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# <u>Temple Emanu-El</u> By Phoebe Right and Chloé Starr

Emanu-El Religious School Students LOVE ...



We go to Religious School on Mondays and we have so much fun!!!

The temple is great for its programs and the location is very convenient for some of us. The basement is where you go if you arrive early for Religious School. There, you can help yourself to animal crackers, pretzels, fig bars, water, and juice.

All of the temple's events are very well organized. I go often to Shabbat, even in the summer and never get tired of it. At the end of the year when Religious School is over I'm so sad. The best part is that you make friends in a snap. If you don't go to the events, you do not know what you are missing! Don't even get me started with Purim, Passover, Hanukkah and more...

The rabbis are so amazing and wonderful to be around. They make learning so fun.

The A-TEEM is a group of high school students that come in your class and explain to your class some of the upcoming events that are going on. They also might tell you the total amount that the tzedakah program has raised. Tzedakah is money that is collected for organizations that help people in need. We love the A team because they are so helpful.

There is also another program for fourth graders and up... It is called student council. You meet a couple of Sundays during the year. The Religious School Student Council has been in existence since 1965.

Mark
Willner
and the
20172018
Student
Council



Representatives meet approximately once a month. Student Council meetings are held on select Sunday mornings, prior to regular class sessions. They welcome students from the Monday session too.

For the students who go to Religious School on Sundays there is something called Tribes, which is a class where you learn about all sorts of old Jewish Tribes. (See article on page 4.)

Another amusing thing is called Religious School with honors. Students need to earn five points to achieve honors status; forms may be submitted as soon as this is achieved. Points are earned by attending temple events outside of Religious School hours or by participating in certain programs. Students can achieve three levels of Religious School with honors throughout the year. Each level has its own requirements and there are rewards associated with it. All honors students will be recognized at Shabbat worship on May 18.

We can't imagine our lives without Temple Emanu-EI!!!

## TRIBES

#### By: Matthew Boova and Sean Familant

Temple Emanu-El's Tribes is what this article is about. Tribes is what Sunday kids do. There are three tribes: the Noahites, the Ruthites, and the Sarahites.

We have a special event that happens once a year called the "Tribal Cup." In the Tribal Cup we play 3 different games. One of the games is "Bean Bag Tic Tac Toe." It's like tic tac toe but with bean bags. Two tribes go and try to get a tic tac toe. What they did is throw a bean bag from 10 to 20 feet away and try to get their bean bag in one of the spaces. This year the Ruthites won.

We also have tribal chants. The Ruthites' chant is "We're strong, we are bold, we're going to win the gold! Gooo Ruthites!" Two interesting things that also happened is that for the first time in three years, the Noahites did not have twins in their tribe. Another thing is that each tribe has a Tribal Co-Chief for the first time.



## An Interview with Saul Kaiserman

By: Hope Hasicka

At Temple Emanu-El, Saul is the principal in charge of the Religious School and Teen Projects. He also gets to do other things like playing his guitar and singing with the Nursery School.

Religious School has changed since Saul has been working here. He helps kids become leaders. For example: At Shabbat services he has a reporter for tzedakah collection and for the response board where a question is posted at each Shabbat Kodesh.

Saul's favorite part of his job is meeting kids and parents and learning things from them and helping them learn something, too.

Saul choose to work at Temple Emanu-El because he wanted kids to learn more about being Jewish.



## A Day in Third Grade

By Hope Hasicka

A day in third grade is a fun, educational, exciting time! In the beginning of the day we start out with history. Megan is the teacher in history. She teaches us about Jewish historical events, and why we celebrate holidays and why they are important. Then we move on to Hebrew, but before that we have snack. In Hebrew we learn letters and vowels, which help us read words. Next is Tefilah. There we use our prayer books and sing prayers. This is what it's like to be in third grade.

