP required!

RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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.

BESA PANEL DISCUSSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Save the date for an insightful panel discussion at Temple Emanuel about the sacred obligation to provide shelter to those in need in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. Time and more details to follow.

The BESA exhibit will be open to the public until Dec. 1 on Thursdays from

5 to 8 p.m. (closed Nov. 18 and Nov. 25) and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

SABBATH SUPPER & STUDY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:30 PM

Join Rabbis Justin Kerber and Joseph Rosenbloom for a stimulating discussion on current events, including the world after the elections, the future of the United States, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dinner by Carolyn's. Please RSVP to the Temple office at (314) 432-5877.

(Continued from page 1)

what I would recommend for this Temple. I will seek feedback from both Liturgy and TERSAB, in hopes of a congregational consensus on Hebrew in services, programming, and in education of our youth (even though satisfying everyone is probably impossible at this time). I

would like to hear your thoughts and feelings personally. Any Temple member is also welcome to share their feelings with a member of either group.

Anyone who would be interested in joining Liturgy or TERSAB should contact Todd Abrams, Liturgy Chair

or Amy Wilson, Advisory Board Chair.

Come to Supper and Study, let me know what you think and how you feel, or talk about it with Amy and Todd or your friends on Liturgy and TERSAB.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 7:30 PM Book Club 5 to 8 p.m. BESA Exhibit	5 6 PM First Friday Dinner 7:15 PM Shabbat Worship	6 9:30 AM Torah Study Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit
7 No Religious School Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit	8	9	10	11 5 to 8 p.m. BESA Exhibit	12 8 PM Shabbat Worship	13 9:30 AM Torah Study Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit
14 9:30 AM Religious School & CelebraTE Community Service Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit	15 10 AM Religious Philosophy	16	17	18 Time TBA BESA Panel Discussion	19 6:30 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Shabbat Worship	20 9:30 AM Torah Study Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit
21 9:30 AM Religious School Family Service Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit	22	23	24	25 Office Closed/ Thanksgiving Holiday BESA Exhibit Closed	26 Office Closed/ Thanksgiving Holiday 8 PM Shabbat Worship	27 Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit
28 No Religious School Noon to 4 p.m. BESA Exhibit	29	30 6:30 PM As the World Turns				

TEMPLE EMANUEL:

Shabbat Worship Schedule

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5
6 PM FIRST FRIDAY DINNER
7:15 PM WORSHIP
Cheshvan 28
Gen. 25:19-28:9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:30 PM SUPPER & STUDY
8 PM WORSHIP
Kislev 12
Gen. 32:4-36:43

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12
8 PM WORSHIP
Kislev 5
Gen. 28:10-32:3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26
8 PM WORSHIP
Kislev 19
Gen. 37:1-40:23

November at-a-Glance

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4
7:30 PM
Book Club

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
CelebraTE Community Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Religious Philosophy

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18
BESA Panel Discussion

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Supper & Study

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
6:30 PM
As the World Turns

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CHANGE

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