

Rabbi's Message



Jewish pluralism is the idea that we recognize that there are many different ways to be Jewish, and that all of these ways are legitimate. Pluralists strive to create environments that are comfortable for people who practice Judaism differently, and there are varying ways to accomplish this. Prayer is often an arena where tension is exposed in pluralism, because what one person needs is sometimes unacceptable to someone else.

Women of the Wall, *Nashot HaKotel*, is a pluralist women's prayer group—its members identify as Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist. The group formed in 1988, and meets monthly at the Western Wall (formerly known as the Wailing Wall) in Jerusalem for a Rosh Chodesh (beginning of a new month) prayer service. Their goal is to give women the opportunity to pray out loud at the Western Wall, read from the Torah, and wear *tallitot*, prayer shawls. For American Reform Jews, these goals may seem pretty basic.

Unfortunately, the plaza and the Western Wall, the holiest site for Jews of many different types of Jewish practice, is not a place where pluralism is embraced, or even tolerated. It is controlled by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, and there are no non-Orthodox voices in its decision-making process. If you have been to the Western Wall, you know that the women's section is much smaller than the men's section. Women are expected to pray individually and silently, men are not. Men may wear tallitot or tefillin, women may not, because while it is not forbidden by Jewish law for women to wear them, in the Orthodox tradition they are considered to be only for men.

When women have worn tallitot, carried a Torah, or read from the Torah at the Western Wall, they have been spit at and cursed at by men—and women—there, and they have at times been detained by the Israeli police. On October 16, Anat Hoffman, the leader of Women of the Wall, was arrested for singing the Sh'ma.

On that evening there was an unusually large group of women at the Wall, because 200 Hadassah members in Jerusalem for Hadassah's convention had joined the Women of the Wall for the service. Hoffman was held overnight, and she reports that she was strip-searched and subjected to other humiliating treatment. She has been banned from the Wall for 30 days, and this is not the first time she has been detained by police for her activities at the Western Wall.

Was she surprised to be arrested? Not particularly, I think. Hoffman knows that what she does is civil disobedience. One blog post on the subject, by Safra Turner, reads in part, "I almost skipped the article describing the incident. Another woman gets arrested at the Kotel [the Western Wall], who cares? They should be respecting....wait, what?! THEY SHOULD BE RESPECTING? Something has clearly short circuited in my brain. This is not the way I think. Me, proud feminist mama, raised to know my worth and expected to accept no less. Me?"

"Then the pieces began to fall into some sort of grossly deformed puzzle. I've become so accustomed to institutionalized and religious discrimination that I have actually fallen prey to that same brainwash that I once stood so strongly against," (<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/be-quiet-woman/>). The wake-up call of the Women of the Wall is needed.

I am respectful of the right of Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Renewal, and all Jews different from myself to practice Judaism in the way that they see fit. If I go to a synagogue where men and women sit separately, I do not try to sit with the men. If I meet a Chasidic man, I do not reach out my hand to shake hands unless he reaches out first (some Orthodox men do not touch women). But the Western Wall, the holiest site for Judaism, should not be an Orthodox synagogue. (continued on Page 2.)

Rabbi's Message (Continued)

Liberal Jews have the right to demand that they be allowed to practice Judaism in their way at the Wall too.

People who believe a woman's voice should not be heard in prayer, who have no respect for people who practice Judaism in a way that is different from their own, who do not recognize the Jewish authenticity of liberal Judaism, should no longer be allowed to impose their views on everyone who visits the Western Wall. I should note that those who set policy at the Western Wall, who so far have the support of the secular courts and Israeli government in what they are doing, do not represent all Orthodox Jews. There are many Jews who identify as Orthodox who do recognize that there are different ways of being Jewish that are all authentic. Those who run the Western Wall and its plaza are extremists.

On Monday, October 22, Women of the Wall encouraged Jews around the world to support their struggle by reciting the Sh'ma together. I support the Women of the Wall. I want the right to pray out loud, wear my tallit, and have ample space when I visit the Western Wall. Israel is my spiritual homeland too. Israel needs to make sure that all Jews have religious freedom there.

I look forward to seeing you at temple, and raising our voices together in the Sh'ma.

Celebrate Shabbat at Our Monthly

Polluck Dinner



Friday, November 16th at 6:30 PM

Bring a non-dairy side dish. We supply the chicken.

