

Emanuscript

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A LETTER FROM THE RABBI

Welcoming the Torah



It is a thrill to formally announce that the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, United Kingdom, has approved the transfer of custody of Czech Scroll #420, the Trebon Scroll, to Temple Emanuel (see *Emanuscript*, May 1, 2011). The Trebon Scroll had been Congregation Kol Am's only Torah – and just as we have welcomed so many of Kol Am's members to Temple Emanuel, so too are we delighted and grateful to welcome this beautiful and poignant treasure, a Holocaust Torah, to our home and family.

Over thousands of years, the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai has been described in folk tales as a wedding ceremony between God and the People Israel. In this metaphor, Mount Sinai, looming overhead, is the wedding canopy (*chuppah*) and the Torah, spelling out the terms of the covenant, is the marriage contract (*Ketubah*). So, at the end of the coming High Holy Day season, we are

planning a special ceremony at Temple Emanuel.

By "High Holy Day season" I don't just mean the big days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I'm talking about everything from the first day of the month of Elul, which marks 30 days until the Jewish New Year, penitential prayers called *Selichot* on the Sunday night before Rosh Hashanah, to prepare for the Ten Days Days of Awe (*Yamim Noraim*) between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the ancient harvest Festival of Booths, or *Sukkot*, that follows on its heels.

Sukkot is the culmination of it all; and the end of *Sukkot* is the grand finale, the single most joyous celebration of this 40-day extravaganza of introspection, solemnity, requesting and giving forgiveness, and the special joy that comes with work well done. The end of *Sukkot* is the birthday of the Torah, *Simchat Torah*, when we complete the previous year's cycle of Torah reading and begin anew. So it's the Torah's birthday. But the celebration of *Simchat Torah*, like the story of the giving of Torah at Sinai, is rich with wedding imagery:

- The person honored with reciting the blessing (*Aliyah*) over the final chapter of Deuteronomy is called The Groom of the Torah, or *Chattan Torah* (but nowadays women

participate as equals, so the Torah might have a bride, or *Kallat Torah*, instead),

- The person honored with the *Aliyah* to the first chapter of Genesis is called The Groom of Genesis (*Chattan B'rei-sheet* – or likewise, Bride of Genesis or *Kallat B'rei-sheet*);
- It is customary to hold a wedding canopy (*chuppah*) over the Torah and its reader, symbolizing the enduring love affair between the Jewish people and its God, as told through and shown by its eternal Torah;

I'm especially fond of a contemporary custom that has taken root in today's Reform movement: unrolling the entire Torah, using the whole congregation to display the Torah in its entirety and re-rolling it. It is a spectacular sight to behold, and it reminds me not just of a wedding, but of a marriage that has resulted in a family – enfolding the children in a loving embrace.

So – this *Simchat Torah* celebration will be one that you will not want to miss! Please mark your calendars for Shabbat, Friday, October 21 and plan to join us for a wonderful service and reception.

(Continued on page 4)

TEMPLE STAFF

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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

Please be sure to return the High Holy Days Forms to the temple office **no later than September 14th**, so we can serve the needs of our congregation in a timely manner. (If you did not receive the temple's informational mailing, please contact the office.)

Our second Friday Shabbat CelebraTE Dinners have been a huge success! Watch for the dinner reminders in the eBlast and Emanuscript **and be sure to RSVP at least four days in advance of the dinner, so we can order a sufficient amount of food. We will no longer be able to accept RSVPs received AFTER the Tuesday prior to the Friday dinner.**

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.

We always appreciate early notice regarding changes of address — otherwise, the temple is charged an additional fee by the Post Office for sending mail such as the *Emanuscript* to an expired address. Please help us to stay current!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are Survivors!



“We are survivors” can be heard triumphantly in any number of conversations. We hear it from the mouths of victims of catastrophe, man made or natural, from those recovering from severe illness, from races and creeds after political repression and persecution. We can say it ourselves referring as Jews to the Holocaust, or to our own personal situations. And we can say it as members of Temple Emanuel.

