

# TEMPLE EMANU-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Student Newspaper

2016 - 2017



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

CHOOSING OUR CHARITIES *by* NAOMI GELFER

5

JEWISH CELEBRITIES *by* GORDON BECKLER

6

HEBREW WORDS WORD SEARCH *by* LOGAN HENNES

7

MEET THE TEMPLE SECURITY GUARDS *by* JACK SWIGER

8

CREATING HAMANTASCHEN DOUGH *by* ELLIE SILVER

8

69 WORDS ABOUT ISRAEL IN HONOR  
OF ISRAEL'S 69<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY *by* GABBIE HETU *and* *by* EMILY JANOVER

9

A SPECIAL THANKS TO MS. FRENCH *by* NAOMI GELFER

10

ORIGINAL ART *by* HARRISON STARR

15

JEWISH FESTIVALS  
WORD SEARCH *by* BRADY PROPPER & JEREMY HARTMAN-CHAIT

16

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BASKETBALL TEAMS *by* LOGAN & ELLE HENNES

17

WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT *by* NATHANIEL HELPERN

18

WORD SEARCH *by* CALLUM RODIN

19

TEEN LEADERSHIP SHABBAT SERMON *by* ALEX CRAMER

22

TEEN LEADERSHIP SHABBAT SERMON *by* EMILY WEINTRAUB

## **DEAR TEMPLE EMANU-EL FAMILIES,**

It is a delight to present you with the annual newspaper of the religious school of Congregation Emanu-El. Inside you will find interviews, articles, and artwork created by students. This publication is largely the work of our Student Council.

The students of the Council, who volunteered to serve, meet throughout the year on a monthly basis (at 9:00am on Sunday mornings.) They decide upon the recipients of our school's tzedakah collection, learn about representing their peers, and discuss important issues within the school. All students in grades four and above are eligible to serve on the Student Council, representing their classmates in these important decisions.

The submissions include not only the Student Council members, but students from every grade in the school. We are so proud of all of our students.

**SAUL KAISERMAN**  
Director of Lifelong Learning

**RABBI ALLISON TICK BRILL**  
Assistant Rabbi

**IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH  
TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S STUDENT COUNCIL THIS YEAR.  
THE 2016-2017 STUDENT COUNCIL WAS COMPRISED OF:**

**CALLUM RODIN  
HARRISON STARR  
LOGAN HENNES  
JEREMY HARTMAN-CHAIT  
NAOMI GELFER  
NATHANIEL HELPERN  
BRADY PROPPER  
GORDON BECKLER  
JACK SWIGER  
DAVID LILIEN  
PHEBE BARNETT  
ELLIE SILVER**

# CHOOSING OUR CHARITIES

by NAOMI GELFER

Run by Rabbi Allison Tick Brill, the Temple Emanu-El Student Council meets monthly to decide where our temple will donate money. I'm sure you've heard that we collected tzedakah for the multiple recipients - **HUC Soup Kitchen, Water for South Sudan** and **Shalva** in Israel. For example, Water for South Sudan is an organization founded by one man, and has grown to be known around the world, raising more and more money each year. You may ask, how does the student council go about choosing our charities? Well, at the drawing board we all share a charity we think is worthy of the money our temple collects, and give a brief explanation as to what our chosen charity does. Once everyone who wishes shares, we try to combine the organizations which we think are so similar, they should be voted on as one. Then, we vote on the charities we like best. Whichever ones get the most votes stay (like the top three or four) and anyone who wishes to give a reason for one of the organizations about why or why not we should give our money to it, shares their thoughts to the council. Then, we vote again, and whichever charity gets the most votes wins, and Rabbi Tick Brill conducts further research on it to make sure it is worthy of our money. To conclude, choosing an organization to donate money to is a very intricate process, but working together as a team makes everything more fun and effective, and in the end, we change the world by encouraging our religious school students to donate just one dollar to such a worthy cause.



# JEWISH CELEBRITIES

## by GORDON BECKLER

Jewish celebrities exist and work in different fields, such as entertainment, sports, and business. In fact, there are many Jewish celebrities, but only a few are listed below

In entertainment, the actors who played Captain Kirk (William Shatner) and Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy) on the show Star Trek were Jewish. Actors Jack Black, who played Po in the Kung Fu Panda movies, and Scarlett Johansson, who played Black Widow in the Avengers movies, are Jewish. Drake, the singer, is half-Jewish. Adam Goldberg, creator of the show The Goldbergs, is Jewish. Natalie Portman, who played Padme Amidala in the later Star Wars movies, was born in Israel and is Jewish.

