



# Temple Am Echad

The South Shore Reform Congregation  
*One People ~ One Place*

## THE BULLETIN

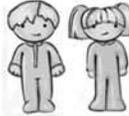
December 2011 ~ Kislev/Tevet 5772

[www.am-echad.org](http://www.am-echad.org)

**Family Shabbat Service**  
December 2 @ 7:15 PM  
pages 9 & 16

### *From the Rabbi's Desk*



 **Shluffy Time**  
December 3  
7 PM  
page 9

This is the season for miracles in many traditions. Hard hearts soften and cruel circumstances transform into hope and blessings. The fictional character of Scrooge embodies all that we uphold as morally reprehensible. His views of the poor – condescending and coldly calculated – contradict what is preached on *bimahs*, pulpits and altars across the land.

**“Bullying is not Kosher”**  
program  
December 4 @ 9:30 AM  
page 7

In many traditions, including our own, this compassion for the poor was not always so clear cut. In the *midrash* on Ecclesiastes, we find a disturbing passage where a rabbi is explaining wisdom by means of an example.

**Sisterhood Book Review**  
December 7  
8 PM  
page 12



A Roman noblewoman challenged Rabbi Yose (Yoh-see) ben Halafta, saying to him, “What sense is conveyed by ‘He gives wisdom to the wise’ [Dan. 2:21]? Should the verse not have read, ‘He gives wisdom to fools’?” Rabbi Yose replied, “Have you any jewelry?” She said, “Yes.” Rabbi Yose: “If two persons, one rich and the other poor, should come to you to borrow your jewelry, to which would you lend it?” The noblewoman: “To the one who is rich.” “Why?” “Because the one who is rich has the means to repay should he lose it; but the one who is poor - how is he to repay?” Rabbi Yose: “Let your ears hear what your mouth is saying. You would lend your jewelry only to a person who is rich. Shall the Holy One, then, give wisdom to fools?”

 **Book Fair**  
Sun., Dec. 11  
page 6  
**Win a Digital Frame!**

According to the rabbi, a wise man does not lend to the poor. His opinion is not the last word on the subject, not by a long shot. However, we do see how prevalent this attitude was and why we recognize this point of view in our own day.

**Chanukah Party**  
December 18 @ 11:45 AM  
page 9



The hope and the blessing is the historical view. We can compare the words of Rabbi Yose some 1700 years ago to our own developed sense of communal responsibility. Rabbi Yose believed in *tzedakah* but he had no concept of a middle class or how to raise up the economic standing of households and communities through business loans or the micro-loan system. Some may still play Scrooge but their actions are loudly broadcast. One cannot hide such public moral choices from the public square any more.

 **Joint Chanukah**  
**Dinner**  
Dec. 21 @ 6:30 PM  
page 12

There are miracles and then there are the miracles that bring profound change for all of our society. This is the season to recognize the miracles that surround us.  
*Hag Sameach!*

**Temple Am Echad: A thriving home for Reform Judaism on the South Shore of Long Island**

## Shabbat/Holiday Services

**Friday, December 2** **7:15 PM**

Family Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 3** **9 AM**

Torah Study & Service

**Friday, December 9** **8 PM**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 10** **9 AM**

Torah Study & Service

**Friday, December 16** **8 PM**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 17**

Torah Study **9 AM**

Bar Mitzvah of Brian Petterman, **10 AM**  
son of Adriana & Alejandro Petterman

**Tuesday, December 20**

Erev Chanukah ~ First Candle

**Friday, December 23** **8 PM**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 24** **9 AM**

Torah Study & Service

**Friday, December 30** **8 PM**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 31** **9 AM**

Torah Study & Service

### Shabbat Shalom!

To greet a Jew on Shabbat, you say “Gut Shabbes” to a Jew of Eastern European origin, “Good Shabbat” to a Jew who uses modern Sephardic pronunciation or “Shabbat Shalom” to someone who understands the Hebrew blessing for a Sabbath of peace. But no matter which one you use, you can’t go wrong – good wishes are always appreciated.

(*Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding Judaism*)



## Torah Portions

**December 2/3 – 7 Kislev**

*Parashat Vayeitzei*

Genesis 28:10-32:3

Haftarah – Hosea 12:13-14:10



**December 9/10 – 14 Kislev**

*Parashat Vayishlach*

Genesis 32:4-6:43

Haftarah – Hosea 11:7-12:12

**December 16/17 – 21 Kislev**

*Parashat Vayeishev*

Genesis 37:1-40:23

Haftarah – Amos 2:6-3:8

**December 23/24 – 28 Kislev**

*Shabbat Chanukah*

*Parashat Mikeitz*

Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah – Zekhariah 4:1-7

**December 30/31 – 5 Tevet**

*Parashat Vayigash*

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Haftarah – Ezekiel 37:15-28



The excitement of learning separates youth from old age.  
As long as you are learning, you’re not old.

~ Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, US Medical Physicist

### Learn with Rabbi Jacob

Saturdays at 9 AM: **Torah Study**

Tuesdays at 10 AM: 12/13, 12/20

**“God, Righteousness & the Rabbis”**

### Beginning Hebrew with Ira

Mondays at 7:15 pm: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19

# A Presidential Message



Two incidents occurred recently, one in Queens and one in Lynbrook - our home village - which bear mentioning and which we would like to bring to your attention. In Queens, swastikas were painted on public libraries. In Lynbrook, a desk was placed on the sidewalk with a sign that said that the desk was free for anyone who wished to take it. Someone placed on the sign the words "Jew junk."

Anti-Semitism, unfortunately, is still alive. After the First World War, anti-Semitism in Europe was fairly prevalent. The Dreyfus affair was a memory, having occurred in the French Third Republic in the 1890's, but others, including Adolf Hitler in Weimar Germany, picked up the banner. In England, T.S. Eliot wrote in his 1920 poem entitled "Burbank With a Baedeker: Bleistein with a Cigar:"



But this or such was Bleistein's way:  
 A saggy bending of the knees  
 And elbows, with the palms turned out,  
 Chicago Semite Viennese

A lustreless protrusive eye  
 Stares from the protozoic slime  
 At a perspective of Canaletto.  
 The smoky candle end of time

Declines. On the Rialto once.  
 The rats are underneath the piles.  
 The jew is underneath the lot.  
 Money in furs. The boatman smiles...

