



## Rabbi's Message



Photo Credit: Justine Cooper

Last week I gave a dollar to a woman who was begging on the subway. She said, "Are you a rabbi?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Thank you, rabbi." Now, it's not so often that a stranger identifies me as a rabbi outside the synagogue. The fact is, with my red hair and green eyes, I doubt most strangers assume I'm a Jew. It happened that on this day I had come from the synagogue, and I was wearing my kippah (a.k.a. my yarmulke, my skullcap), and that was the tip-off.

The wearing of a kippah is a custom, not a commandment. Some Jews wear one all the time, some only during religious services, some never. For centuries, it was a custom observed only by men. If women covered their heads, it was with a scarf or a wig, and it was for a different reason. Women's head-covering was (and still is, in some communities) related to *tzniut*, the idea that people should dress modestly and avoid appearing sexually attractive to others (except their spouses, in private). Head-coverings were, and are, worn by married women, but not by unmarried ones in those communities.

Traditionally, Reform Jews never wore kippot, and in fact it wasn't so long ago that someone wearing a kippah in a Reform synagogue would be asked to remove it. Today in Reform synagogues, each person chooses whether or not to wear a kippah, and women as well as men choose to wear them.

There are many reasons why an individual might choose to wear a kippah. Some Jews do it out of respect for God—contrary to some cultures, where baring one's head is considered more respectful, we consider covering one's head to be a show of respect. In the Middle Ages, it was customary to wear a head covering in the presence of royalty. Our prayerbook very often uses the metaphor of royalty to speak of God, and so the Jewish custom of wearing a head covering in God's Presence may have emerged from the idea of God as the Divine Sovereign and the medieval custom. Others wear a kippah simply to show that they are Jewish.

*(Rabbi's Message continued p. 2)*

## Worship Services



### March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>th</sup>

*Shabbat Across America*

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### March 7<sup>th</sup>

*Purim Megillah Reading  
Come in Costume*

Wednesday Evening 8:00 PM

### March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

*Family Purim Megillah Reading  
Come in Costume*

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### Rabbi's Message (Continued)

I wear a kippah when I am acting as a rabbi. It helps me to remember that there should be a dimension of holiness to whatever I do as a rabbi, from meeting with bereaved families to arranging the catering for our community second-night Passover seder. Some of you have heard me say that when I don't have my kippah on for Torah study, I feel scattered and have trouble thinking straight. Wearing the kippah, I feel more grounded for connecting with the Torah.

When I'm outside the synagogue and not officially rabbi-ing (though of course I never stop being a rabbi, really), I don't usually wear my kippah. When I do, I sometimes feel a bit self-conscious about it. In thinking about where that feeling comes from, I have realized that I also feel self-conscious wearing anything that proclaims something in particular about who I am or what I believe in—a T-shirt with a political message, for example. Maybe it has to do with feeling like I'm opening myself up for criticism from strangers, which I'm not particularly interested in. (In the case of a woman in a kippah, critical strangers are often Jewish, while curious strangers might or might not be Jewish.) Or perhaps there's a feeling that if I identify myself so clearly as a Jew, anything I might do or say could be seen as representative of Jews in general, and I'm not completely comfortable with that responsibility. Sometimes I deliberately keep my kippah on when I leave the synagogue, just to challenge my own self-consciousness.

At the beginning of this month we celebrate Purim. The story of Esther, which we read on Purim, has a theme of hiding and revealing one's Jewishness. When Esther is brought to the palace of King Ahasuarus, she does not reveal that she is Jewish, because Mordechai, the cousin who raised her, told her not to. Only later, when the Jewish people are endangered by Haman's plan, does she reveal to the king that she is Jewish in order to save them. There is no explanation in the text as to why Mordechai instructed her not to tell the king that she is a Jew. We can only speculate. Our rabbis say that Mordechai's instruction to Esther had two sources: First, that if she fell out of favor with the king, that he might take that out on all the Jews; and second, that many non-Jews hated the Jews and might try to bring down a Jewish queen.