Adam Sandler is a Jewish actor and comedian who co-wrote and sang “The Chanukah Song” on “Saturday Night Live” in 1994. The song mentions many Jewish celebrities. Every few years, Sandler even updates the lyrics with the names of other Jewish celebrities! Harrison Ford plays Han Solo in the Star Wars movies and is one-quarter Jewish. “Paul Newman’s half-Jewish; Goldie Hawn’s half, too,” according to “The Chanukah Song” by Adam Sandler.

In sports, Mark Cuban, a businessman and the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, is Jewish. He also is a TV star with “Shark Tank”. Ian Kinsler, a baseball player for the Detroit Tigers, is Jewish. Well-known Brooklyn/L.A. Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax is Jewish. Koufax was the youngest player ever elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame and could arguably be the greatest baseball pitcher of all time.

The world of business also has its share of famous Jewish people. Sergey Brin, one of the co-founders of Google, is Jewish. Clothing designer Ralph Lauren is Jewish. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is Jewish. His daughter is Jewish and Chinese – like me. :)

Some celebrities converted to Judaism. Although he was raised Catholic, Sammy Davis Jr, a former comedian, actor, dancer, and singer, converted to Judaism. Ben Stiller, another actor, is also Jewish. His parents are also actors; his father is Jewish, and his mother converted to Judaism. Ivanka Trump converted to Judaism in 2009 to marry Jared Kushner.

Many of the Jewish celebrities above have had a great impact on their industry and popular culture. **Maybe we are all Jewish “stars”!**

# HEBREW WORDS WORD SEARCH

by LOGAN HENNES

E H A R A S F I K D M C G E K Z J D W P T A V G G M S D M R  
I S L L Z U M A K K Z O U R X U G W A J S B X X C Y I Y A A  
K X T Z O A E N J G X G R Z R Z R S W H S H A L L A H C I B  
M U T H I S A I Y Z O W R D T S S Y E G H U E Q Y T A G R B  
R V B N E C F S Q G Z G T V E O H B V J N Q L P Y E W S I I  
R A M S C R M T A H A M E N V C R A J A L Q C F Y M F R M F  
S D C E T B V N W I B Q Z E J E H U B E O I A D P W V N A M  
T E B H R Y Y U O T G K R H W F J A Y B I N A Q Z A H B U Q  
M E T J A S O O J E R U S A L E M N I M A H S I W E J Q R I  
R D Q I V L R M U M T J V N G F A H I M F T I J S X M G Y T  
O M B Z L H I O M P A O S H C A C R A A S U K K O T C X D Q  
C O T O E E R F C L I R D E N B U X M H P X G Y V O O T O A  
K N H V E Y A H E E H S T A H P R A Z A W X W F A Z Y E V Z  
W W S T E Z I R G T C N C A A I O F B R K B I J P U D G J R  
I J Z B P I B H S Y R G J Y G C S Z K B L A O P P W C F O W  
I U Z D F H I B E I R N K H G B N M G A R E M C J N K Y H W  
H U O A N N L N O V P F L N A K I Q N W N Q H M A H O N H H  
Z R F U W A I D E J U W B W D H A N U K A H O C C J K Z P Q  
X K S C F O I N I F K J Y H A X Y D C J A S H N A T G S G U  
H A N A H S A H H S O R X V H U Q D D G E K T Y F R O H L U  
F P V R J R B V S S J Z G J M P V N S S G F W P W T G Q O M  
T G O C K E J H B T H P G A B B W J U P I D H D U V K M X C  
T C K S Q G O U K L X G R Z O S E Y J L T G O P K F M V V W  
W X E E Y W Y A D G E Q X O W D T A U R P R J E I R X E S R  
A E I O H M Z T K R J C Q S R U K Z L G A D E P Q U X H X A

ABRAHAM  
CANAAN  
CHALLAH  
ESTHER  
HAGGADAH  
HAMEN  
HANUKAH  
HEBREW  
ISAAC  
ISRAELITES

JACOB  
JERUSALEM  
JEWISH  
MIRIAM  
MORDECHAI  
MOSES  
MOUNT SINAI  
PASSOVER  
PURIM  
RABBI

RACHEL  
REBECCA  
ROSH HASHANAH  
SARAH  
SHABBAT  
SUKKOT  
SYNAGOGUE  
TEFILAH  
TEMPLE

# MEET THE TEMPLE EMANU-EL SECURITY GUARDS

by JACK SWIGER

On May 7th 2017, I had the opportunity to meet and interview two (2) security guards and one (1) police officer who are hired to protect the kids and the temple. Their names are BiBi Barriento, Trevor Cesca and Officer Skowron.