Another well-known English (and Jewish) poet, who recently died at the age of 96 in London, wrote a scathing verse indictment of Eliot's anti-Semitism as a rebuke to Eliot's, including that poem from 1920 in an anthology published in 1948. It would seem that, after the Holocaust, this was inexcusable. That writer was Emanuel Litvinoff, a British writer and a respected figure in English literature, who wrote a poem entitled "To T.S. Eliot" and contained the following words:

So shall I say it is not eminence chills  
 but the snigger from behind the covers of history,  
 the sly words and the cold heart

and footprints made with blood upon a continent?  
 Let your words  
 tread lightly on this earth of Europe  
 lest my people's bones protest.

As a postscript to this, in 1951, Litvinoff, an admirer of T.S. Eliot, was to give a poetry reading for the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. T.S. Eliot was present. Some in the crowd took umbrage at the perceived insult to Eliot. It was reported that a dissenting voice from the back of the room was heard muttering "It's a good poem. It's a very good poem." That speaker was Thomas Stearns Eliot.

We still need to confront anti-Semitism, wherever and whenever it occurs. Unfortunately, that anti-Semitism still exists is a fact of life, not only in Europe but here in the United States, in the twenty-first century, in this year 2011, right here in our own back yard.

~ Richard Braverman & Abby Himmelstein

## Temple Am Echad Congratulates Our New & Life Members Being Honored on December 9

### New Members

Jillian Asch	Belle Littenberg
Paul & Jennifer Cohen	Edie Mandel
Brian & Randi Comack	Lawrence Marcus
Layne & Jennifer Frank	Peter & Susan Neufeld
Jason & Suzanne Horowitz	Jordan & Tara Samelson
Hal & Deborah Kazdin	Yakov & Alla Sionov
Daniel & Ketti Krieger	Lee & Jeanette Skoblow

### New Life Members

Richard & Rhonda Barsel	Calvin & Lenore Kramer
Phyllis Bernstein	Stuart & Jill Krueger
Richard & Judi Braverman	Walter & Phyllis Lido
Richard & Mildred Brock	Peter & Ann Liss
Stuart & Barbara Bromberg	Fay Messner
Robert & Deborah Corwin	Stanley & Judy Mills
Mitchell & Donna Epstein	David & Elsie Napell
Janet Ettelman	Marge Nordell
Estelle Fried	Jeffrey & Joyce Rabin
Herbert Gold	Stanley & Edith Sheidlower
Lou Gross	Roberta Smith
Joan Hahn	Aaron & Florence Steiger
Norma Imershein	William & Susan Stein
Doris Israel	Robert & Edith Weinstein
Evelyn Kern	Phyllis Zulkowitz

# Renovation Committee

The Renovation Committee is making preliminary plans to move forward following receipt of exciting schematic designs from Michael Landau Architects on November 2. Landau's vast experience, coupled with an understanding of our needs, wants and finances has resulted in an excellent working relationship, now approaching four years. Our renovation is a process as we put great thought into each phase in an attempt to best meet our needs from a practical as well as an aesthetic view and to ensure that we "get the most bang for our buck!" And as always, we take in account the worthwhile input received from our focus groups.

The main change to the outside of our building will be the **entrance**. Expect to see a spectacular transparent, glassy canopy that will drape over rebuilt steps and have a glowing effect at night. A new handicapped ramp will be built on the right side of the entrance leading to the top of the stairs. Entrance to the building will be through a wide succession of tall glass doors. A second set of doors at the inner vestibule (leading to the lobby) will be constructed from the Temple Sinai Ark doors, inset into a wood frame. Above it all will be stained glass panels featuring the Ten Commandments, also from the Sinai sanctuary. Preliminary drawings reveal a dynamic, original and welcoming facade.

Working our way inside, the **office space** has been reconfigured. The Rabbi's office is moving to a new location to allow better access. The renovated space will also provide a better working environment for the Religious School office, the Cantor and the rest of the staff.

The character of the **Social Hall** will be dramatically changed by constructing a new "step" ceiling with a rippled effect designed to illuminate light both outward towards the walls as well as the center. Now, try to visualize three curved ceiling beams with a sconce-like fixture at each end. If viewed at a certain angle, the perspective ingeniously resembles a menorah. A chandelier centerpiece as well as additional spotlights will serve to showcase events. Our existing, high quality rosewood walls will be stripped and refinished to bring out their beauty. New carpeting will add more life and the back wall will be a soft suede material. New doors will lead from the lobby to the Social Hall and an area of glass doors will be added on the wall opposite to the doors that lead to the Biblical Garden to bring even more light into the space. The stage will be replaced by a rounded wall (adding 500 square feet) with storage behind and towards the second level. Fans of the Temple show need not worry. Plans for a portable stage will be included. The overall capacity of the room will increase from 205 to 260 (with a dance floor) and up to 300 for more sedentary occasions, i.e., speakers, bands and other special events.

The current viewpoint of putting comfort before aesthetics was taken into consideration when focus was placed on the **Sanctuary**. First and foremost, it was determined that seating had to be modified to create more generous spacing (the exact type of seating is under discussion). Configuration of the *bimah* will also be changed to allow additional seating on the sides so a small group can sit around it. The floor will be raised to reduce the slope resulting in a need for



*The Proposed Entrance*



*New Social Hall, Looking from the Sanctuary*

only two steps up to the *bimah*. This new design is more flexible and brings people higher and closer, thus creating a less formal, more intimate setting when needed, especially useful when children are involved. Presently, the Rabbi and Cantor are about 8 feet above the congregation. Handicapped access will be provided with a short ramp. In addition, there will be new carpeting installed and another set of doors will be placed at the foot of the Sanctuary to promote an easier flow of traffic.

Changes to the lobby will be minimal and based on finances, however, it was discussed to modify the ceiling lights, create a new set of glass doors to the garden and modify the flooring. It is more likely that just minor decorating changes will be made.

The stairs to the second floor will be refinished and will lead to a renovated President's Lounge which will feature some of the Judaica collected over the years. The Youth Lounge space will be enlarged to create a new multi-purpose room that will support a variety of programming and functions. The bathrooms on that level will also be modernized to better serve activities that occur on the second floor. Finally, a new Youth Lounge will be built in what is currently Room 5.