In this season of Purim, I invite you to think about the following: Do you ever wear a kippah or other Jewish-specific clothing, either inside our outside the synagogue? Why or why not? To what extent is your Jewishness obvious wherever you are and whatever you are doing, and to what extent is it hidden unless you choose to reveal it? How do you feel about strangers' being able to identify you as Jewish, or not?

There are no wrong answers here, only looking inward to learn something about our relationship with ourselves and with our Jewishness.

On another topic: Thank you so much to all of you who participated in and attended my installation, and to those of you who weren't able to be there but sent your good wishes. It was a beautiful, moving, amazing evening. This is truly a warm and wonderful community that I am honored and humbled to serve.

I look forward to seeing you at temple.

*Rabbi Heidi Hoover*

### Pre-Passover Seder

Saturday Afternoon, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM

*Temple Banquet Room*



### Second-Night Passover Seder

Saturday evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM

Led by Rabbi Heidi Hoover and Cantor Nonie Schuster

\$35 per person (payments due by March 24<sup>th</sup>)

Bring pareve Passover dessert

**President's Message**



There is an old phrase, and I know it's old because I just finished dusting it off, "lead the spirit and the body will follow." In its original context the phrase exhorted one to transcend, to literally draw out and direct the spirit of one's opponent then their flesh and bones would also be swept along.

The time is now for Temple to create a climate for transcendence. If everything has changed around us, the demographics, economy, rate of assimilation, etc., it only stands to reason Temple must change as well. We need to provide an opportunity for all to reach deep into the well of Jewish learning and emerge with the tools for spiritual achievement in an increasingly impersonal world.

My recent illness has accelerated a process to which I was all ready devoting more of my time. The process? To deepen my understanding and appreciation about the meaning in my life, to inspire to greater meaning and to create a space within me to fill with holiness. It means for me, at least, to be in the moment all my waking hours. Realistically, progress is incremental (almost glacial in pacing) but worth it.

Rabbi Heidi's installation service was a beautiful and memorable event. The turnout of the congregation and friends, rabbis, cantors and other clergy, the beautiful music and appreciative speeches, was a demonstration of our sense the community will thrive into the next century.

An ad hoc committee, chaired by Jeff Levinson, has been set up to examine our working structure. All of our committees and funds will be examined with an eye toward improvement and modernization. A report will be issued at the annual congregational meeting. Additionally, our Treasurer Robert Kaplan and Lynn DeNonno have been exploring new bookkeeping systems and there will changes in that area for certain.

Tremendous effort has been made by the Board to provide for your soul, your body and your mind. Take advantage of being part of this great community and join us for Services or Torah study, Israeli dancing, etc. Spring is on its way; time to get busy.

*Lawrence Frost*

**Candlelighting**



|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Friday, March 2  | 5:31 PM |
| Friday, March 9  | 5:38 PM |
| Friday, March 16 | 6:46 PM |
| Friday, March 23 | 6:53 PM |
| Friday, March 30 | 7:01 PM |
| Friday, April 6  | 7:08 PM |

**Purim Carnival**

Saturday Afternoon, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

Follows Megillah reading and Purim Service

Come in Costume! Win a prize!

Hot dogs and all the trimmings!

Admission \$5 (Children under 2 free)



**Park Slope Hadassah**

Invites you to

**A Purim "Maskquerade"**

Monday Evening, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Temple Banquet Room

36 (\$40 Non-members, +\$5 at the door)

Contact Barbara Katz at 718-941-1223

**In Memoriam**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Barry Katz's mother, Jeanette Katz.

*"May her memory be for a blessing."*

**SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA**

Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Dinner at 6:30 PM; Services at 8:30 PM

\$20 Per Person (Adults); \$10 Children Under 12

Dairy Shabbat dinner followed by Shabbat service led by  
Rabbinic Intern Lizz Goldstein and our Youth Group