In October we are going to celebrate the survival of a Czech Torah Scroll that was looted from the town of Trebon, in the former Czechoslovakia. The Jews of Trebon were slaughtered; the scroll passed from Nazi hands, through the Czechoslovak government, and into the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, England, which lent it to Kol Am and now to Temple Emanuel. That is an inspiring tale of survival, and we can only imagine what that scroll has seen during its existence.

But caught in the effort of surviving, which is as consuming an effort as any we face, we have not time or luxury to ask or answer the fundamental question; “Why”? The answer is easy in the case

of the Czech Torah: “To continue to enlighten for generations, this Scroll survives just as Judaism must survive.” The Scroll is a symbol of the wisdom contained in it and as the wisdom must continue to last for generations so we want its embodiment to last. The horror of the Holocaust was the systematic attempt to destroy that wisdom and that spirit.

A participant in the survival of Joplin talks about the importance of survival as a reflection of human resilience and strength. Here the rebuilding of a community

“...the importance of survival as a reflection of human resilience.”

represents the morality of recognizing and supporting that resilience. Survival there is how to “get on with the business of life”, an important business for every human as it is for every creature.

Now it is time to think of Temple Emanuel, indeed a survivor. How hard we all worked, what time and funds we devoted, and how eager we were in this effort of survival. We cannot think of Temple Emanuel without thinking of our new members who have joined us from Kol Am.

Though their institution did not survive, we see in them the satisfaction of having their community survive as the together joined Temple Emanuel.

Let us celebrate that we have survived. Let us take

satisfaction in our accomplishment in beating the odds and proving wrong those who said we had no economic strength and no commitment of will after we finish a year in which we have balanced our budget. Unlike the survivors of Joplin, however, now is not the time steadfastly to “get on with the business of life.” Now is the time to ask and answer the important question: Why?

Without answering the “why” question above, we will not survive long. Young and old alike, those of us who have been here from the beginning and those of us joining only this year, must ask ourselves whether we want this model of Jewish community, the synagogue, to survive another generation. What does and can it offer us and our society? What energy and passion, financial and personal, are we willing to dedicate to the continued survival of Temple Emanuel?

Why did we want to survive and how shall we maintain the resolve we need to continue that mission? These are very difficult questions to answer and the race will require more sustained and longer range effort than that brief sprint we ran simply to survive. “Why” and “how” are the questions we face now and they are questions your Rabbi and your Board look to you to help answer now

Please start the New Year by answering these questions: Why did we survive; and how shall we maintain our resolve and engagement? I am asking every member to consider these questions and respond

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SEPTEMBER UPDATE

From the Religious School

By Liz Singer

Religious School Director

I recently got back from a great conference in North Carolina. I visited American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro. Of course it was a very impressive institution and campus. AHA, as the students call it, is a pluralistic boarding school for Jewish teens from all walks of life. It was opened to give students a chance to experience learning and living Judaism in a whole new way. Often these students are from communities that are more isolated and don't have access to the resources that we have here in St. Louis. When AHA opened in 2001, their mission was to afford everyone the opportunity to learn. After my experience there, I was thinking what would it take to get Temple Emanuel students experiencing Judaism in a whole new way? What barriers would we have to remove? These are the thought-provoking questions that motivates the conference attendees.

My conference sessions were certainly very informative, as well. The first session I went to was about non-traditional Religious School settings. As an example, at one temple the family education coordinator formed a *chavurah* (small group). Together, this group of families is required to go to a Shabbat service, leaving time to study with the Rabbi prior to the service. They engage in regular social action, and have an annual school retreat. Most importantly, an educator

comes to the home of the host family and leads the parents in studying what the students are learning. This has caused a nice community to form amongst the participating families. Each year a new *chavurah* forms. Could this be done for families that are not available on Sundays for Religious School at Temple Emanuel?