Although nothing is etched in stone and a series of approvals are required, we are hoping to procure authorization from our Board of Directors so we can begin this initial phase of renovation in about six months. Completion of the majority of the work would be planned to be completed by the 2012 holidays.

Since "a picture paints a thousand words," enlarged renderings will be displayed in our lobby.

*~ Alan Paskoff, Phyllis Frenkel*



**Social Hall - Looking Toward the Sanctuary**

## *Temple Am Echad's Ode to Woodstock*

### **Thebner Artist-In-Residence Weekend**



**'woodstock'**

3 days of peace,  
music...and love

## **May 4, 5, and 6, 2012**

**Temple Am Echad Will Celebrate  
The Spirit And Music  
That Defined A Generation.  
Plan To Join Us For  
A Great Weekend  
For People Of All Ages!**

Would you like to help? We welcome anyone who would like to join our committee and work on this event. Contact any one of us. PEACE!

- Ⓜ Michael Scholnick  
483-9598, [michael\\_scholnick@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_scholnick@hotmail.com)
- Ⓜ Barbara Stern  
536-1708, [bhstern@verizon.net](mailto:bhstern@verizon.net)
- Ⓜ Andy Trevers  
374-1644, [andyonli@aol.com](mailto:andyonli@aol.com)

**Watch This Space For More Information**

## Cantor's Corner



I wonder what ever happened to....? How many times have you said that to yourself? About a year ago, a friend of mine from college crossed my mind. Kate Nesbitt and I had sung in a number of Gilbert and Sullivan productions together back at Oberlin and we, along with our other musical friends, had shared many Sunday brunches together. Kate was a funny, feisty, bright and talented lady - a real character. She graduated the year before I did and, like so many people, we simply fell out of touch.

In this Google age, tracking someone down is much easier than it used to be. After a bit of surfing, I found some information and a telephone number for a Kate Nesbitt in New Hampshire. Was it her? What the heck - let's give it a try! I called and, sure enough, it was "my" Kate. We talked for a short while and she seemed more stunned than pleased. I came away from the conversation feeling somewhat disappointed, thinking that perhaps it had been a mistake to simply call "out of the blue." Within a week or so, I had pretty much forgotten about the whole thing.

Then, a short while after the High Holy Days on a Tuesday morning, I received a "friend request" on Facebook from Kate! I confirmed and headed for my law office. No sooner had I taken off my coat than the phone rang. It was Kate. She said that she was coming to New York in the next few days for a meeting and would be around through the weekend. Did I want to meet in Brooklyn or Manhattan for lunch or dinner? All this happened about a year after I had made my initial call.

We met in Brooklyn at a Thai restaurant, and spent about two and a half hours catching up. It was great! Then my wife Zo and my daughter Marisa and her husband Adam met us, and we all went for coffee. It was really fun to see an old pal, to introduce my family and to rekindle a friendship. It had been perhaps thirty-nine years since we had seen or spoken to each other...simply amazing!

So, it hadn't been a mistake to call Kate after all. Who have you not seen or heard from in a while? I wonder what ever happened to...? Hey, make the call...you'll be glad you did! With affection,

~ Cantor Jerry Korobow

## Mazel Tov to:

**Brian Petterman** will celebrate becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, December 17. Joining him on this special occasion are his parents, Alejandro and Adriana Petterman, and his brother, Ben. Brian's proud grandparents, Dario and Raquel Carpovich, will also be there to share in the excitement.



Brian is an eighth grader at Woodmere Middle School. He is very athletic and loves sports such as soccer and basketball. He enjoys going out with his friends and riding his bike. Brian hopes one day to go to a great college and make a career in the stock market. His hope for the world is to stop the violence in Middle East.

### Bookfair

Sunday, Dec. 11

9:30 - 11:45 AM

Win A Digital Photo Frame!



- All Book Purchases Qualify For Raffle
- Drawing To Be Held at Noon, Dec. 11
- Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Prizes For 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Parents Are Encouraged To Attend The Fair With Their Child's Class.

Look For Flyers To Be Sent Home With Class Times Listed.

Buy A Book ~ Get An Entry  
Buy 2 Books ~  
Get 2 Entries  
Get A Raffle Ticket For  
Every Book Purchased



## *Saperstein/Bernstein Religious & Hebrew School*



With the beginning of the month of December, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Chanukah. Just as our ancestors have done for generations, we light the Chanukah menorah as a reminder of the miracle that occurred in the Temple as the Jews cleaned and rededicated the sacred

building. The very meaning of the word Chanukah speaks to this event, for Chanukah means “rededication.” In preserving this definition through our celebration, I wanted to ensure that we did not lose another very important meaning of this Hebrew word. It also means education. We may know the story of Chanukah, but what are we doing each year to make our celebration new again? How are we continuing to learn about our heritage, our past, even what our ancestors felt as they experienced this miracle?

On **Sunday, December 4 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM**, we are joining together with our entire 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents for a learning opportunity entitled “**Bullying Isn’t Kosher.**” We will explore our role as a community in response to bullying, our opportunities as individuals and how our Jewish tradition responds. Through dynamic and interactive programming, our families will address the very issues our ancestors did during the time of Chanukah, including alienation and discrimination.

We are instructed by our heritage to not only celebrate this joyous holiday, but also to continue to engage in learning and educating ourselves. We look forward to seeing all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade families on December 4 to accomplish this very goal. *B’Shalom,*

~ Rabbi Debra Bennet

### **Madrichim Logo Contest!**

All Madrich are eligible.  
Design a Logo for our Madrichim Program!  
The logo will be put on T-Shirts,  
Bulletin items, and more.  
Prizes for the winning design!  
Any questions? Email  
Donna at [digby185@aol.com](mailto:digby185@aol.com) or  
Paul at [paukantro@hotmail.com](mailto:paukantro@hotmail.com)

### **School Dates to Remember!**

Friday, Dec. 2	Family Shabbat at 7:15 PM Led by grades K - 2
Sunday, Dec. 4	Grades 3 - 6, 9:30 - 11 AM Parent/Student Learning “Bullying Isn’t Kosher”
Tuesday, Dec. 20	School-Wide Chanukah Celebration
Friday, Dec. 23	K-2 Grade Shabbat Service

Sunday, December 25 - January 2  
No School ~ Winter Break

### **Holidays are Coming!**

Give The Perfect Present ~

### **Gift Cards.**

They Always Fit!