## 1) HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A SECURITY GUARD AND POLICE OFFICER

Bibi - I've been a security guard for nine (9) years.

Trevor - I've been a police officer and guard for 15 years

Officer Skowron I've been a police officer for five(5) years

## 2) ARE YOU SECURITY GUARDS FOR OTHER PLACES?

Bibi - Also works as an EMT for the fire department, Planned Parenthood & The Hudson Hotel.

Trevor -Is a guard at Sotheby's protecting 60 million dollar paintings

Officer Skowron - Is hired to protect fans at many sporting events like the Mets and Yankees games. He also works for the Queens Transit Systems.

## 3) WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE TEMPLE?

To protect the kids and get them in and out of the building safely. They also check ID's and make sure the children go home with the correct family member or nanny.

## 4) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

They all agreed that their favorite part of the job is to meet people and to help them.

## 5) HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A THREATENING SITUATION AND IF SO HOW DID YOU REACT?

Trevor - I formerly worked as a chief emergency responder and served felony warrants.

He faced people with weapons and drugs.

Officer Skowron - Faced people with knives and drugs. Fortunately, neither man was injured. They both learned during their training to always remain calm and use their radios for backup. They also learned that you must try to defuse a situation before being physical.



I thanked the police officer and the guards for their time and service.  
I even got to look at the officer's utility belt!

## CREATING HAMANTASCHEN DOUGH

by **ELLIE SILVER**

Grade 4

When Rachel Brumberg asked my mother to make the Hamantaschen dough for the Purim carnival four years ago I was eager to help. We have been making the dough for the carnival ever since. We set aside one afternoon about a week before the carnival and we make batch after batch until we reach eleven. It's really fun and we usually watch TV while mixing. The Monday before the carnival we pack up all of the frozen dough in a cooler with ice packs and bring it to religious school. Then we load it into a freezer in Wise Hall so it is there and ready for the following Sunday. The Hamantaschen making table is one of my favorite events of the carnival and certainly the most delicious. Especially with chocolate chips.

## 69 WORDS ABOUT ISRAEL IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 69TH BIRTHDAY

by **GABBIE HETU**

While Israel, the perfect combination of modern and ancient, has extensive history and beauty, from Masada to the Dead Sea to Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, the Israeli people are what I love most about it. Whether you're talking to an IDF soldier or your tour guide or the waiter at a café, all of them are immensely proud to be Israeli and to share their spectacular home with you.

by **EMILY JANOVER**

There is a certain aura in Israel that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Whether it is in the air of Jaffa, or the water of Eilat, or on the surface of the Western Wall, the feeling is indescribable. When I fondly recall memories of Israel they are vivid in my mind and that certain feeling comes over me once again.



