

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

Friday, February 22, 2020

eNewsletter - March Edition

3 Adar 5780

Please **join Temple Emanu-El for Purim!** We have some traditional and non-traditional opportunities to engage in the season:



Saturday, March 7

8-11 PM

Purim Party at the Out Alliance
(co-sponsored by Temple Emanu-El)

See ad on page **10**

Sunday, March 8

11 AM

Hamentaschen Baking

All ages, all levels of experience--
Bake delicious cookies for Purim!

Friday, March 13

6 PM

Purim Celebration & Potluck

Shabbat Table Blessings followed by
Community Potluck Shabbat Dinner. Purim
Celebration includes Megillah reading,
music, games, and entertainment.

Prompt RSVPs appreciated, see page **7**

**Want to help out at any of our Purim
events? Call 266-1978**

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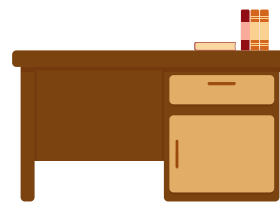
See also page 6!

See also page 15!

See also pages 2 and 9!

And much more!

RABBI'S MESSAGE



Dear TEE members and friends,

Many Jews (and others) are familiar with Rabbi Hillel as the author of the saying, "If I am not for myself, who am I? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" But there is another, less well known, insight of his that I often find myself thinking about: "Do not say, 'when I have spare time I will study'—perhaps you will never have spare time." As with so many rabbinic teachings, I am continually impressed by our ancestors' knowledge of human nature, as well as their sense of humor. I read Hillel's remark as simultaneously a statement about priorities and a dig at the way we all make excuses about why we don't get certain things accomplished.

One of the great things about being a rabbi is that studying is part of my job. In addition to daily Talmud study and weekly Torah study, I also do my best to keep up with books and articles related to Jewish life and the materials I need to prepare classes. I've learned through experience that this information doesn't come to me through wishful thinking. I have to dedicate a specific amount of time every day to learning (an increasingly challenging task in today's electronic world, but that's a discussion for another day).

Sharing what I have learned is another very pleasurable aspect of my work. The primary job of a rabbi has always been as a Jewish teacher. Being a Jewish teacher is not merely imparting information but helping others connect Jewish tradition to their lives. And I, in turn, learn from their experience as well. In the words of Talmudic sage, Rabbi Hanina, "I have learned much from my teachers and even more from my friends, but from my students I have learned more than from all of them (Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 7a)."

As we begin a new season of classes at Temple Emanu-El, I hope you will take this opportunity to make time to study and join me in this fundamental Jewish practice. We have much to learn from one another.

Rabbi Drorah Setel

Belated Happy Birthday To You!

We missed wishing our February Birthday celebrants a happy day!

First we had no newsletter, and then our First Friday service was cancelled due to weather. We sincerely hope it was happy, and we wish you good fortune and health throughout the year!



- 1 Harvey Mymit
- 2 Nan Meyer
- 3 Randy Perlson
- 7 Fred Rosen
- David Vail
- 10 Craig Burbank
- 12 Denise Lippa
- 28 Renate Livingston
- 28 Molly Tarbell



From Temple president,
Jonathan Rubin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's message from February is told in pictures. See page 15.

I wanted to give everyone an update on our Temple security. I know that some members have expressed concerns about safety and security issues at Temple. In February, we invited Mark Henderson, Director of Community Security at the Jewish Federation to our board meeting. He presented to the board how his role in this newly created position and how the federation can provide support to our Temple and the greater Rochester Jewish community. The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester has implemented "ROC Strong". This new program identifies and has implemented new security measures, policies and programming to provide new security infrastructure and related services for the 25 local Jewish institutions in our area.