**Mostly Israeli Dancing**

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

*Next Session Starting Soon*

\$12 per class for Temple members, \$15 for non-  
members

*Light refreshments served*

**SISTERHOOD NEWS**

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Brunch 10:00 AM/Lecture 10:30 AM

**Guest Speaker:** Nedda Allbray

**Topic:** *History Lesson: The Creation of the American Jewish Heritage* by historian Beth Wenger

\$5 (members), \$10 (non-members)

**Shalom & Tot Shabbats**

Friday Mornings, 10:00 AM, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>  
Led by Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Saturday Mornings, 10:00 AM, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
Led by Lizz Goldstein, Holder of the Jacqueline Smith Memorial  
Rabbinic Internship

*For Children under 5 and their Caregivers*

**On Constructing the American-Jewish Heritage: A Book Worth Discussing.**

Have you ever thought about the ease of which Judaism and American democracy work together? Jews have been celebrating the great freedom festivals of Passover and Chanukah for thousands of years. Generally, we think we have always been sewn into the fabric of this country. I certainly believed that the connection between Judaism and American freedoms was organic.

Then I read *History Lesson: The Creation of the American Jewish Heritage* by historian Beth Wenger. In the book Professor Wenger argues that we have it backwards. Upon arriving on America's shores, she points out, that our not so distant ancestors--- great grandparents, grandparents, parents---- embraced the freedoms and citizenship that America provided and they then set about creating an American Jewish culture that was so connected that we could never be disenfranchised. Not all Jews immigrants accepted this construction, but it is certainly at the heart of Reformed Judaism and, according to Wenger, it was that movement that was central to the creation of the unique American Jewish community.

*History Lesson* is one of the rare books that examines the American Jewish community as the creation of its forebears, who like every immigrant group worked to make themselves fit-in. Because it is rarely discussed the process of how the Jews became into Jewish-Americans is worth exploring. I was fascinated by the story that Wenger tells, and I hope that you too will find it worthwhile. I would enjoy discussing this book with others interested in exploring our not so distant past and the implications for our lives. I will be leading a discussion of the book at the Sisterhood Brunch on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

*History Lesson: The Creation of the American Jewish Heritage*, by Beth S. Wenger, Princeton University Press, 2010. The book is available on line from both Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

*Nedda Allbray*

**Adult Shiur**

Topic: Getting to Know the Prophet Isaiah

March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM

*Temple Banquet Room*



## Member of the Month

Sheldon Greenberg



Who is that guy that sits in the front row during services, comes to concerts at the Temple, wears the tux at the Temple's Annual Dinner-Dance, and even, sometimes, accepts your money at the Sisterhood brunches? Who else? That's Shelly.

Shelly Greenberg was born on Norfolk Street in the Lower East Side and moved to Brooklyn when he was 10 where he immediately began to attend religious school at a shul in Coney Island in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School and attended Brooklyn College from 1960-62 before entering into the Army's Communications Intelligence Agency where he was sent to Fort Devins, MA. While in the military, he was able to travel to, among other places, the Far East (including Tokyo, Nikko, Osaka, Mt. Fuji, Beppu, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki). He continued to travel after his discharge and had his passport stamped in Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco and Tangiers. Stateside, he has been to Hawaii, and has ridden on the Grand Canyon Railway.

In 1980, Shelly met his wife Bonny and they were married in 1982.

Shelly and Bonny came to Beth Emeth on the recommendation of a neighbor after they had expressed a desire to find a place to come for "spiritual enlightenment and to meet new people." Shelly says that when they walked into the sanctuary for the first time, they were "greeted by Rabbi Bill [Kloner] with open arms. His warmth and charisma made us feel most welcomed." They were introduced to Cantor Eugene Green, and later found out that he and Cantor Green had many things in common (both fans of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and dog lovers). They were further embraced by Temple members such as Pearl & Joe Cohen and Pearl & Leo Seitelman.