Services follow at 8:00 PM

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



Thursday evening,
November 8th

President's Message



Our Congregation is in resurgence in spirit and programming. Whether it be our Sisterhood lectures, remarkable religious school, erudite Torah study, spirited Israeli dance classes, or meaningful and joyful services. Our creative Temple leadership is planning for so much more. But now we must also focus on the welfare of our physical structure.

The integrity of our building has been compromised from the roof down. As discussed too many times, the roof and parapet of the Sanctuary building must be replaced as well as the existing air conditioning system that exacerbates the roof problem. This is what's needed:

- restoration of roof and drainage
- restoration of parapet, coping and chimney
- restoration of roof vents and related passive attic ventilation system
- deconstruction and removal of rooftop equipment and installation of new air conditioner

Within the sanctuary we have uncomfortable seats in disrepair and a weakened floor. Other structural issues relating to accessibility for congregants with physical limitations also need correction. What should be our response?

At the October 11th meeting of the Temple's Board of Trustees, the Board endorsed proceeding with the Roof Restoration Project including asking each household in the Congregation to make a financial commitment to its effectuation. This Project includes the utilization of the consultant services by Walter Sedovick Architects (WSA). This firm has demonstrated its commitment to restoring historic structures with sensitivity and respect for the architectural heritage of such noble buildings. WSA directed the restoration of the Eldridge Street synagogue in the Lower East Side of Manhattan and numerous other important works (see article on Page 8).

The funds needed for roof restoration and future needs will be assembled from several sources. These include

▪ Existing Building Fund	\$40,000	
▪ Existing Grant	\$40,000	
▪ Grant Match (pending)	\$50,000	
▪ Redeemed Israeli Bonds	\$150,000	
▪ Loan (repay via new Building Fund)	\$300,000	<i>(continued on Page 4.)</i>

A meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Thursday evening, November 8th at 7:30 PM to review the structural needs of our synagogue. We are proposing to establish a Building Fund to finance the Roof Restoration Project and other repairs. This will result in the need for each member household to contribute in addition to dues. The funds will be used to pay back a loan for the roof restoration and start a nest egg for other needed repairs.

The Building Fund will be administered by a small group of members that will be considering the following fundraising strategies:

- Repay loan through prescribed annual contributions (\$400 to \$700 per household depending on terms of loan, fundraising and membership growth)
- Promote endowments and legacy gifts for specific facility improvements (air conditioner units, Sanctuary seats, physical barrier removal)
- Program events with fundraising potential
- Engage prospective investors (current and past Temple members)
- Continue ongoing solicitation of grants from charitable foundations
- Recognize investors through namings and honor rolls

I urge you to attend the November 8th meeting to learn firsthand of our structural needs and means for financing this essential work, and register your vote on this project.

Gerard Soffian

HIGH HOLY DAYS

We are grateful to those who assisted in the High Holy Day Services. We wish to extend our gratitude to those who helped make the services so spiritually rewarding. For gracing the pulpit, for reciting the blessings over the Torah, for carrying the Torah, and for reading portions of the service:

Igou Allbray	Nedda Allbray
Gina Anderson	Fred Baer
Jerome Belson	Tad Belson
Alvin Berk	Gordon Berlin
John Bilé	Joanna Bluestone
Judy Brandwein	Paul Chappell
Shari Chappell	Richard Codor
Elaine Drucker	Lenny Drucker
Eileen Falcone	Jeffrey Feldman
Diane Figueora	Ed Friedman
Nancy Frost	BonnieGreenbaum
Siegbert Greenbaum	Sheldon Greenberg
Ricki Hagerty	Kathryn Haslanger
Joan Jacobs	Madelon Jonas
Sheldon Jonas	Robert Kaplan
Barbara Katz	Barry Katz
Cathy Katzen	Gary Katzen
Abe Kirshenblat	Michele Kirshenblat
Rita Landberg	Jeff Levinson
Loren Levinson	Marcia Kaplan Mann

Jane Paley	Lori Pandolfo
Saul Raddow	Ed Raphael
Lori Raphael	Michael Rose
Jan Rosenberg	Robert Rothman
Henry Schaeffer	Mary Schaeffer
Michaela Schaeffer	Ron Schweiger
Evelyn Shunaman	Fred Siegel
Ira Silverman	Linda Silverman
Heidi Smith	Scott Smith
Gerard Soffian	Brian Stemmer
Marsha Steinhardt	Emily Whitehead

Shammus and Leaders

We are especially appreciative of the efforts of President Emeritus Leo Seitelman, Werner Friedlander, Adrienne Knoll, Lori Pandolfo and Robin Bass (our “go-to” *gabba!*) in assuming their invaluable roles as co-chairs of the Ritual Committee and serving as lay leaders during the High Holy Days. We are filled with gratitude to Lillian Frost for her reading from the Torah and to Adrienne Knoll for her Haftarah readings. *(continued on Page 5.)*

(Continued from Page 4.)