For your convenience, cards will be available for purchase at Temple on:

Dec. 4: 10 AM - 4 PM

Dec. 11: 9:30 AM - 12 NOON

Dec. 18: 9:30 AM - 12 NOON

Dec. 21 at the Joint Sisterhood/Men’s Club  
**Chanukah Dinner**

Also available by calling:

Gilda Deckel (791-2869)

Steve Honig (481-7150)

Stu Smoller (485-0175)



### *Family/Social Action Shabbat Service*

**Friday, December 2 at 7:15 PM**

with a sandwich-making  
Social Action project  
during the *Oneg*.



*with a special blessing honoring  
Gene & Sandy Alexander’s  
45th Wedding Anniversary*

# Early Childhood Happenings

Sue Chaplick and Barbara Goodman, Directors

The New Year has brought many new and exciting beginnings to our Early Childhood Center. We welcomed the New Year with apples and honey, and listened to Rabbi “Glenn” blow the shofar. Our children decorated the Temple Sukkah beautifully with handmade fruits and vegetables. Simchat Torah was celebrated with Rabbi Glenn in the sanctuary. The children happily marched with the flags they had made and were shown the Temple’s magnificent Torahs.

The children in our school seem extremely comfortable and have experienced a smooth transition to their new classes, teachers and peers. Our dedicated and exceptional staff will continue to encourage the children to learn, have fun and, most of all, feel good about themselves and school. Our school has gained its outstanding reputation because of all the enthusiasm, energy and hard work that our loyal and devoted staff gives each and every day.

To celebrate the fall season, the children went pumpkin picking. For our younger children, the staff created a farm right here at Temple Am Echad. The teachers and staff dressed in farm attire and visited our “pumpkin patch” to choose one to end the unit on fall and farm life. Our Pre-K children went to White

Post Farms and went pumpkin-picking in a real pumpkin patch.

During the month of November, the children were involved in activities revolving around Thanksgiving, fall and the harvest as well as Election

Day. They were acquainted with the voting process and proceeded to vote in class on such topics as their favorite color, snack, ice cream flavor or after school activity. Thanksgiving was celebrated with a

Thanksgiving meal shared by the Pilgrims and their Native American friends. The children had a great time wearing their costumes, singing Thanksgiving songs and helping the teachers tell the story of the first Thanksgiving. We ended the month with a visit from

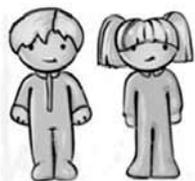
“Tepee Ted” who taught the children about Native American culture. Our Pre-K children helped build an authentic buffalo hide tepee. All of our nursery school children participated in a Native American experience and everyone made an age-appropriate take-home craft.

As you read this article, Chanukah will almost be

upon us. We wish all of our nursery school and Temple families a fun-filled and joyous holiday. The highlight for us here is seeing the children’s smiling faces and sharing their excitement and enthusiasm for learning. We are committed to

giving the children a well-rounded and nurturing pre-school education. Please feel free to stop by with any concerns, questions or compliments, or just to say hello. Our door is always open!





Shluffy Time ~  
Saturday, December 3  
at 7 PM

A short, FREE bedtime program for  
parents and their young children

The kids will have fun preparing a  
treat to eat and creating an arts &  
crafts project. Then they will get to  
relax on blankets\* as Rabbi Jacob  
reads them a bedtime story. Finally,  
they'll have milk and their treat  
before going home to bed!

**All Are  
Welcome!**



Please RSVP by December 1  
(so we have enough treats)

Call the office at 593-4004  
or contact

Gilda: 791-2865/[gildeck@optonline.net](mailto:gildeck@optonline.net)  
Barbara: 536-1708/[bhstern@verizon.net](mailto:bhstern@verizon.net).

\*Please bring a blanket for the floor.

**Men's Club Invites You!**

**Chanukah Party**  
Sunday, December 18  
Temple Ballroom



Party Starts at 11:45 AM  
(right after Sunday School)

**Food, Fun, Prizes  
and Surprises  
for the Whole Family**

Admission ~ \$5 pp includes  
lunch and 1 raffle ticket

No reservations needed. Just  
show up and have a great time!

*Experience*

*A Summer that Lasts a Lifetime*



**EISNER AND CRANE LAKE**

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM CAMPS

**It's not too early to think about next summer!**

A presentation was made at Religious School in  
November to introduce Eisner and Crane Lake Camps  
to our students. Space is limited so now is the time to  
check it out.

**\$1,000 Incentives Available  
for New Campers**

*For information, call camp directly or  
contact the Temple or Religious School office*

*[EisnerCraneLake.urjcamp.org](http://EisnerCraneLake.urjcamp.org)  
201-804-9700*

## Social Action

Last month Temple Am Echad hosted a Social Action Shabbat on November 4, highlighting the ever-growing issue of poverty and hunger in our country and our community. Instead of being greeted by platters piled high with scrumptious baked goods, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and juice at the Oneg Shabbat immediately following Friday night services, congregants entered the ballroom to find pitchers of water and a one-saltine-per-person ration for each of us. The congregation was not its usual, lively self when everyone saw the poor offerings. Part of the Oneg, or joy, in our Oneg Shabbat each week is the yummy sweet treats from the local bakery. Some people were just curious while others were downright disgruntled. And to think this was not their dinner that was being missed, just an extra dessert!

Rabbi Jacob told us that a family on food stamps has a budget of \$31.50 per person per week to spend on food. That is roughly \$1.50 per meal to feed a hungry person. What can you buy to sustain a person for \$1.50? Maybe a yogurt? Or a cup of soup? Certainly not a full nutritious dinner. There are now over 249,000 people on Long Island below the poverty line. That translates to a family of four living on less than \$22,000 a year. Imagine trying to provide all the necessities of life for 4 people on just that. After giving us some “food for thought,” the regular Oneg Shabbat fare was made available to all.