In 2004, after 24 years of being together, Bonny passed away. Says Shelly: "In 2005, Sara West came into my life and, with her loving kindness and humor, has helped me over many hurdles and we are still together today."

Since joining the Temple, Shelly has been a member of the Board of Trustees and has hosted many Friday night onegs. He specifically mentions enjoying the Sisterhood brunches (speakers such as Brooklyn Historian Ron Schweiger, political writer Fred Siegel and our own Dr. Bruce Garner), the Jewish Repertory Theatre and the Ditmas Acoustic concerts.

Currently, Shelly is the co-owner of R&S Brokerage Corporation (an independent insurance agency, located at 1688 Utica Avenue, specializing in all forms of insurance and is a member in good standing with the Independent Insurance Association) since 1998.

Shelly is the proud papa of two girls and has one grandson.

In closing, he says: "Eat Lucky Charms – they're magically delicious". Funny – we actually figured him for a Frosted Flakes kind'a guy because, to paraphrase the commercial, he's grrrrreat!

*(Have you done anything that you wish to "kvell" about to the Temple family? Let us know. If it is special to you, we want to share it. Call the Temple office or please feel free to speak to me directly. I look forward to hearing from you. My e-mail address is Ehallzman@yahoo.com.)*

*Alan Zarrow*

## Torah Study

Saturday Mornings, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

at 10:00 AM

Friday Evenings, March 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

at 7:30 PM



With Rabbi Heidi Hoover

### Installation of Rabbi Heidi Hoover

On Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>, Temple Beth Emeth v'Ohr Progressive Shaari Zedek proudly installed Rabbi Heidi Hoover as our new rabbi. Rabbi Hoover and the congregation entered into a promise to pursue righteousness, justice, love and compassion through study, prayer and song.

Leaders from our congregation, past and present, as well as respected members from the broader community shared a joyous evening of celebration, reflection and song with over 140 members of our Temple community. Rabbi Carie Carter of Park Slope Jewish Center led us in the Havdallah service and thanked us for bringing a valued colleague into the neighborhood. Rabbi Jeff Hoffman of the Academy for Jewish Religion reflected on Rabbi Hoover's passage from student to rabbi and her love of thoughtful wrestling with the Torah. Rabbi Tom Weiner reminded us that our rabbi will be ministering to all of us and that we must in turn take care of her. In her address, Rabbi Hoover drew from Deuteronomy to inspire us with the promise that the teachings of Adonai are not in the heavens, they are very close and within our grasp. Finally, Bishop Hoover strode to the bimah with great authority and before delivering the closing prayer he wryly observed, "You just never know how the kids will turn out."



Bishop B. Penrose Hoover

At our first installation service since 1974, we honored Rabbi Emeritus William Kloner for his years of leadership and service to our community. Past presidents, current officers, and congregational leaders demonstrated the continuity that he helped make possible by passing a Torah from one to another and finally to our newly installed rabbi. Everyone joined together for a festive celebration in the banquet hall following the program.



We thank Cantor Nonie Schuster for her role in planning and organizing the extraordinary and moving musical selections sung by Cantor Lisa B Segal, Cantor Meredith Greenberg, Cantor Nonie Schuster and Emily Donato, and played by instrumentalists Aleeza Meir, James Donato and David Wechsler. They heightened the feeling of special celebration that permeated the evening. Thanks also to John Bilé for designing the beautiful program and to all from our community who joined together for this historic event in the life of our temple.

We are blessed to have such a strong and spirited rabbi to stand with us as we sing, dance, study, mourn, and pray, and we look forward to many years with Rabbi Hoover and her family at the heart of our Temple community.

Jan Rosenberg, Brooklyn Hearth Realty, sponsored the wine and roses for the reception after the Installation.

*Kathryn Haslanger*

### Centennial Reflections

**March 1912** - Plans to build the sanctuary are near completion.

**March 1916** - The congregation advertises on seven train stations of the Brighton Line as membership steadily increases. They pay \$1.00 per month per station. This lasts into 1918.