# Tikkun Olam

#### Nathaniel Helpern

#### Religious School with Honors Level III project

On mitzvah day I thought about how doing good deeds helps people and makes the volunteers feel good. I wanted to hear other perspectives about what people think and do with regards to Tikkun Olam so I reached out to a number of people in the Temple Emanu-El community including Rabbi Davidson, Ms. French, Mr. Willner, and Ms. Miriam Reines, who is on the Tikkun Olam Committee. Here are my questions and their responses.

#### What does Tikkun Olam mean to you?

Rabbi Davidson: Tikkun Olam means repairing the world. But the full Hebrew is Tikkun Olam b'Malchut Shaddai, which means repairing the world under God's reign. In other words, God gives us an understanding of what the world ought to be – a place of justice and peace -- and our task is to make that vision a reality.

Mr. Willner: Making the world a better place to live for all people.

Ms. Reines: Tikkun Olam means "repair of the world" which has become more and more important to me as I age. My observation of the needs of so many in the world who are in need of help is what drives me to do as much as I can possibly do to help others. It is a small dent in repairing the world but I feel that I have tried and hopefully made others a little happier.

#### What activities do you do that represent Tikkun Olam?

Rabbi Davidson: I believe that whenever our congregation reaches out to those in need, either nearby in our city or far away in other parts of the world, we are engaging in Tikkun Olam. Sometimes that means feeding the hungry. And sometimes that means learning about why people still go hungry in a country that has enough resources to feed everyone if we distributed those resources more equitably, and then going to Washington, DC to advocate for policies that lift people out of poverty.

Mr. Willner: I contribute to charitable organizations. I try to follow environmental and health guidelines.

Ms. Reines: When the Tikkun Olam Committee has social action activities throughout the year, I like to work with other volunteers who feel as I do. Our largest event is Mitzvah Day which is a time for as many congregants as wish to come join together for many projects. My contribution is a project called "Feed the Hungry". We make several hundred lunches which are then distributed to organizations who feed the hungry who come to them.

When did you start doing Tikkun Olam? Did you do it when you were a kid? Rabbi Davidson: I started when I was a kid, volunteering visiting the elderly who could not leave their homes. And then when I was older, I started going to Washington to advocate for laws that would protect things like religious liberty and civil rights.

Ms. French: I have been volunteering and helping others all my life. When I was a kid, my Mom and I would take used toys that I no longer wanted and give them to children in the hospital. We actually went to the hospital to distribute them I was also a candy striper. When I was in high school I volunteered as a Candy Striper at Mountainside Hospital and visited with patients who need reading materials or just a visitor.

Ms. Reines: I started working with the Tikkun Olam volunteers when the program began at Temple Emanu-El. When I was a kid in religious school at the Temple we did not have a Tikkun Olam program but we did start the Sunday Lunch Program which meets every Sunday and prepares 120-150 lunches each week for hungry New Yorkers to come and get lunch. When the program began 37 years ago, our guests came in and we served lunch to them. We now prepare bag lunches which are distributed. In addition, we prepare extra lunches which the Tikkun Olam program brings to Jan Hus where hungry New Yorkers come for food.

#### Do you have advice for how kids can get involved with Tikkun Olam?

Rabbi Davidson: I think the most important thing kids can do is read the newspaper to learn about the injustices going on in the world around them, near and far; and then figuring out how they can use their talents and skills to address them.

Ms. French: I have volunteered in Israel packing Medical supplies or helping disadvantaged students with their English. I continue to donate whatever is needed whether it is time, expertise or money. I think each of us can find opportunities to help others. Young people can explore opportunities through their school or synagogue to help repair the world. Sometimes, it is a simple as welcoming a new student into your school or helping a friend with their homework.

Mr. Willner: Obey environmental rules. Look to your parents, teachers and rabbis as role models.

I want to thank everyone who participated. Their answers show that there are many ways to get involved and help make the world a better place.





## Torah, Avodah and G'milut Chasadim in 3rd Grade at Temple Emanu-El

By Hope Hasicka

According to Pirkei Avot 1:2, our world is based on 3 things: Torah, Avodah and G'milut Chasadim.