## A SPECIAL THANKS TO MS. FRENCH

by NAOMI GELFER

From the countless hours Ms. French worked with me, strengthening my Hebrew vocabulary, to the innumerable conversations we shared in Hebrew, and in English, I want to thank Ms. French for everything she has done for me and the religious school, and I would not be where I am today if it were not for her. I have been working on Skype with Ms. French since I was in third grade; this is my third year, and my experience has shown, spending half an hour a week can change how well you know a foreign tongue. I remember, when I was in third grade, I wrote a few sentences in Hebrew with Ms. French, and those few, messy sentences ended up in the temple newspaper; which goes to show, a little work every week can go a long way, especially when you are working with someone like Ms. French. Strengthening my general Hebrew vocabulary, Ms. French and I worked through a useful Hebrew workbook and by the end of fourth grade, I could read short stories in Hebrew. I have recently transitioned from learning with Ms. French, to working with another wonderful Hebrew teacher; Yaffa. Yaffa, an also excellent Hebrew teacher, is now working with me, in place of Ms. French. Thinking that she had taught me all that she could, Ms. French insisted on moving me to lessons with Yaffa. Personally, I think Ms. French can teach me much more, but I am also very proud that Ms. French thinks so highly of me. Working with Yaffa, we are using the general vocabulary I learned with Ms. French to build sentences, and to then build short conversations. No books, no English, Yaffa pushes me every week, adding on to what we learned the previous week. Ms. French has shown me that knowing Hebrew is not only important for just understanding your prayers at services, Hebrew is important for being Jewish in general, and could be learned and spoken for the same reasons as learning French, Russian, English, etc. I have written this article to point out our wonderful teachers here at Temple Emanu-El, and how thankful I am for Ms. French, Yaffa, and all of our impactful teachers at religious school, because behind the scenes, or in front of them, our teachers are with us every step in the way, and the impacts they have made on our lives are seared into our memory forever. With this much progress in just three years, I can't imagine where I will be in the future, but I couldn't have gone half the way, if it weren't for Ms. French. I'm looking forward to the next year at religious school, especially because I am working with Yaffa.