**March 24, 1962** - Temple Beth Emeth celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala event at the Hotel Pierre, in Manhattan.

More to come in April.

*Ron Schweiger*

**MEMORIAL FUND**

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 Mildred Morel  
 Sheila Small  
 Shifra and Herb Brodsky  
 Shifra and Herb Brodsky  
 Lynn DeNonno  
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**In Memory of**

Annie Sternberg  
 Lewis Shalen  
 Alan Leventhal  
 Janet Kohn  
 Carlos Figueroa  
 Benjamin Bergman  
 Harold Marquit  
 Ida Sarney  
 Jack Sackowitz  
 Harold Marquit  
 Sanford Tishcoff  
 Harold Marquit  
 Harvey Garner  
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 Leon Taran  
 Allen Jerome Stern  
 Celia Stern  
 Hyman Levinson  
 Anna Judelson  
 Malke Greenberg  
 Jeanette Katz  
 Dora Rav  
 Jeanette Katz  
 Jeanette Katz

**CELEBRATION FUND**

**Donor**

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**Celebrating**

Aaron Wolf's Bar Mitzvah  
 Rabbi Hoover's Installation

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Donor**

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**In Memory of**

Dr. Harold Marquit  
 Adolph Fuerst

**RECOVERY FUND**

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**Speedy Recovery of**

Mildred Morel  
 Herb Brodsky

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**JACQUELINE SMITH MEMORIAL RABBINIC INTERNSHIP**

**BLUESTONE PRAYERBOOK AND PULPIT FUND**

**Celebrate Shabbat at Our Monthly Potluck Dinner**



Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Bring brisket or non-dairy side dish

Services follow at 8:00 PM

**TRUSTEES MEETING**



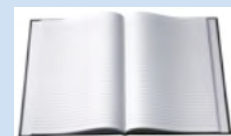
Wednesday Evening

March 21<sup>st</sup>

7:30 PM

Temple Banquet Room

**Book Plates**



Bookplates are available for placement in prayerbooks - either Shabbat or High Holy Days. Donation for each plate is \$18. Bookplates could be for either "in memory of", "in celebration of", or "in honor of".

Contact the Temple Office for donating.

**Yahrzeit Kaddish List**

The names listed below are taken from the *Bronze Tablets* and the *Book of Life*. Names are read at the Sabbath service following the date of passing. For information about *Memorial Plaques* and perpetual Kaddish, please call the Temple Office.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

Irma Baum  
 Kate Baum  
 Henry Bielelefied  
 Frances Block  
 Max Bogen  
 Blanche Bronwitz  
 Andrew Carmel  
 Matthew Chess  
 Lizzie Cohen  
 Rose Ehrlich  
 Morris Gederman  
 Emmanuel Geduld  
 Ida S. Ginsberg  
 Frances Glassberg  
 Samuel Glock  
 Rose H. Grossman  
 Benjamin N. Handler  
 Jennie Hecht  
 Arnold F. Heimann  
 M. Sol Herzog  
 Sonia Hindin  
 Benjamin D. Hyman  
 Bertha Kuras  
 Harold Laschiver  
 Morris Levine  
 Emile Maillard  
 Henriette Milniker  
 Alan M. Milman  
 Barnett S. Milman  
 Wallace Ostrover  
 Ida Phon  
 Julius Phon  
 Abraham Pollock  
 Carrie Simon  
 Bernard Smith  
 Herman Teitelbaum  
 Estelle G. Tandler