The stories of our people come from the Torah. The prayer service is the heart known as Avodah. Acts of loving kindness like healing and helping others is G'milut Chasadim.

In 3rd grade we are lucky enough to study all three. We are always studying the Torah. A great example is Simchat Torah when we pull out the Torah only to learn that we will read it again from beginning to end.

In pre-k to 1st grade, we hear a variety of books read to us relating to the Jewish holidays. In 2nd Grade we read the actual Torah stories, discuss details and create art project with the Torah story. In 3rd grade, we go into more details on the Torah stories and get to relate more to it with our classmates and family. I love learning about the Torah as it tells and teaches me about what happened long ago.

For Avodah, Tefilah is our worship service where we study the prayers that we sing to God. Prayers allow me to look deep within myself to talk to God. God is holy and is said to be everywhere. We add prayers all the time to our prayer book. We try to break down the meaning of the prayers so that we can understand and relate to it.

G'milut Chasadim, are acts of loving kindness. I get to participate with my class mates in Tribes where we build relationship with the A-TEEMers and each other. We get to practice the values that the A-TEEMers have taught.

Religious School with Honors allowed me to be involved in the Temple Emanu-El community while learning and having a hands-on experience with Torah, Avodah and G'milut Chasadim. I was able to teach others lessons I learned in the Torah, practice the prayers I learned and do acts of loving kindness like Mitzvah Day. It helps to make me a better person as well as the world around me. I hope I can inspire others to do it too!

# **Tribes Guide to G'milut Chasadim**

This year in Tribes, the Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders studies Pirkei Avot 1:2 "On three things the world stands: On Torah (study), on Avodah (worship) and on G'milut Chasadim (kind acts)."

To help us better understand G'milut Chasadim, the students created "How-To" guides about G'milut Chasadim. Below is a compilation of what the Noahites, Ruthites and Sarahites would like to teach us about kind acts; please read and then partake in G'milut Chasadim yourself!

#### What is G'milut Chasadim?

• G'milut Chasadim is every form of kind act

## How do you do G'milut Chasadim?

• Helping out a friend, being nice, giving tzedakah, helping others through community service, doing small but thoughtful acts such as holding the door

### When do you do G'milut Chasadim?

• All the time, when you're awake, when someone needs help or whenever you can

### Why do you do G'milut Chasadim?

• Because it's the right thing to do and because it's nice and helpful; out of kindness, to make people feel better, to make others happy

### **Examples of G'milut Chasadim:**

- Going to an animal shelter
- Telling jokes
- Volunteering
- Helping someone out
- Giving to the poor
- Respect animals, people, and the earth
- Holding the door open for someone

## Sermon Highlights from Teen High Holiday Worship Fall 2017

"From singing "The Tree of Life" on the bima with the rest of the Junior Choir to standing on the same bima, this time chanting my Torah portion as I became a Bat Mitzvah, there was never a point in my childhood in which I was not involved in some way at Emanu-El. Even as young as six years old, I looked forward to the family services. Of course, a large part of my excitement was probably thanks to the delicious cookies I knew would follow at the reception. But I was almost equally excited by the sermons following the reading of the Torah. I would listen intently as the Rabbi regaled us with funny and interesting stories. Little did I realize the moral lessons these tales held, but today, though I may not remember the characters' names or their adventures, I do remember the lessons these stories taught and apply them in my own life each day as I strive to be a better Jew and overall a better person."

-- Mia Zang

"I can understand why Isaac may have needed to 'check out' from the story in the Torah. Perhaps, like many other teenagers, he needed to pull away and figure things out -- like his relationship with his father and with his God. In due time, Isaac reappears in the Torah, reconnecting with both. I'm not saying that any of us should disappear from our stories. But, if from time to time we need to check out and question our own relationships with family and with God, we can think of Isaac's journey. He wasn't a bad Jew for questioning — if anything it made Isaac, the son of the Patriarch of the Jewish people, more of a teenager - like us."