# ORIGINAL ART

by HARRISON STARR



P I C T  
U R E  
T H I S









# JEWISH FESTIVALS WORD SEARCH

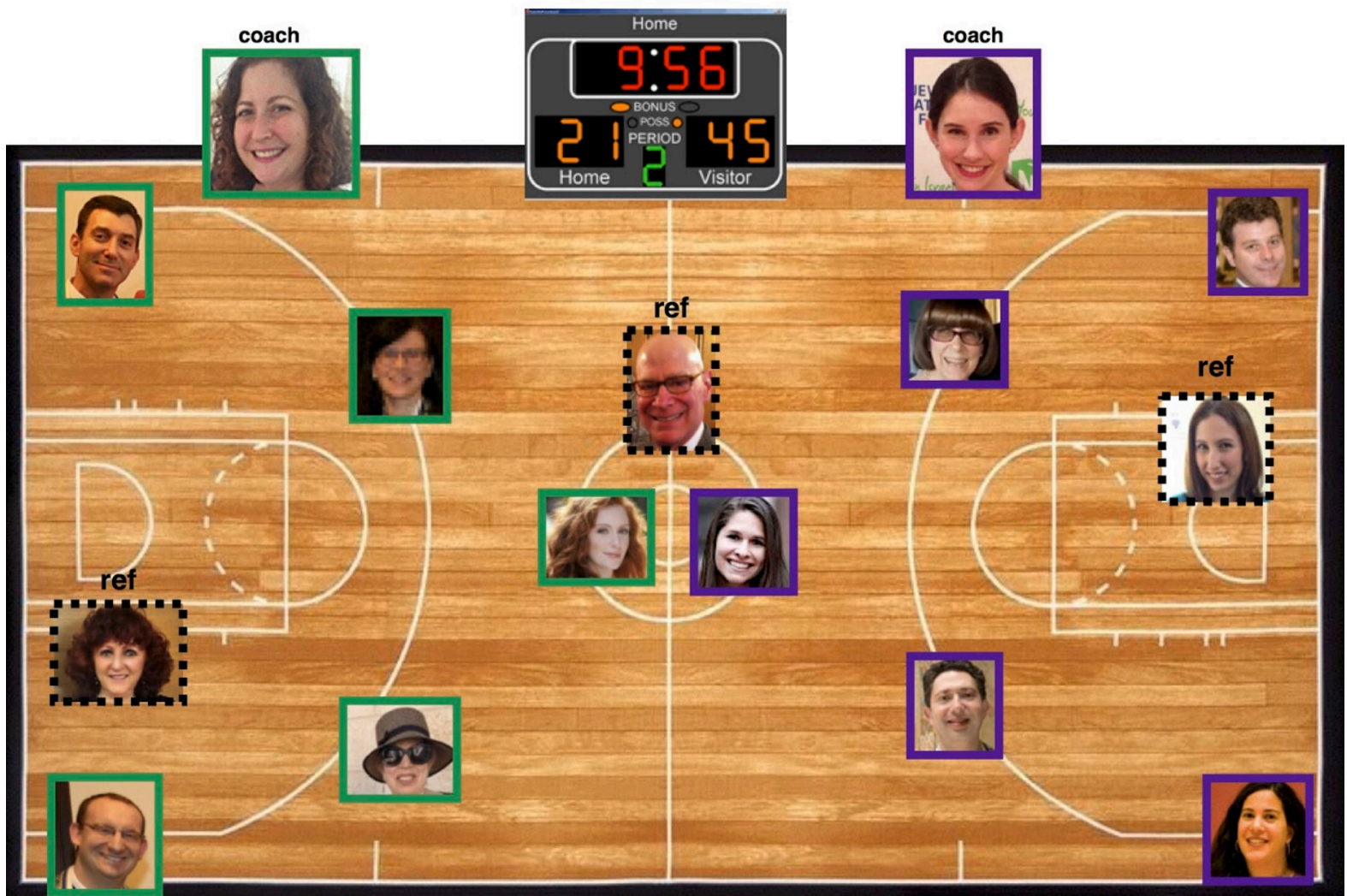
by BRADY PROPPER & JEREMY HARTMAN-CHAIT

D	G	C	W	B	F	P	V	C	G	H	K
H	V	S	U	C	C	O	T	H	S	A	N
P	A	T	T	T	X	G	V	H	D	N	N
A	X	N	H	A	Y	R	A	Q	R	A	K
S	N	B	U	Z	B	V	W	U	Q	H	L
S	R	G	K	K	U	B	P	N	M	S	F
O	R	X	J	O	K	P	A	B	L	A	K
V	G	N	T	L	I	A	W	H	Z	H	L
E	B	H	G	K	C	P	H	Q	S	H	X
R	K	Y	M	K	Z	N	R	Z	K	S	F
L	X	O	X	N	X	M	K	L	G	O	W
D	Y	M	I	R	U	P	T	T	V	R	Q

HANUKKAH  
PASSOVER  
PURIM  
ROSH HASHANAH  
SHABBAT  
SHAVUOTH  
SUCCOTH  
YOM KIPPUR

# TEMPLE EMANU-EL BASKETBALL TEAMS

by LOGAN AND ELLE HENNES



WHAT IF THERE WAS A TEMPLE EMANU-EL BASKETBALL TEAM?  
PICK THE TEAM YOU THINK IS GOING TO WIN!  
THE PURPLE ALAFS OR GREEN GIMALS??!!





**VOLUNTEERING**

**(ACTIVITY)**

**NOT VOLUNTEERING**

**TRIP TO ISRAEL**

**(VACATION)**

**TRIP TO OHIO**

**DOLPHIN REEF**

**(ISRAELI LANDMARK)**

**DEAD SEA**

**SUFGANIYOT**

**(JEWISH FOOD)**

**GEFILTE FISH**

**ADAM SANDLER**

**(JEWISH ACTOR)**

**SHIA LABEOUF**

**ADAM LEVINE**

**(JEWISH POP STAR)**

**BILLY JOEL**

**by NATHANIEL HELPERN**

# WORD SEARCH

by CALLUM RODIN

D L O B X D D G N R G T K H R C U X C U F C D J J X Z K G X  
M E O O T A B B A H S U F Z K N H M C H P C W W R D Z W O W  
X O T W O U E B U E T Q C N X F C F E H I L E N D R U G H B  
K J C B G R B U O Z H U C A A F G N A N I R R I Z O K H S J  
B G R F S I B Z H T W Y C S A B P G T J M T B M P S W O Z Y  
H S J S F Q R A I U P G B F S Q R A T W P W E S E Q L A U V  
G K Z S S Y K D Y K T B U W O F I O T K R Y H R L F I R S O  
O S D H Z K E J G B B W S K V H B Y V B Z Y D O J V G A X V  
U F J V U M H N E P V A C J R T Y L P Y H I S R Q V X H J N  
I Y L N T C X N T E Y T N M Z L Z V N I B F Q T I U N P O Y  
U E A J H F G A Q I Q E T R J Y S O Y Y I F O D A A L B A S  
A H F O O C X J B O H N V Y P R O H I E D B Q R E H N V Y U  
C A F O X W W Y X E L W O X X B W W W G D E T N Y C J O N H  
N N A T S B Y H D D K L M X F L T L F Y O M E T A H N S D I  
M A Y I I M H K A Z H K X K B E Z E W R U P P I K M O Y K A  
X H Y N E V M B O L K W U S X A F V M Z O U X R R S F T H K  
F S A Z V F P E D W A N V I D R R I J P Y L C V H Y N K I U  
L A L I C T S T W G Y N P K N S D X U U L S U Z O E H R Z O  
U H U Y U X L P A A K G L K B I S Z Q U F E T A G K B A K Z  
Z H V B E O J N O J A W L E N L F I G E R S J E O X R E X T  
U S U H V E Q L R O C N Z U U Q V I L E P O H D X Y Z D P G  
W O W D C O N G R E G A T I O N O V V Q P M V Y X Y I P E V  
X R P V I N L C R H I M D Y F E A O N T G M R Y O Z R O Y H  
I B V R I R E E H Y N G J I J H S M P S X F T Z L V J H C A  
F V P E S I M R X F O C Q X M S J A E M H W M I R U P D G L  
F C H A M X O N F X A V N T A Y C H X C Z R V J P D Y C W I  
X Q L I L J L V E S X K O P V Q A B U Q N R S C R X L N I F  
J E A S T O A O G T M A K K T E N P V Q Q G W U W K H J E E  
E O V H T Z H C N I H E L X I I A E D W A S M A U V A Z C T  
Q E Z B N C S O K O A H Z R Z G C N Z W E K R C I E S K Y F