On Sunday, November 6, the Social Action Committee continued the theme of food insecurity by hosting a breakfast program entitled “Who’s Hungry?” Speakers from the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN), Mazon, Hatzilu and Feed the Hungry shared information about their programs. We were joined by the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes for some hands-on workshops. The children helped make sandwiches for the soup kitchen at the INN, figured out how to shop for nutritious groceries on a limited budget, and learned just what food pantries are and how they operate.

All in all, it was a very good weekend for raising awareness of poverty and hunger here on Long Island. Many, many thanks to Rabbi Jacob, Rabbi Bennet, David Napell, Stephen Miller, Heidi and Mike Scholnick, Sheila Plotkin, Rhona Goldman and Elaine Levy for all of your hard work to make this weekend possible.

Please call, write and email your legislators and

implore them not to balance the budget by cutting spending on vital programs such as SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps). These programs work, and are needed now more than ever. *B’Shalom,*

~ Irene Ehrlich and Phyllis Zuckerbrot

## Youth Group News

### AESH and JYG

The youth groups have been off to a great start with many exciting new programs. In November, we made *mezuzot*. Just in time for the holidays, we are making our own soap. Please stay tuned for more exciting youth group programs.

We have created a new Youth Committee and would love more parents to participate. We would love your ideas and input. We meet monthly on Sunday mornings from 10:30 – 11:45 AM. Please email Emily Weintrob at [amechadyouth@gmail.com](mailto:amechadyouth@gmail.com) for more information.

#### Soap Making Program:

AESH, Grades 4 - 5, Wed, Dec. 7 from 6 - 7:15 PM

JYG, Grades 6 - 8, Wed, Dec. 14, from 6 - 7:15 PM

*Chag Chanukah Sameach,*

~ Emily Weintrob

### ONESY

In October, ONESY held its annual “Halloween for the Hungry” food drive. Over 50 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected from local homes and donated to the INN to help feed hungry families on LI. A special thanks to the 8th and 9th graders who helped ONESY collect the bags of food.

As winter approaches, ONESY is in the beginning phases of planning our annual Shul-In, a multi-youth group event, which includes a sleepover at the temple and various other programs.

If you are in grades 9-12, make sure to come check out ONESY at one of our weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9 PM. We’d love to see you and your friends there. We look forward to a productive and fun year ahead in 2012.

~ Tess Lewin-Jacus, ONESY President

### College Contact

The first candle for Chanukah will be lit on the evening of December 20. Parents of sophomores through post graduates – make sure to send your children their menorahs!

# Help Sisterhood be a Winner at Mah Jongg!

This year, order your Mah Jongg cards through Sisterhood for you, your friends and your neighbors.

Standard cards:  
\$7 each

Large print cards:  
\$8 each

(same as in stores)



Cards will be mailed directly to our homes in late March.

Help make Sisterhood a winner ~ if we order 35 cards or more, The National Mah Jongg League sends us a donation.

(Note: If we do not reach the 35 card threshold, you will get your check back.)

For info, please call  
Sheryl Mallah at  
599-3379



Drop off or Mail coupon below with check payable to *Sisterhood Temple Am Echad*, to Temple.

Deadline: Jan. 15

**Mah Jongg Cards ~ Attn. Sheryl Mallah**

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Gather Your Friends  
and Join Us for a  
Fun Night and  
Sweet Treats at our



## Girls Gala Game Night!

Wednesday, February 15 at 7 PM



\$10 gets you Admission,  
a Raffle Ticket and  
Sweet Treats.

Reserve by February 8

For Information,  
contact Pat Glass  
(599-2378) or  
Carole Schragar  
(791-2819)



## Judaica Shop



See the Lobby Display at Temple



### Mazel Tov to:

Michelle & Harry Leonard on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel Elyse Leonard to Timothy Coyle.

### Get Well to:

Paul Sanzone, son of Jane Sanzone.

### Condolences to:

Bruce Kerner on the passing of his brother, Gary Kerner.

Jane Sanzone on the passing of her mother, Shirley Newman.

Temple Am Echad mourns the passing of our caring, studios member, *Irving Glass*.

# WRJ/Sisterhood of Temple Am Echad



Sisterhood is one place in our temple that provides an opportunity for women to do so many worthwhile endeavors. If social action is your “thing,” we have many projects from the women’s shelter to the Feed the Hungry program to keeping abreast of legislation and women’s issues in the news. If you love to organize and provide needed help for people, we have Trash to Treasures three times a year as well as clothing drives. Love to cook and bake? We need you. Love to eat? Ok, we have that covered. We need all kinds of talents and skills to keep our Sisterhood the vibrant giving place that it is!

During November we saw many varied and unusual successful events take place. We had a great paid-up membership dinner with entertainment that was “magical” and over 100 women were present to enjoy the evening.

On December 4, we will be hosting our Second Annual Vendor’s Fair. This time we have planned a DAY TO SHOP and will be in the Temple Ballroom from 12 NOON to 4 PM. You can come, browse and invite your friends. We will be having some great snacks to buy and admission is FREE. Join us and save your shopping until then. On December 7, we are having a book review at Janet Gelfand’s house, discussing the book *10 Beach Road* by Wendy Wax. Please call Janet at 887-1057 to let her know if you will be joining us. Men’s Club and Sisterhood band together to host a wonderful Chanukah dinner with special entertainment on December 21. RSVP to the Temple office to save your place and send your check.

Don’t forget to include gift cards on your gift list. We have so many stores that participate in this program and who does not love getting a \$\$\$ gift?

We are honored that some of our Sisterhood Members will be attending the Biennial Convention in Washington, D.C. We look forward to hearing of their adventures when they return.

Watch for information coming soon about our game night on February 15 at 7 PM. Get your group ready for a fun night, so reserve your spot and make sure you are included in the event.

To make a difference, Sisterhood needs you to be a member and help us to help others.

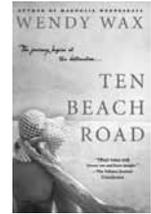
Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

~ Greta Kantrowitz

## Book Review

Wednesday,  
December 7 at 7:30 PM

“Ten Beach Road “  
by Wendy Wax



Jean Marion will lead the discussion at the home of Janet Gelfand. RSVP to Janet at 887-1057

Beautiful cards with handwritten messages can be sent through the Steiker, Spitzer, Rosenfeld Fund. Celebrate weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and so many happy occasions. Send get well wishes to family and friends. Cards can be sent for condolences. This fund supports Sisterhood.