Ushers

Thanks to our ushers for assisting congregants and visitors to their seats and maintaining dignity during services. Robert Pandolfo most ably coordinated this essential activity. We thank all ushers:

Igou Allbray	Fred Baer
John Bilé	Andrew Brown
Paul Chappell	Vicky Katz
Abe Kirshenblatt	Michael O'Malley
Robert Pandolfo	Alan Zarrow

Music 🎵

The singing and inspiration of Cantor Nonie Schuster and the uplifting voices of the congregational chorus and musical accompaniment of Michael Tornick enhanced the glory and grandeur of the Days of Awe.

Shofar Blowers

The shofar resounded throughout the sanctuary as our shofar blowers awakened our souls on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We extend our thanks to James Donato, and Jeffrey Feldman.

Live streaming on internet

Thanks to Michael Rose, our services were live streamed on the internet. Our Rabbi Emeritus Kloner and the Friedlanders were among the viewers.

Worship Services



November 2nd & 3rd

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
Saturday Morning AM		11:15

November 9th & 10th

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
Saturday Morning AM		11:15

November 16th & 17th

Friday Evening Service	Oneg Following Services	8:00 PM
Saturday Service AM		11:15

November 30th & 31st

Friday Evening Service	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
Saturday Service AM		11:15

Torah Study



Saturday Morning, November 3rd 10 AM

Friday Evenings, November 9th, 30th 7:30 PM

with Rabbi Heidi Hoover
Temple Banquet Hall

Ditmas Acoustic

@ The Sanctuary



Artists:

Theo Bleckmann & Julian Lage

Thursday Evening, November 15th,
8 PM

Book Plates



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

Contact the Temple Office for donating..

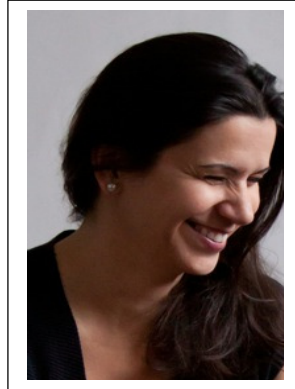
The Events Committee of the Board of Trustees invites you to:

"EAT, PRAY, SHARE"

Sponsor an Oneg after Shabbat services! Shabbat services offer a special opportunity to contribute to the life and community of Temple Beth Emeth. Sign up for a date that's significant to you; celebrate a simcha with the Temple by bringing food or contributing \$36 (or more) to sponsor a simcha.

Sign Up by calling Alice at the Temple Office; Write "Celebration/Oneg" in memo section of your check.



Member of the Month**Loren Levinson**

Loren Levinson has, probably, one of the most amazing life stories that has been printed in the year and a half that this column has been running in The Truth.

Born in Chicago (Bonus points – regular readers of this column should know the name of another congregant who was born in “The Windy City”), Loren was adopted by a family who lived in Woodbridge, CT. She was converted to Judaism by way of an orthodox conversion process and raised as in the Conservative tradition. “The Jewish education I received as a child centered around my attendance [at] a Jewish Day School, Ezra Academy, in Woodbridge.” There, Jewish culture and Israel-focused social studies was seamlessly mixed with general math and English language arts. She is a graduate of Amity High School in Woodbridge and of New York University right here in “The Big Apple”. She continued at NYU where she received her master’s in psychology. She began a doctorate in neuropsychology at the Graduate Center but left the program after she had her first child, Max (more on Max later). Currently, she is a professional strategist.

Before children, Loren enjoyed traveling and hopes to do so again once her life isn’t dominated by homework and soccer games. Her travels began with being bat-mitzvahed in Israel and in her twenties visited Turkey, Prague, Budapest, Warsaw, and Paris. “When I was twenty-five, I lived in north Tel Aviv for nine months, two blocks away from the Mediterranean. Ahhh, it was lovely!”