SHALOM

TEFILAH

HEBREW

ISRAEL

EMANUEL

YAFFA

RINA

MSFRENCH

RABBI

WHITNEY

CONGREGATION

TEMPLE

SHABBAT

PASSOVER

YOM KIPPUR

ROSH HASHANAH

CHANUKKAH

PURIM

MOSES

ADONAI

PHAROAH

# TEEN LEADERSHIP SHABBAT SERMON

by ALEX CRAMER

Delivered to the congregation April 20, 2017

Shabbat Shalom.

This week's portion, Shmini, tells us, among other things, about the origin of the kosher rules. God commands us to not eat foods that are "unclean," such as pork, shellfish, or—and this is probably less commonly know—chameleon.

I found this passage to be especially meaningful following eight days of Passover. Throughout the past week, as my stomach growled, unsatisfied with only apples and bananas until dinner, I've spent a lot of time pondering the question, what's the connection between food and Judaism?

Because food is an integral part of Jewish celebrations.

There are holidays where we eat specific treats—think hamentaschen on Purim or latkes and gelt on Hanukkah or apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah.

We also have the holidays where we avoid certain foods—obviously no leavened bread during Passover and no nothing during the dreaded Yom Kippur fast.

And then there is the set of rules regulating our mundane consumption—forbidding food like bacon cheeseburgers.

Tonight, I'm going to offer you a simple answer to that question, one not steeped in big words or tricky biblical meaning.

Because, as a teen, my interpretation of Judaism, and religion at large, is a little different. I don't know if I believe all the stories of the Torah. I can't tell you that I follow all the commandments perfectly. I'm not sure how I feel about God.

Yet, I'm here tonight for a reason. As I'm sure you know, not many, and definitely not enough, teens continue coming to temple after their bar or bat mitzvahs. Yet, [all of us here tonight/for some of us, we] keep getting pulled back, yanked closer, for entirely different reasons. For me, I love the traditions that root my Judaism.

So often we contend that Judaism is about prayer and introspection. But I'm willing to bet you a shekel that when you consider your Judaism—the moments that stick out aren't only, as great as they are, at synagogue, celebrating a life cycle moment, or participating in teen

groups, but also the game of dreidel played with your whole family or the joke at the Passover seder that had everyone rolling on the floor with laughter (which is in no way appropriate for the bimah). In that sense, Judaism is also about our relationships with family and friends and the time honored traditions we celebrate with them. For me, it's about my grandmother's matzoh ball soup, shmaltz and all, which, a few years back, she lovingly taught me to make before she passed. And it's about coming home last week to find my cousin Eli in our kitchen carefully scooping up balls of wet, gloopy, shmaltz-y matzoh ball batter and dropping them into the soup.

It's about that four o'clock feeling on Yom Kippur when my entire family sits on the couch, making eyes at each other, wondering when the right time to bring out the carrot and dip is—and everyone silently hoping that its soon. And its the relief on the faces of those who you love biting into our family-tradition Swedish meatballs after deciding the sun is “pretty much almost all the way down.”

That's really where my Judaism lives.

As Jews, we are ingrained in these traditions, that we pass down from generation to generation. The lovingly made kugel with a secret ingredient or the homemade latkes that leave potato peels all over the kitchen are expressions of our Judaism—as much as our visits to services or our work in the temple.