The second session that I attended was about different stories for every prayer in the prayer book. Retelling these stories will help families connect to the prayer. I am really excited to begin more storytelling at Temple Emanuel.

The final session I wanted to share a little about was "Creating Community in the Classroom". In this session we talked about the Four R's in the classroom: Rights, Responsibilities, Reputation (Class and Individual) and Routines. In this discussion we isolated the actions that take place before school starts, the actions that happen within the first 15 minutes of class and the actions that occur during the class time. We also discussed a lot of community activities. I look forward to sharing these strategies with Temple Emanuel's teachers at our upcoming staff orientation.

One of the themes that I took away from the conference is that if it isn't broke don't fix it. I met with Alan Levin one of the author's of the CHAI curriculum that our Religious School uses. It was really neat to have him as a resource. Alan continues to offer input into how we are structuring the

curriculum at Temple Emanuel. We are honing in on the Chai curriculum. With combined classes, it is imperative that we have a structured curriculum so there is no repetition from year to year, especially with changing teachers. Another tremendous resource was Etta King from the Jewish Women's Archives. She gave me access to an immense amount of primary resources, that could be really useful to our high schoolers when learning about different social issues like civil rights.

The conference highlighted a lot cultural arts such as storytelling and music. As I mentioned before, I would really like to infuse more of this into our temple culture. I know that last year we worked on engaging the students to help with the service and songleading through CelebraTE, but now I can't wait to hear the stories they have to tell.

Most importantly, I gained a great network of fellow educators. These individuals impressed me with their accessibility, the resources they can offer, and their willingness to do so. It confirmed that in the larger world of Jewish Education, we are all in this together. I can't wait for Temple Emanuel to reap the benefits. I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces again on September 11.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 6 – 17, 2011

Join an Ecumenical Tour of Israel led by Rabbi Joseph Rosenbloom and sponsored by Temple Emanuel and St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

For more information, contact Rabbi Rosenbloom at rabbijoe@testl.org or (314) 432-5877, ext. 3.

(Continued from page 2)

by writing me, email, snail mail or hand delivered note. We need your help here.

We have together succeeded in congregational survival. Let us now together join to conclude why and how to move forward.

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

Charles A. Lowenhaupt

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Repair the World

We always encourage our members to take advantage of opportunities to help “repair the world.” Mark your calendars for the events below that are of interest for the months of September and October.

September 18, 2011

CAP (Community Against Poverty) Volunteer Fair

3-5 p.m. at The Heights, Richmond Heights

For the St. Louis community, CAP is providing an opportunity to visit with approximately 30 agencies that help those that live in poverty in order to find volunteer opportunities—a great event for adults or young people looking for volunteer opportunities and information. The keynote speaker will be Bridget Flood, of Incarnate Word Foundation. An informational flyer will be on the bulletin board across from the temple office.

September 25, 2011

Medical Device Drive

BSKI and B'nai Amoona, along with the St. Louis HELP (Health Equipment Lending Program), is having a medical device drive. They are accepting donations of nearly every type of medical equipment which is then cleaned, refurbished and loaned to individuals in need, *at no cost*.

October 16, 2011

JEI (Jewish Environmental Initiative)

1—2:30 p.m.

Tree planting at the County Parks.

October 29—November 26

Social Action Month for the Jewish Community during the of *Chevan*. There will be a flyer for the special events for the month on the bulletin board across the hall from the temple office. A sample event: Outerwear Clothing Drive sponsored by JCRC and JSAN will be collecting coats, hats, gloves and scarves for recent immigrants served by the International Institute and children in need served by the Little Bit Foundation. A bin will be available in the Religious School wing for your gently used outerwear donations.



SAVE the DATE

Rededication of the Czech Holocaust Torah Scroll

from Kol Am to Temple Emanuel

Friday, October 21, 2011

Shabbat Service at 7:00 p.m. with reception to follow.