Contact Sandy Alexander to purchase at:  
[sandra.sandyalex@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.sandyalex@gmail.com) to purchase.

## A Day to Shop!

Second Annual Vendor’s Fair  
Temple Ballroom  
Sun., Dec. 4 from Noon - 4 PM  
ADMISSION IS FREE!

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who helped make our Fall Clothing Drive on October 23 such a success. Enough clothing, outerwear and shoes were collected to distribute to four charities. We also want to thank the volunteers who helped collect the donations and who drove to the drop off locations. Watch for our Spring Clothing Drive on April 15.

~ June Resnick and Sandi Simons

## Men's Club Moments



December is a month of holidays in the United States. Our special holiday in December is Chanukah. Chanukah is not a big religious holiday. It's not even mentioned in the Torah. But it is a reason to celebrate. We got the Temple back from the bad guys and that was a very good thing. We still can be happy about that even though it happened more than 2000 years ago.

So, to help celebrate, the Men's Club has two special occasions. On Sunday, December 18, the Men's Club is once again sponsoring the Chanukah party. It is for all the kids from our Temple Religious and Nursery Schools and conveniently happens right after Sunday School at 11:45 AM. So parents and grandparents, bring your children and grandchildren or meet them after Sunday School because there will be lots of fun. The \$5 admission includes food and a raffle ticket so everyone will get a chance to win a prize. You can buy additional raffle tickets for even more chances to win. There will be face painting and a magic show. We do this every year and it is a great way to celebrate Chanukah. (See ad on page 9).

For us older kids, there will be the Joint Chanukah Dinner with Sisterhood on December 21. The Men's Club will provide the dinner and Sisterhood has booked "Echoes of Sinatra" as the entertainment. This should be a great evening celebrating the holiday. Please see the ad in the bulletin on how to make reservations.

Thanks to Dave Schragger for setting up our Paid Up Event at the Guys and Dolls Pool Hall in November. It was very well attended and lots of fun.

Lastly, to everyone who participated in Bye Bye Bubbe, this year's show, WOW! Kudos to Linda Tsuruoka for the lyrics and for directing the show, to Diane Smoller for writing it, and to Rob Himmelstein and Vivian Blumstein for producing it this year. It was another wonderful production.

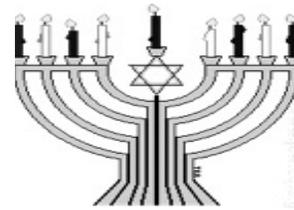
~ Carter Brown

### *Sisterhood/Men's Club Joint Chanukah Dinner*

**Wednesday, December 21**

**Cocktails at 6:30 PM**

**Dinner at 7 PM**



***"Echoes of Sinatra"***

**with**

**Steve Kazlauskas**

**Impersonator Extraordinaire**

Prepaid reservations of \$20 due by  
December 14

Drop form along with check  
to Temple Office

***Att. Jean Marion***

***~ Chanukah Dinner***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s)

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_



**Gift Cards are a perfect gift!**

**New ones have been added.**

**Call Steve Honig (481-7150)**

**or Stu Smoller (485-0175) for details.**



## Congregants' Corner: *Our Inspirational Trip to Israel*

As November 1 turned to November 2, Temple members Gail & Larry Schiffer and Sheryl & Craig Weiner settled into their seats on an El Al 747 for their first trip to Israel. After nearly two weeks, we returned home to the South Shore with a new wide-eyed appreciation for the State of Israel and for its Jewish community. No one can properly prepare for the experience of visiting Israel. Meeting the people, seeing the historical sites, becoming familiar with the truism that no one will help the Jews except the Jews, brings the fundamental importance of Israel's existence into sharp focus.

The Schiffers and the Weiners' children were brought up in predecessor Temple Emanu-El. Jessica and Jamie, and Stacey and Scott, became *B'nai Mitvah* under the watchful eye of Rabbi Emeritus Stuart Geller. When we first planned the trip, we immediately decided to reach out to Rabbi Geller when we came to Jerusalem. Advanced planning and coordination made that possible as we followed a long line of Temple members who have visited with Rabbi Geller in Jerusalem.



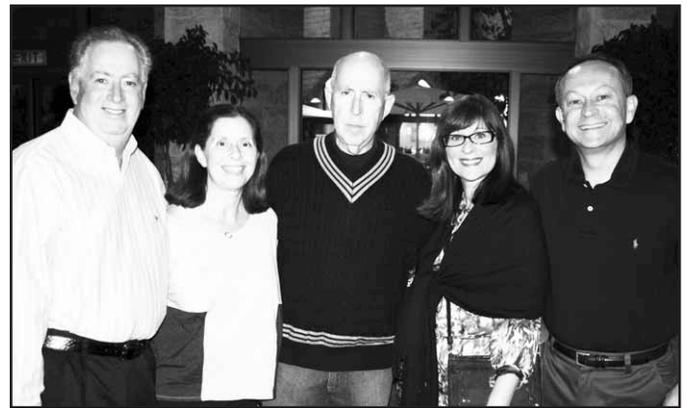
The trip was a comprehensive tour of Israel from Tel Aviv to Haifa to the Upper Gallilee and the Golan Heights to the Dead Sea and Masada, and to

Jerusalem. The tour continued down through the Negev to Elat, but unfortunately, work prevented us from making the trip to the South. Another time. Being first-time visitors, we decided to join a tour and chose Margaret Morse Tours. They were terrific and provided a family-like atmosphere throughout the tour. The tour also provided fantastic guides who were beyond knowledgeable and who were fiercely compassionate and committed to Israel.

What struck us was the diversity of the Jewish people. Jews from everywhere live in Israel. The concern of anti-Semitism does not exist. Fear does not exist. Commitment to the existence of the State of Israel and to peace is palpable. We were able to be at the Western Wall in the Old City as Shabbat was ushered in on Friday night. The joy and excitement of the

literally thousands of diverse Jews racing to the Wall to pray as Shabbat began was unforgettable.

Highlights of the tour - besides a wonderful visit with Rabbi Geller in Jerusalem (the man knows everything that is going on. You would think he still lives in Lynbrook) - included a visit to Independence Hall, two internment camps created by the British before independence where Jews who just survived the Holocaust were imprisoned as illegal immigrants, the Rabin memorial, The Alyonon Institute where the freedom fighters made bullets, the Golan Heights, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Masada, the Western Wall and tunnel, and, of course, Yad Vashem.