Loren and her husband Jeff (our newly-elected Executive Vice President) will be celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in February. Not bad for a blind date. They have two sons, the afore-mentioned Max who is 8 and Henry who is 5. Both boys attend the Brooklyn School of Inquiry.

The Levinsons joined Beth Emeth after attending High Holiday services a few years ago. “Temple Beth Emeth is the first temple we joined as adults.” One aspect of TBE that is particularly enjoyable for them is “having the synagogue within walking distance of our home.” Another element is “how welcoming [TBE] is of our entire family – children are cherished and it is a place we can all nurture our faith and tradition.” She enjoys participating in Torah study and religious school family events. More importantly, Loren donated her professional skills guiding the Temple’s strategic planning committee and congregation-wide focus groups that culminated in the Temple’s mission statement.

(continued on page 8.)

(continued from page 7.)

Loren's hobbies include knitting, "I am queen of the straight line," and an ever elusive quest to pull-off a seamless home-cooked dinner party. She also looks forward to attending the Rabbi-led parent workshops, "the Rabbi has created an amazing community where one can safely explore what may be an authentic Jewish experience to each individual."

So, where is this amazing part of the story (not that a great family isn't amazing enough)? At the Shavuot evening program of 2011 which focused on Jewish identity, Loren spoke before both our congregation and non-members revealing that she had just, at that time, learned of her birth family and that she had been born into a Pakistani Muslim family. She described how she had to come to grips with such a large conflict in cultures and shared her story of choosing Judaism. She stated, "In many Jewish organizations, I might have been shunned after learning my family is Pakistani Muslim but here, at Temple Beth Emeth, I was welcomed even more after sharing my story. This shows me a unique openness that is so special to me, personally."

By Alan Zarrow

Eldridge Street Synagogue

The Eldridge Street Synagogue, constructed in 1887, became home to a growing Jewish population of the Lower East Side. The historic building embodies the soul of those immigrants who started a new life after leaving Eastern Europe for the hopes for a new respected life in the United States.

The main Sanctuary of the synagogue fell into disrepair in the 1940's and re-discovered in the 1980's. Now a National Historic Landmark and museum, it has been magically restored over a twenty-year period at a cost of \$20 million.

The firm of Walter Sedovick Architects managed its restoration and renovation. This firm would be responsible for managing the proposed Roof Restoration Project at Temple Beth Emeth v'Ohr Progressive Shaari Zedek.

In order to get a first-hand view of the Eldridge Street Restoration, several of our members visited the synagogue on October 28th. The visit revealed how a restoration done with obvious affection and attention to detail can properly serve the integrity and meaning of an historical structure.



Lynn DeNonno, Gerard Soffian, Phyllis Schweiger, Lori Pandolfo and Robert Pandolfo at the Eldridge Street Synagogue

Secrets of Beth Emeth

Beginning this month, The Truth will be presenting a series designed to explore the gems of the Temple building that are hidden in plain sight. Come with us on a monthly tour of our 100-year old building. You might be surprised to see what you have missed.

We begin the series with this question: What secret do the original Beth Emeth pulpit chairs hold? The answer is in the next paragraph.



Cantor's Choir Signal



For as long as anyone can remember, Cantor Walter Davidson used this toggle switch (and later on, the buzzer) mounted on the side of his chair to signal to the organist and choir, located in the choir loft (we all know where that is, right? If not, it will be the subject of a later column.), that a musical portion of the service was about to begin. There was also a switch under his lectern. The musical selections ran, as they do now, the full range from instrumental solo to Cantorial solo to choir solo to everyone sing along with a prayer or a song. Even though the organist and choir had a script of the service, it was the Cantor's flicking of the switch that said that he was ready for the music to begin. The switch was later replaced by a closed-circuit TV system with the camera mounted on the pillar to the right

of the Cantor's lectern. That, too, has gone the way of the rotary phone.

Alan Zarrow

If anyone has any corrections or additions to this or any future segments or if you think you know of a secret place in the building that we should explore, please feel free to contact me at Ehallzman@yahoo.com.