(Continued from page 1)

Please join me in showing deep gratitude and appreciation to the Ad Hoc Torah Celebration Committee and especially to Lee Braff for publicity and Beth Knight for the reception, as well as Maria Roundtree, Social Programming Chair, President of the Board of Trustees,

Charles Lowenhaupt, and Norm Berkowitz, the Immediate Past President of Congregation Kol Am and a member of the board of Temple Emanuel.

To be the home of the Trebon Scroll is to be the home of this survivor of the Holocaust, and in a way, the souls of the men, women, and children who owned it

in life. It is a great privilege and a tremendous responsibility. We are exultant, honored, and joyous. I hope and pray that someday, in joy we will return this scroll to a free and indigenous Czech Jewish community.

Tributes and Transitions

GENERAL FUND

Anonymous Donor.

Roger and Louise Sirota in memory of Helene Ruth Indin.

Roger and Louise Sirota in honor of Dr. Harvey Liebhaber's recovery.

Roger and Louise Sirota in memory of Simon Indin.

Roger and Louise Sirota in memory of Ethel Lipkien.

Jeff and Carol Solomon in honor of Al Brown's and Dr. Harvey Liebhaber's recoveries.

Betsy and Bruce Cohen in memory of Rachel Benrubi.

James Smith in memory of Jody Wolff.

Susie White in memory of Glen Elder.

Marie Corie in memory of Glen Elder.

Eliot and Sally Katz in memory Glen Elder.

Arnold Goldman in honor of Rabbi Kerber's service.

Dee Gannon in memory of Glen Elder.

RABBI KERBER DISCRETIONARY FUND

Roger and Louise Sirota in honor of the Sirota-Van Vliet wedding.

Dee Gannon in memory of Glen Elder.

RABBI ROSENBLUM

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alan Goodman in honor of Rabbi Rosenbloom's Beit Din participation.

FLOWER FUND

Herb Weitman in memory of Maximilian Weitman.

GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Marvin and Marilyn Levinson in honor of Herb Weitman's birthday.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Buddy and Linda Bearman

Mr. and Mrs. Evan and Leah Bronstein

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin and Pamela Brown

Mr. and Mrs. David and Sheryl Corman

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua and Jennifer Desotel

Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Harriet Dubinsky

Mr. and Mrs. William and Leah Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome and Catherine Gidlow

Mr. and Mrs. Stanford and Bebe Goldman

Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Jody Homans

Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Joanne Iskiwitch

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Nancy Koplar

Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Elaine Kramer

Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Shirley Mosinger

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Pat Null

Mr. and Mrs. Drew and Laura Vermeire

Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Amy Weinstock

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Nina Wolff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy to the family of Rachel Benrubi, mother of Rena Abrams.

Sympathy to the family of Jody Wolff, daughter of Edgar and Nina Wolff.

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

2011/5772

SELICHOT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Dessert and Study—Worship Service to Follow
8:00 p.m.
(RSVP required.)

SHABBAT SHUVAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Sabbath of the Return
8:00 p.m.

Please join us for a special Sabbath eve of reflections.

ROSH HASHANAH

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2011

Wednesday, September 28

Evening Service 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.

Youth Service/Program 10:00 a.m.

Tashlich at Tillis Park Following the
Traditional Service

YOM KIPPUR

OCTOBER 7-8, 2011

Friday, October 7

Kol Nidre 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8

Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.

Youth Service/Program 10:00 a.m.

Torah Study 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Service 3:00 p.m.

Yizkor/Memorial 4:00 p.m.

& Concluding Services

What's Happening at Temple Emanuel

FIRST FRIDAY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
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, SEPTEMBER 9
6 PM Dinner
7 PM Worship

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 **no later than Tuesday, September 6**.

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! **RSVPs are required!**

TE BOOK CLUB
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
7:30 PM Library

We will read the current best-seller, *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. (There is a long waiting list for this book at the County Library.)