Meeting with Rabbi Geller after 10 years was certainly a highlight of the trip. We caught him up on the kids and he caught us up on his life in Jerusalem with his family. If you go to Israel, be sure to visit him. But the main highlight of the trip had to be the visit to the Golan Heights.

We were lucky to have the head guide who took us to a memorial at the Golan Heights overlooking the



Valley of Tears. At the memorial, you see the tanks used in the various wars and you look over the border at Syria. As we were being given the history of the area, we found out that a famous general was coming to give a speech to some of the soldiers. It turned out that the general was Avigdor Kahalani, one of the most famous Israeli generals and tank commanders who later became a cabinet official.

Basically, we heard a firsthand account of tank battles from the 1969 war and the 1973 war from the man who practically held off the Syrians single-handedly. You cannot imagine a more compelling account of war and the need for peace as well as vigilance. It was like listening to Patton. We saw a true Israeli hero and learned firsthand why Israel's survival is critical.

Another personal highlight was the opportunity through the tour for Gail and Sheryl to become *B'not Mitzvah*. Both received hand-lettered certificates by a scribe following the ceremony. Many other women (and some men) also participated. It was an unexpected treat provided by Margaret Morse Tours (and a lot cheaper than a party back home!).



The Schiffers and the Weiners had an unforgettable trip to Israel. We renewed our ties with Rabbi Geller and became fully aware of what the Jewish people have gone through just to have a place to call home. It is a trip that will impact our lives forever.

~ Larry Schiffer

## Chanukah

### Light on the Darkest Night

In the Jewish calendar, Chanukah's eight-day celebration begins the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev. The months of the Jewish calendar are based on the cycles of the moon, so the 25<sup>th</sup> is always four days before the new moon, the darkest night of the month.

### The Good Fight: What Chanukah Celebrates

Chanukah celebrates two things: a miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days, and the victory of the Jewish freedom fighters over the Syrian-Greek forces that tried to wipe out Judaism in the second century BCE. In this way, Chanukah marks the very first battle fought neither for territory, nor for conquest of another people, but in order to

achieve religious freedom.

### The Maccabees Get Their Due

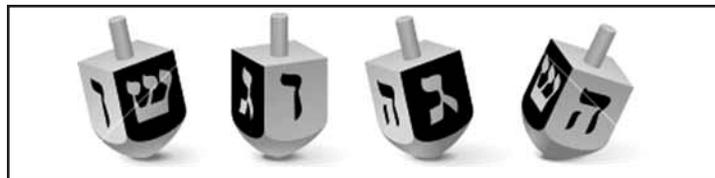
For almost 2,000 years, Chanukah was known as one of the minor holidays of the Jewish calendar. Then, gradually, beginning in the late nineteenth century, Jews began to pay more attention to the story of the Maccabees. And, today, it is arguably the most celebrated of the Jewish holidays (or at least it's in a head-to-head tie with Passover). What happened?

Two things changed in the late nineteenth century. First, Christmas gift giving became more popular throughout Europe and North America. Many Jews, seeing how attractive Christmas was to children, found new meaning and usefulness in celebrating Chanukah. The miracle of the burning oil and the victorious story of the Maccabees could easily be interpreted as anti-assimilationist, and became a tool for strengthening Jewish identity.

### Rules Governing the Lighting the Candles

- Insert the first candle farthest to the right, adding candles to the left of the first one each night. However, when lighting the candles, start with the leftmost candle (the one that represents the *current* night), and keep going to the right until all the candles are lit (eight on the last day).
- The light from these candles shouldn't be used to read by. You shouldn't even use the Chanukah candles to light other candles; so in order to light them in the first place, you use an extra candle, called the *sham-mash*.
- The *chanukiah* should be placed in a window to proclaim the miracle of the burning oil publicly. Of course, during times when a public announcement of one's Judaism would be dangerous, this rule is relaxed.
- The candles should burn for at least a half hour, so don't blow them out as soon as you've finished opening presents!
- When Chanukah takes place on Shabbat, light the Chanukah candles before the Shabbat candles. Traditionally, you don't light any more candles after lighting the Shabbat candles.

(*Judaism for Dummies*)



# Caring Community



The holiday of Chanukah is an eight-day festival of lights that celebrates the rededication of the Temple. Chanukah commemorates a successful Jewish rebellion against the Syrians. This battle was fought over religious oppression and the desecration of the Temple. During this holiday season, we as Reform Jews can rededicate ourselves to *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). To this end, the Caring Community and the Religious School will be hosting a program “**Bullying isn’t Kosher**” for our students and parents.

How can we help our children who may be victims of bullying, may be bullies, or may see bullying and don’t know what to do? If you have a child in religious school grades 3 - 6, join Rabbi Jacob, Rabbi Bennet and the Caring Community on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 9:30 - 11 AM for this special program.

- Bullying encompasses various types of behaviors: physical attacks, destroying personal property, verbal abuse, starting rumors, name calling, and verbal attacks online.
- 2010 statistics on bullying show that one in seven students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade is either a bully or has been bullied.
- About 56% of all students have witnessed bullying at school.
- There is an increased incidence of bullying in grades 4 - 8.

Learn more at [www.bullyingstatistics.org](http://www.bullyingstatistics.org) and [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov).  
~ Ellen Tolle

## Caring Community Program Contacts:

Please refer to our new Temple directory for phone numbers or email addresses.