**March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Golde B. Ahrens  
 Rose Block  
 Max Blumenthal  
 A. Stanley Brussel  
 Rebecca Delinsky  
 Fannie Ebert  
 Sophie Engel  
 Jack Fischer  
 Berthold Frank  
 Rosalia Goodman  
 Albert Gottlieb  
 Moe Greenberg  
 Fannie Harris  
 Annie Hart  
 Anna Schector Henken  
 Deborah Herman  
 Frances S. Hoffman  
 Arthur I. Hunter  
 Ben Kessler  
 Hyman Kuras  
 Jeanne Landberg  
 Beatrice Lemisch  
 Charlotte Levine  
 Helen Lowenstein  
 Michael G. Mann  
 Anna D. Marke  
 Beverly Marks  
 David Michael  
 George Morrison  
 Ernestine Nascher  
 Julius New  
 Fanny Nirenberg  
 Frances Podhaicer  
 Rachel Rosenblatt  
 Meyer Rosenfeld  
 Clara Roth  
 Adolph Rothbart  
 Abraham Rotto  
 J. Kenneth Schachter  
 John H. Scheier  
 Gussie Schlenoff  
 Gerald G. Schnabel  
 William Shanken  
 Henry A. Singer  
 Hattie Danto Straus  
 Nathan H. Szerlip  
 Annie Nash Van Gelder

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

Joseph Bard  
 Tillie Bienstock  
 Miriam Denker  
 Morry Efron  
 Louis Elting  
 Morris Friedman  
 Simon Goldsmith  
 I. Harry Hoffman  
 Ignance H. Levinson  
 Harvey S. Lind  
 Ida Israel Mirengoff  
 Ruth S. Morrison  
 Sophia Nathan  
 Max Neger  
 Hannah Davidsburg  
 Newman  
 Nannie Ober  
 Louis Rosenthal  
 Joseph Saraske  
 Abraham J. Septoff  
 Harry Siegel  
 Bernard Steinhardt  
 George J. Sternberg  
 Benjamin Strauss  
 Lizzie Wasserberg  
 Nathan Wolf  
 Joseph Wolfson  
 Francis Yudell



**March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>**

Tinnie Brody  
 Rose Cagan  
 Leonard Coleman  
 Max Diamond  
 Henrietta Faust  
 Louis Gartlir  
 William Goldberg  
 Jennie Grill  
 Rose Grossman  
 Miriam Jacobs  
 Rose Jacobs  
 Dora G. Joseph  
 Hetty Kahn  
 Emma Giselle Kaplan  
 Bertha Kerner  
 Joseph Kosofsky  
 Herman Krieger  
 David Lowenthal  
 Gary Markowitz  
 Morris Marks  
 Roslyn Neigler  
 Minnie Newman  
 Maurice Ober  
 Jacob Rabinowitz  
 Bertha Richel  
 Isaac Richel  
 Mary Greenwald  
 Robinson  
 Abraham Van Rooyen  
 Dr. Samuel S. Rothman  
 Sarah Rothman  
 Dr. Edmund L. Shlevin  
 Moses Sichel  
 Rose Soklow  
 Theresa Sonfield  
 Max Strangler  
 Louis Strauss  
 Louis S. Strich  
 Len Taub  
 Philip Weintraub  
 Betty B. Weit  
 Laura Hirsch Yondorf  
 Rebecca Zinman



The Truth

Editor Emerita: Ellen Block  
Editor: Gerard Soffian  
Assistant Editors:  
Alice Hyatt  
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TEMPLE BETH EMETH V'OHR  
PROGRESSIVE SHAARI ZEDEK

(Founded 1911)

83 Marlborough Road, Brooklyn, New York 11226

Telephone: (718) 282-1596 Fax: (718) 282-1537

[www.bethemeth.net](http://www.bethemeth.net)

e-mail: [templebeth83@aol.com](mailto:templebeth83@aol.com)

- Rabbi Heidi Hoover
- Rabbi Emeritus William Kloner
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**Temple Beth Emeth**  
v'Ohr Progressive Shaari Zedek

*The Reform Congregation of Victorian Flatbush*

83 Marlborough Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226  
Phone: 718-282-1596 | Fax: 718-282-1527  
[www.bethemeth.net](http://www.bethemeth.net) | [templebeth83@aol.com](mailto:templebeth83@aol.com)



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