MEMORIAL FUND

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In Memory Of

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Mordecai Kohn

Hon. Marsha Steinhardt

Sylvia Steinhardt

Irving & Jacqueline Yudelowitz

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Theodore & Joanne Friedman Temple President Gerard Soffian

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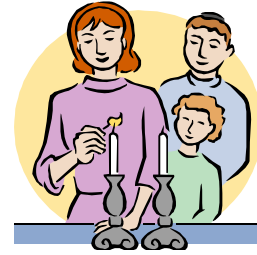
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

RECOVERY FUND

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

ROOF FUND

Candlelighting



Friday, November 2	5:33 PM
Friday, November 9	4:25 PM
Friday, November 16	4:19 PM
Friday, November 23	4:14 PM
Friday, November 30	4:12 PM



YAHZEIT 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.

November 2nd & 3rd

Mark Alexander
Abraham Arnold
Tony Baldinger
Bernard Becker
Caroline Camerik
William Catlin
Abraham Davidson
Leo Ducas
Sidney Feitell
David Feldman
Ann Friedland
Abe Friedman
Martin Gettry
Morris Glass
Bernice Greenberg
Hirsh Hertzberg
Amy Hyatt
Robert Hyatt
Bertha Kerfel
Libbie Kleine
Celia Lerner
Helen Marx
Betty Menken
Charles Kalman Meyer
Abraham Miller
Carrie Theresa Minzesheimer
Jacob Radow
Anne Rothstein
Henrienne Rubowitz
Joseph Signal
Frank Silverman
Ethel Stein
Stephen Stern
Michael Streep
Meyer Thaler
Frederick Wishoff

November 9th & 10th

Zicher Meir Bookman
Esther Butter
Clara Dannenberg
Hattie De Silva
Milton Eilenberg
Ida Finn
Milton Fagner
Albert Glass
Geraldine Gold
Anna Streep Grappel
Jacob Gumper
Joseph Harris
Carl Hart
Isadore Hecht
Annie Hirschberg
Joseph Hyman
Albert Jaret
William Kaplan
Elias Kiss
Harry Krupin
Fannie Langsam
Maurice Levy
Mattie Billings Lowe
David Magaram
Leo Mehrlust
Abraham J. Multer
Stella Phillips
Abraham Rosenberg
Harry Rosenberg
Teresa Schafer
Rose Schaler
Rebecca Smith
Hedwig Strauss
Samuel Yudelowitz
Sara Lewis
Samuel Lowenstein
Dr. Michael Mitchell
Haskell Newman
Rose Perlman Niman
Mollie Oberlander
Samuel Peyser
Beniamin Rabinov

Louis Rivkind
Henrietta Schwarzwald
Philip Schwed
Morris Silversmith
Rose Stern
Arthur Strahl
Sadie Teitelbaum

November 16th & 17th

Heshy Appel
Lewis Appel
Gilda Badain
Maxine Belson
Israel Berger
Benjamin Bergman
Bernard Bisguier
Cecelia Block
Lenora Gintell Bogan
Roger Carmel
Daniel Deutsch
Victor Epstein
Frances Greenwald
Maurice Golick
Leon Gordon
Harold Gottlieb
Alicia Herschaft
Annie Gabrilowitz Kloner
Henriette Koch
Amelia Krieger

November 23rd & 24th

Anna Albert
Anna Bernstein
Bernard Cohen
James Ettenson
Morris Exter
Estelle Friedwald
Louis D. Feldman
Sarah Esther Goodman
Annie Gutoff
Evelyn Herbsman
Sylvia Hill
Doris Hirschberg
Jules Jaeger
Murray James
Samuel Jarnow
Irving Charles Kaminester
Jack Waldrom Kestenbaum
Tillie Koppel
Barnet Kurland
Anna Leff
Herman Lowenstein
Joseph Lowenstein
Emma Marks
Benjamin Moskowitz
Miriam Moskowitz
Abraham Newman
Rueben Pagoda
Rebecca Pelz
Max Resnicoff
Fannie Rice
Harry Rogers
Ruth Sale
August Schreisheim
Joseph Schwarzwald
Agnes Silverman
Samuel Spiegel
Benjamin Tishman
Eugene Vagen
Annie Weinstein
Lillian Willins
Walter Wormser
Samuel Zechnowitz

November 31st & December 1st

Anna Miller
Jesse Arthur Nebenzahl
Louis Newman
Samuel Rosenblum
Annie Rosenfeld
Julius Rosenfeld
Pauline Shapiro
Edward Sonfield
Gedelle Strauss
Max Taub
Samuel Harold Tendler
Adam Trepel
Levi Witz
Jennie Wolff

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TEMPLE BETH EMETH V'OHHR

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v'Ohr Progressive Shaari Zedek

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