- *Driving congregants to services or local doctor appointments:* **Glady Ellinport**
- *Taking bimah flowers to local nursing homes:* **Elyse Trevers**
- *Sassy Survivors* (Meetings and support for women who are cancer survivors): **Doris Tipograph, Shelley Mann**
- *Sharing is caring* (Support and guidance for congregants who want to talk to someone that has gone through similar medical testing/treatment. Calls remain confidential): **Charlotte Hettena**
- *Prayers of healing:* **Sylvia Dultz**
- *Shiva set-up:* **Dahlia White**



**Hands in the dough!**  
**Upper School Bakes for Caring Community.**



**Madrachim Coordinator**

**Work Sunday Mornings  
To Help Coordinate  
Our Student Assistants.**

**Contact:**

Donna: [digby185@aol.com](mailto:digby185@aol.com)

Paul: [paulkantro@hotmail.com](mailto:paulkantro@hotmail.com)

# Donations

# Todah Rabah ~ Thank you!

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 Jane Sanzone's Mother

**IN HONOR OF:**  
 Rachel Leonard's Wedding  
 Alyssa Karfinkel  
 Adam Glickman  
 Temple Am Echad  
 Paul Sanzone \*  
 Rachel Leonard's Wedding  
 Donna Levy

Judy & Al Bernstein  
 Janet Ettelman

Sylvia Fitlin  
 Marge Nordell

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Gilda Deckel  
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**IN MEMORY OF:**  
 Gary Kerner  
 Pat Horowitz' Mother

**IN HONOR OF:**  
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 Bat Mitzvah of Mr. & Mrs. Fassenfeld's Granddaughter, Alexis

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 Stu Bailin \*  
 Marsha Stern \*  
 Jon Sobel's Brithday  
 Carolyn & Joe Stein's Granddaughters' Bat Mitzvah  
 Sheila & Howie Becker's Granddaughters' Bat Mitzvah  
 Ebony's Marriage to Aleem  
 Brian Ettelman's Marriage  
 Feed the Hungry  
 Brian Ettelman's Marriage  
 Paul Sanzone \*  
 Rachel Leonard's Wedding  
 Feed the Hungry  
 Brian Ettelman's Marriage

Aileen Hallow  
 Marge Nordell  
 Alan & Sheila Nussbaum  
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 Carole Schragar  
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Janet Ettelman  
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Alese & Jack Gingold  
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**IN MEMORY OF:**  
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**IN HONOR OF:**  
 Dr. Rachel Dultz \*  
 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Maddie & Al Friedman  
 Al Friedman's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 Matthew Shifflett  
 Matthew Shifflett  
 Marriage of Sandi Simons' Son Larry To Christine

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brother, to your needy, to  
your poor in your land.*  
~ Deuteronomy 15:11

Hatzilu provides food, financial aid, social work intervention and assistance, and emotional support to needy Jews in the Nassau County area. In the present economic climate, even more help is needed. There are many needy, hungry Jews right here on Long Island.

Hatzilu runs the largest Kosher food pantry on Long Island. We collect donations of non-perishable food items in the large drop-box in the Temple lobby. Please make every effort to join us in supporting this worthwhile organization.



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# TEMPLE AM ECHAD CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2011 ~ KISLEV/TEVET 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 10 AM SSSH	<b>2</b> 4:11 PM 	<b>3</b> 9 AM Torah Study & Service  7 PM Shluffy Time
<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Religious/ Hebrew School Parent/Student Learning "Bullying isn't Kosher" 12 PM Vendors' Fair	<b>5</b> 7:15 PM Beginning Hebrew	<b>6</b> 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:15 PM Upper School	<b>7</b> 1:30 PM Feed the Hungry cooks  6 PM Youth ~ Soap Molding 7:30 PM ONESY 7:30 PM Sis. Book Review	<b>8</b> 10 AM SSSH	<b>9</b> 4:11 PM 	<b>10</b> 9 AM Torah Study & Service  7 PM Men's Club bowling
<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Religious/ Hebrew School Book Fair 10 AM Family B'nai Mitzvah class 11:15 AM Junior Congregation	<b>12</b> 7:15 PM Beginning Hebrew 8 PM Temple Board Mtg.	<b>13</b> 10 AM Adult Ed.  4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:15 PM Upper School 8 PM Sis. Board Mtg.	<b>14</b> 1:30 PM Feed the Hungry cooks  6 PM Youth ~ Soap Molding 7:30 PM ONESY	<b>15</b> 10 AM SSSH  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 4:12 PM 	<b>17</b> 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Brian Petterman
<b>URJ/WRJ Biennial in Washington, D.C.</b>						
<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Religious/ Hebrew School 11:45 AM Men's Club Chanukah Party	<b>19</b> 7:15 PM Beginning Hebrew 8:15 PM Religious School Com. Mtg.	<b>20</b> 10 AM Adult Ed  4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:15 PM Upper School  <b>Chanukah 1st Candle</b>	<b>21</b> 1:30 PM Feed the Hungry cooks  6:30 PM Joint Chanukah Dinner 7:30 PM ONESY	<b>22</b> 10 AM SSSH  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 4:15 PM 	<b>24</b> 9 AM Torah Study & Service  8 PM Shabbat Service
<b>25</b> No SCHOOL	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b>   <b>Chanukah 8th Candle</b>	<b>28</b> 1:30 PM Feed the Hungry cooks	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:19 PM 	<b>31</b> 9 AM Torah Study & Service  8 PM Shabbat Service

## Emma Lazarus, Poet of Exiles



*A new exhibition held in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty.*

Known for more than a century as the author of the lines “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . ,” the poet Emma Lazarus gave voice to the Statue of Liberty and generations of newcomers to America. However, few people know her fascinating story, her Sephardic background, her American roots, and her work for Jewish causes and a Jewish homeland. Learn how Emma Lazarus’ journey inspired her to craft an enduring message on exile, refuge, and the promise of America.

~ Sunday, December 25 ~

### *“I Lift My Lamp:” A Statuesque Chanukah*

*A day of homage to Emma Lazarus and the Lady of the Harbor featuring statue-inspired crafts, tours and films.*



26 Battery Place  
Battery Park City, NYC  
[www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org)

## The Radical Camera: New York’s Photo League, 1936-1951

November 4, 2011 - March 25, 2012



*The Radical Camera* offers a comprehensive look at the Photo League, a group of politically engaged street photographers, most of them Jewish, first generation Americans, who captured city life from the end of the Great Depression to the start of the Cold War. The exhibit features more than 140 works by some of the most noted 20th-century photographers, including Berenice Abbott, Sid Grossman, Lisette Model, Aaron Siskind, Paul Strand, and Weegee.

1109 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY  
[www.thejewishmuseum.org](http://www.thejewishmuseum.org)



Please send submissions for the January Bulletin to [templebulletin@gmail.com](mailto:templebulletin@gmail.com) by Monday, December 5.

## THE BULLETIN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE AM ECHAD  
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