Larson turns his literary nonfiction skills to the experiences of U.S. ambassador to Germany William E. Dodd and his family in Berlin in the early years of Hitler's rule. Dodd had been teaching history at the University of Chicago when he was summoned by FDR to the German ambassadorship. Larson, using lots of archival as well as secondary-source research, focuses on Dodd's first year in Berlin and, using Dodd's diary, chillingly portrays the terror and oppression that slowly settled over Germany in 1933. He also traces the Dodds' lives after their time in Germany.

SHABBAT WORSHIP
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
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.

RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
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, SEPTEMBER 23
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.

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

SELICHOT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
8 PM

Our Selichot observance will begin at 8 p.m. with Dessert & Study and conclude with prayer and worship. **Please RSVP** to the Temple Office at (314) 432-5877 or office@testl.org.

ROSH HASHANAH
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Please join us in our celebration of Rosh Hashanah. No tickets are required.

Wednesday, September 28:
Evening Service at 8 p.m. A celebration with refreshments will follow the service.

Thursday, September 29:
Traditional Service at 10 a.m. *Youth Service/Program* at 10 a.m. in Room 1 (recommended for children in primary grades).

Tashlich at Tillis Park following the Traditional Service.

SHABBAT WORSHIP
SHABBAT SHUVAH
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
8 PM Worship

Held on the Sabbath eve of reflections. Our emphasis is on an updated, interpretive translation of prayers, with familiar melodies for

ONEG ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS!

Early this summer, Susie White assumed responsibility for our Friday night onegs. Thanks to her leadership, our onegs are now provided by a wonderful cadre of congregant volunteers. Onegs are provided after every Shabbat service *except* the Celebrate, which, instead, is regularly preceded by a community dinner.

Special thanks go out to the following congregants who provided the oneg goodies during the months of June, July and August:

LENORE SCHUFF
DEE GANNON
KEN COHEN
SUSIE WHITE
ROBYN & JOHN DEMOTT
HEDY GLOVER
KIM LEVY
BARBARA LEWINGTON
RUTH GOLDBERG
EDIE WEBSTER
BEBE GOLDMAN
TERRY DUFFY
MARILYN LEVINSON
SHIRLEY MOSINGER

And many thanks, Susie, for chairing this ad hoc committee!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9:30 AM Torah Study First Friday 7 PM Worship
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 9:30 AM Torah Study 6 PM Dinner 7 PM CelebraTE Worship
11 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPENING DAY! 9 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Service	12	13 7 PM Liturgy & Religious Philosophy Committee Meeting	14	15 7:30 PM TE Book Club	16 8 PM Worship	17 9:30 AM Torah Study
18 Religious School 9 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Service	19 10 AM Religious Philosophy	20	21	22 6:30 PM Board Meeting	23 6:30 PM Supper & Study 8 PM Worship	24 9:30 AM Torah Study
25 Selichot Religious School Family Retreat (No Classes at TE) 8:00 PM Selichot Dessert & Study followed by Worship Service	26	27	28 Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 PM Rosh Hashanah Evening Service	29 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 PM Traditional & Youth Services Tashlich at Tillis Park following Services	30 Shabbat Shuvah 8 PM Worship Shabbat Shuvah (Sabbath of the Return)	

TEMPLE EMANUEL:

Shabbat Worship Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
7 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
First Friday
Shoft'tim, Deut. 16:18-21:9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
6 PM DINNER
7 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
CelebraTE Shabbat Worship
Ki Tzeitzei, Deut. 21:10-25:19

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Ki Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
6:30 PM SUPPER & STUDY
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Supper & Study
Nitzavim-Vayelech, Deut.
29:9-31:30

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
8 PM SHABBAT WORSHIP
Shabbat Shuvah
Haazinu, Deut. 32:1-52

September at-a-Glance

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
7:30 PM
TE Book Club

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
10 AM
Religious Philosophy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
6:30 PM
Board Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
8 PM
Selichot

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Rosh Hashanah

(See schedules on pgs. 5 & 6)

REQUESTED

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