-- Mena Solomon

"Should we really reserve only one day out of the whole year to reflect, repent, and change? Does it really only take one day for us to ask forgiveness and be forgiven? Repentance takes time. Forgiveness and healing take even longer. Shouldn't we reflect on our actions every day of our lives? Although it may seem cliché, here is a simple analogy: carrying our sins and guilt with us over the course of the year is like leaving all the material of a difficult final exam to learn the night before, instead of studying over the course of the school year. If we were conscious of our behavior throughout the year, we would probably arrive here today, on Yom Kippur, feeling lighter, happier, less guilty, and more proud of who we are. Reviewing our actions, admitting our faults, forgiving, and asking for forgiveness often should take weight off our shoulders and fulfill our soul. Let's think of Yom Kippur as a final exam that we should be well prepared for in order to succeed."

-- Hanna Hornfeld

"The sounding of the shofar can be compared to an alarm clock--a loud, not so pleasant, sound that pulls you out of a deep, yearlong sleep. The idea being that we have essentially been sleepwalking through our lives for the past 365 days--and it is now time to wake up ... I encourage everyone to allow this holiday to disrupt your daily routine ... living each day with a sense of awareness, acknowledgment and purpose. ... Let today mark the start of finding new doors, and now we have the 365 days to walk through as many as possible!"

-- Anna Cooper

## Jewish Baseball Players

#### By: Harrison Starr

There is nothing more fascinating to me than major league baseball players that are Jewish. I immediately am interested in their story and especially their success. I feel an immediate connection to them. The baseball season just started this month and there are 8 Jewish players and 1 coach to take note of:

**Brad Ausmus** - Currently the manager for the Detroit Tigers. As a young player, he was drafted by the NY Yankees in 1987. He was a rarity to the league because he went to Dartmouth College (not exactly famous for their collegiate baseball program). Ausmus also coached the Israeli baseball team last year during the World Baseball Classic. The Israeli "dream team" had an inspiring run with a 4-1 record. At the time, a journalist from MLB, Jonathan Mayo, titled his article: For Israel to get this far, Dayenu. I agree. It was magical to feel the excitement after every game.

**Ty Kelly** - is a player on the New York Mets. He is a 28-year old utility player and normally does not start. His mother is Jewish and father is Catholic, so technically, Ty is a Jew (hey, we'll take it). He was also part of the shockingly good World Baseball Class team coached by Brad Ausmus.

The next Jewish ball player is **Ryan Braun**. He plays for the Milwaukee Brewers. If Braun has a decent season he will become the third Jewish baseball player to have more than 300 home runs and 1000 runs batted in (RBI). Braun's father Joe was born in Israel. Sadly, most of his extended family died in the Holocaust.

**Ian Kinsler** - is the starting second baseman on the Los Angeles Angels. If Kinsler has a few more good seasons he will probably be voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His father is Jewish but his mother is Catholic, and Kinsler considers himself Jewish.

**Joc Pederson** - This is a big name, right? Pederson is the starting center fielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers. This lefty had a terrific spring and brought that to opening day where he hit a grand slam (yes !!!) to help the Dodgers win their opener. Pederson is Jewish by birth. Alex Bregman - is the third baseman for the Houston Astros. Bregman was eligible to play for the Israeli Baseball team during the World Baseball Classic but opted instead for team USA. He was part of the Astros World Series team. Both of Bregman's parents are Jewish (they are also lawyers, no doubt overseeing everything his manager does!)

**Danny Valencia** – is the first basemen for the Seattle Mariners. The Mariners will be his 8<sup>th</sup> team in 9 years. He also played in five different positions. His mom is Jewish and his father later converted to Judaism.

**Kevin Pillar** - is the starting centerfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays. He is one of the best hitters on the team. His mother is Jewish and his father is Catholic. Pillar had a bar mitzvah (curious to know if the theme was all baseball)

Scott Feldman - is currently a free agent. He has had a fairly shaky career with a lifetime record of 71-78. His father is Jewish and works for the FBI.