For Jews, the wrinkled old index cards scribbled with recipes are equal in stature to the weathered prayer book—both landmark tenets of our faith.

So, for me, the question about food and Judaism does, like matzoh ball soup, boil down to a simple answer.

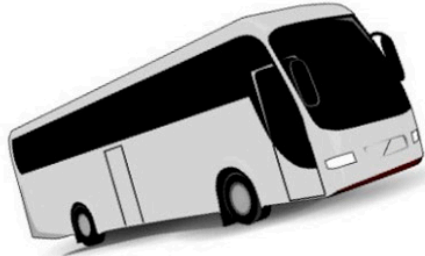
I like to believe that, all those years ago, when G-d gave Moses the words of the Torah following the Jews exodus from Egypt, that he knew, even then, that as much value as we put on the ethics and morals learned from the biblical stories, we would put equal weight on our beloved culinary traditions. And so G-d incorporated some food rules as well—just to keep it fair.

And, I would argue, that the most beautiful element of this parashat is that it highlights how my interpretation of Judaism can be different from yours, and how yours can be different from your friends. What makes Judaism so meaningful is that we, ourselves, in our individual ways, own it. There is never just one right answer, there is never only one way to pray, and there is definitely never only one recipe to cook. Judaism is exactly what you make it.

Shabbat shalom and happy eating!

# **BERKSHIRE CAMP BUS TOUR**

## **SUNDAY, JULY 9**



**JOIN US FOR A SUMMER DAY IN THE BERKSHIRES  
FULL OF FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS AND MUSIC!**

**WE WILL VISIT TWO AMAZING  
UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM SUMMER CAMPS,  
EISNER CAMP AND CRANE LAKE CAMP,  
AND YOU'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOR  
YOURSELF THE MAGIC AND POWER OF  
JEWISH SUMMER CAMP!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JACKIE SCHREIBER  
JSCHREIBER@EMANUELNYC.ORG  
212-507-9534**