Finally, **Craig Breslow** - He returns to the majors with the Toronto Blue Jays. He is a Yale graduate (smart guy). As a kid he went to Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, CT. Breslow also maintains his Jewish lifestyle despite being in the big leagues. He said he fasts on Yom Kippur even if he plays during the High Holy days.



# So You Thought There Were No Jewish Wrestlers? WRONG!

by Jeremy Hartman-Chait

Entering the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame this year in 2018 is Bill Goldberg who wrestled between 1996-2004 and 2015-2017, one of the greatest wrestlers of all time. He was in many memorable matches with some of the biggest names in the industry which he won.

His illustrious career started after he finished playing football in 1996 He started in WCW (World Championship Wrestling) and his career got on the radar in 1998 when he won the WCW Heavy Weight Championship from Hulk Hogan during the July 6th episode of Monday Nitro. Then, in 2003, Goldberg made his WWE debut. After a year he was fired (for story line reasons) and wrestled for All Japan Pro Wrestling.

He fought some matches in Legends of Wrestling. Then in 2015 he made his WWE return to challenge Kevin Owens for the Universal

Championship at Fastlane 2017. Goldberg won the belt in 1 minute with a jackhammer (his finishing move), and became the 3rd Universal Champion, He remained champion for a year. Then he was in a feud with Brock Lesnar and at Wrestle Mania 33 (2017). Brock Lesnar beat Goldberg for the Universal Championship. and Goldberg retired after Wrestle Mania 33. And this year he will be immortalized in WWE history in the WWE Hall of Fame along with the Jewish legends including "Macho Man" Randy Savage (wrestler) and Howard Finkel (one of the most memorable ring announcers in WWE history).

Congratulations Bill Goldberg, for making it so much fun to watch wrestling and your amazing career in sports entertainment.



Goldberg (right) vs Kevin Owens (left) for the universal title



Bottom (Goldberg(left) vs Brock Lesnar (right) for universal championship Wrestle mania 33)



(Goldberg (left) Hulk Hogan (right) for the WCW championship june 6th episode of WCW monday nitro)

## Jewish Olympic Athletes in the 2018 Olympics

By Gordon Beckler

Many Jewish athletes participated in the 2018 Winter Olympics that were held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. These athletes hailed from various countries, such as Israel, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States.

Jewish athletes from Israel appeared in various Olympic events. Vladislav Bykanov was a speed skater. Another skater from the Israeli state was Paige Conners. Evgeni Krasnopolski, another Jewish skater, partnered with Conners in the pairs skating competition. The first ever skeleton racer from Israel was A.J. Edelman, also known as the "Hebrew Hammer." In Pyeongchang, the number of Israeli team members were double that of the previous record for the Winter Olympics.

From Canada came a Jewish figure-skater named Dylan Moscovitch who was a certified instructor of Krav Maga, a self-defense system that is used by the Israeli Defense Forces.

Adam Rosen was a Jewish athlete who represented Great Britain in the luge contest. He has dual citizenship as the son of an American father and a British mother. Although he competed for Great Britain, he actually lives in New York!

Several Jewish athletes from the United States participated in the Winter Olympics. One of them was retired hockey player Jonathon Blum who had played professionally for the Nashville Predators and the Minnesota Wild who played for the American men's hockey team in Pyeongchang. Jason Blum, a figure skater who dances to many types of songs such as those from "Hamilton," also participated in the recent winter games. Arielle Gold won an Olympic bronze medal for the United States in women's half-pipe snowboarding at the Winter Olympics. Her brother, Taylor, competed in the men's half-pipe competition. Mikaela Shiffrin, an American skier who left the Olympics with a gold medal and a silver medal, had a Jewish grandparent. Fun fact: one of my friends is her distant cousin!

Jewish athletes traveled from all over the world to be a part of the Winter Olympics. Although they had diverse backgrounds and represented their countries in different disciplines, they shared a Jewish heritage and a passion for their sport.

Maybe you will be the next great Jewish athlete!

# The Story of My Great Grandfather's Adventure

By Maia Smith

I have never met my great grandfather but I have heard a lot of stories about him. Let me tell you what I have learned about him.

My great grandfather John H. Slade was born in 1908 in Frankfurt, Germany. He worked in Real Estate. He was also the goalie for the Eintracht Frankfurt Field Hockey Sport club team.

One day his coach went to him and said something I can't believe anyone would say. He said"You can't stay with the team because you are Jewish." That is when the Nazis came. So my great grandfather with his best friend left by boat to New York City.

Hans Schlesinger arrived in New York in 1936. After he arrived, he changed his name to John Slade because he thought his German name was too hard for Americans to pronounce. He joined a company on Wall Street and worked there for a few years until the war started. He joined the army and went to war. During the war he had a special job just because he spoke German. After the war he came back to New York.

In 1948 he was chosen to go to England with the U.S. Olympic field hockey team. He went to London and did something amazing. He played before the Queen of England!

His daughter, my grandmother, and my great grandfather were both members of Temple Emanu-El.

As you can see, his story was amazing, and full of adventure. What's really special is that I am really close with my great grandfather's best friend's great grandchildren. I am really proud to be my great grandfather's relative.

## Messi Jr.

#### By Elle Hennes

Once upon a time there was a giant kid named Messi Jr. At the mere age of two, he was as big as a mansion. Everyone thought that he was a horrible soccer player even though he was on the best team. All the fans teased him because they wanted to replace him with a better player, but Messi Jr. loved to play the amazing game of soccer. All his friends loved him even though he was a giant.

One day, Messi Jr. tried to hide from his fans behind a tree to avoid their taunts and insults. Messi Jr. was really upset because even though he was a giant, he should be treated as an equal. During the next game against the second best team, he tried to dribble down the field to score, but the defender stopped him before he could shoot. The crowd was so ashamed of him that the fans tried to get Messi Jr. off the team.

Luckily, the coach was not convinced that Messi Jr. should be kicked off the team and decided to keep him. Even though Messi Jr. was relieved that he did not get kicked off the team, he was so sad that his fans wanted him to get fired that he ran all the way to Israel.

Upon arrival, he was so tired that he fell on a big piece of land and created a dent on the ground. His body hurt so much that he started crying. He cried so hard that his tears filled the whole dent with salt water. Finally, he stood up and discovered that he created the Red Sea! Then, he was so happy that he ran back home just in time for the last game. During the game, Messi Jr. scored his first goal ever and won the game! Now everyone calls him the best soccer player in the world!



## MOST POPULAR MEMES OF 2017-2018

#### **BY SEAN FAMILANT**



# Current Events Crossword

#### By Matthew Boova



# Word Search

By Chloe Starr

M I T Z Z V A H A	M Z P X T H S B C	A D R I I Z C	I T S W Z K	W F S E R C E	N K J J A B	U J U I H	C E W R B C	G O T W F	H L V O E
I T Z V A H A	P X T H S B	R E I I Z	T S W Z	S E R C	J J A	U I I	W R B	T W F	V O E
T 2 Z 2 N 1 A 1 A 1 A 1	X T H S B	E I I Z	s W Z	E R C	J A	I I	R B	W F	O
Z / V / A / H /	T H S B	I I Z	w z	R C	A	T	в	F	E
V A H A	H S B	ı z	z	С		-			
A H	S B	z			в	н	C	-	
H A	в		к	E			•	D	F
A		С		=	С	F	Y	х	z
	C		S	R	E	Y	A	R	P
	-	F	z	н	R	С	к	в	v
J	т	1	н	A	L	1	F	E	т
x	E	S	F	к	J	S	в	A	Q
H I	м	E	N	н	R	R	D	D	P
A	N	1	т	v	в	A	R	J	1
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A	D	т	z	F	н	L	U	E	0
D	G	X	Q	к	z	м	С	R	N
E :	S	J	н	R	U	v	в	в	x
z	L	w	т	E	м	P	L	E	т
T I	E	G	1	w	N	G	С	н	н
X (	0	J	м	Р	R	D	G	Y	U