## TEEN LEADERSHIP SHABBAT SERMON

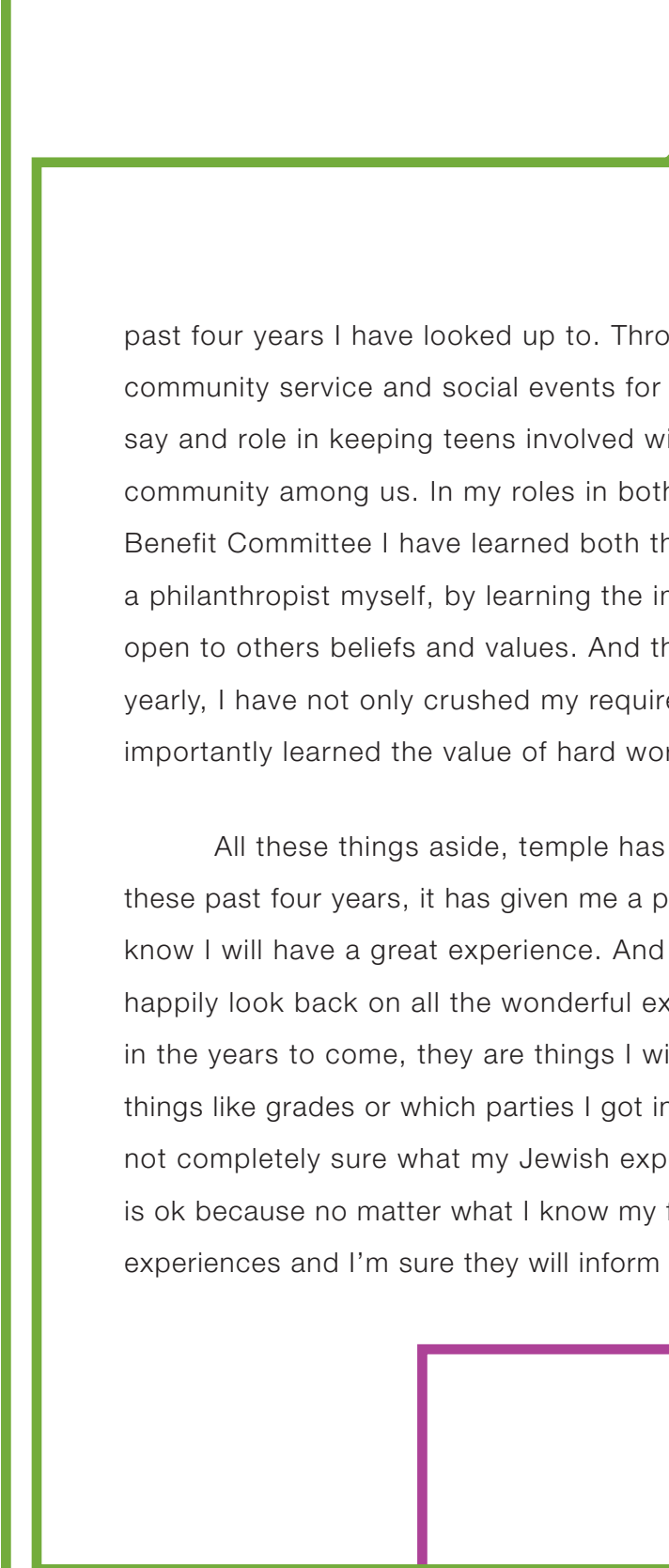
by EMILY WEINTRAUB

Delivered to the congregation April 20, 2017

In this week's parasha from Leviticus, God instructs Moses and Aaron on which animals may be eaten, and while I found the portion very interesting, I had some trouble as I tried to find a way to relate. It did however remind me of Passover, and the diet that every year I choose to adopt, that of giving up leavened bread and grains for a week. This tradition of mine started as a way to feel more grownup, a way to embrace my Judaism as I thought I should, but as I've gotten older and gotten better at keeping kosher for Passover it has morphed into something else. It is a time to prove to myself that I can rise to the challenge and a time to truly remember the trials and tribulations of my ancestors. And as I continued to think about this tradition that I've kept up for many years I began to reflect. Not just on my years of keeping kosher for Passover, but on the other things that have filled my life during those times and then more broadly the past few years of my life. And so I stumbled upon something, unsurprising for a high school senior, my high school experience.

In the past four years much has changed. For one, I have aged. For another, I have moved to a new apartment and made an entirely new group of friends. And yet, for the last four years one thing has stayed constant, something I'm very proud of. My Judaism. Religion is a funny thing. As many of my friends both from temple and school have grown older and began to be less and less involved with their respective synagogues, I have been met with more and more surprised looks as I tell my friends and family that I'm on my way to temple on a Sunday or Wednesday afternoon. It's as if they no longer understand why I continue to be involved. You see, they don't get to see how much I've benefited from my many commitments at temple nor do they get to see the wonderful experiences that have come along with my work.

For one, these commitments have kept me close to my Judaism. They have allowed me to continue to learn and be inspired by the religion that I am a part of, even after my Bat Mitzvah a time when many believe they have learned all they need to know. But more than that, each committee or council I have been a part of has been its own blessing. As Co-Chair of the Teen Leadership Council, I am finally getting to partake in a leadership role, that for the



past four years I have looked up to. Through the Council which plans and organizes community service and social events for high schoolers, I have been able to have a larger say and role in keeping teens involved with temple and fostering a strong sense of community among us. In my roles in both the Teen Philanthropic Committee and Teen Benefit Committee I have learned both the importance of philanthropy and how to be a philanthropist myself, by learning the importance of consensus and the value in being open to others beliefs and values. And through taking part in community service events yearly, I have not only crushed my required community service hours, but more importantly learned the value of hard work.

All these things aside, temple has given me something I have been lucky to have these past four years, it has given me a place of constant welcome, a place where I always know I will have a great experience. And so, as I get ready to leave for college I can happily look back on all the wonderful experiences I have been a part of and I know that in the years to come, they are things I will remember about high school, not the trivial things like grades or which parties I got invited to and for that I am eternally grateful. I'm not completely sure what my Jewish experiences will look like for years to come and that is ok because no matter what I know my future self will be glad to have had such wonderful experiences and I'm sure they will inform my future decisions for college and beyond.



עֲשֵׂה לְךָ רֵב, וְקַנֵּה לְךָ חֵבֵר  
וְהוֹי דָּן אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת

“FIND A TEACHER, MAKE A FRIEND, AND TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT.”

--Pirke Avot (Saying of our Ancestors) 1:6

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