The federation has funding to provide synagogues like ours with assessments that can provide input on how to make our Temple safer and also resources to help purchase recommended safety features. Mr. Henderson can also provide training on a variety of safety topics that will be held in the community. We will be able to take advantage of these training sessions when available. He provided us with a safety assessment and was impressed with the location and other safety features of our building. He did recommend a new safer entry door leading to the parking lot. Our House committee chair, Jule Rayburn, will be working with Mr. Henderson on this project. We are told that funding for the work will be provided by the Federation. As you know, we are actively planning our move to the Temple B'rith Kodesh campus. The federation is aware of our plans and will work with us on making additional safety recommendations to our new space. I know our board felt satisfied with this update on this new program to keep us and the Jewish community safe as we move forward. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at jrubin566@gmail.com or call at 615-0573.

Shalom, **Jonathan**

Birthdays in March

Wishing those born in March a
healthy, happy year, with many
returns of the day!

- 7 Michael Perlson
- 10 Sharon Kaplan
- 14 Ellice Gelder
- 16 Rose Levin
- 17 Mike Cherney
Leslie Schwartz
- 19 Debbie Galory
- 22 Judy Livingston
Sylvia Butler
- 27 Susan Vinocour
- 30 Alan Turof
- 31 Veronica Sweeny

NEW WEEKLY CLASSES

**Tuesday Nights
in March!**

Meaningful Jewish Prayer

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
7-8:30 pm

The Jewish prayer book is meant to be the foundation of our individual and communal spiritual practice but for many Jews its language and theology seem increasingly irrelevant. In this course we will explore the unique vocabulary of Jewish spirituality, the concepts behind the prayers, how progressive Jews have changed and are changing the liturgy, and how we might (or might not) want to integrate traditional words into contemporary practice.

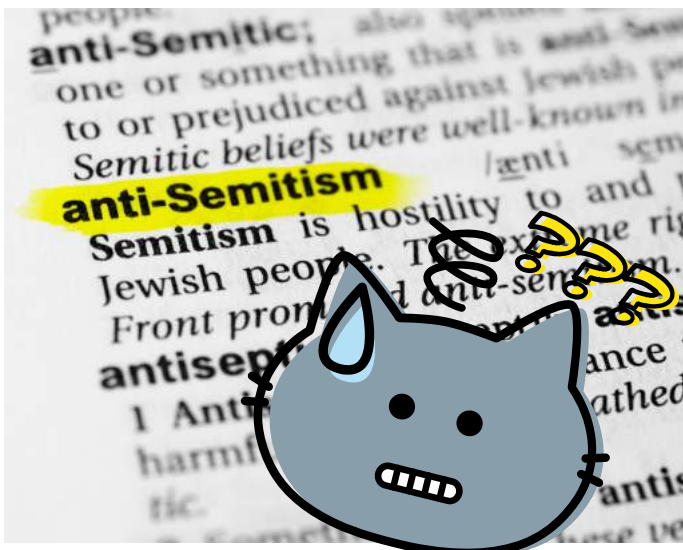
All classes will be held at Temple Emanu-El.
All are welcome for any of the sessions.
There is no fee for members; a donation of any amount is requested from guests.

**Sunday Afternoons
in March!**

Antisemitism Study Group

March 1, 8, 15, 22
2-4 pm

As American Jews experience an increase in antisemitic language and actions, many of us find ourselves confused about what actually constitutes antisemitism and how we should respond. In this group we will read and discuss a range of articles (see *next page for list*) from a variety of perspectives to explore questions such as whether the nature of antisemitism has changed over time, how it relates to other forms of oppression, whether it is different from “anti-Judaism,” and the role it plays in discussions of Zionism and Israel. To join the study group, contact the office or email: flowercitytee@gmail.com.





READING LIST

Antisemitism Study Group Reading List

– Rabbi Drorah Setel

During each session we will be referring to sections of “Understanding Antisemitism,” a resource developed by Jews for Racial and Economic Justice: <https://jfrej.org/understanding-antisemitism/>. I also encourage you to look through the ADL materials on Global Antisemitism: <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/anti-semitism-globally>. Additional readings are listed under each session. Due to space, the links to articles are not printed but can be found on our web site at: <https://emanuelrochester.org/antisemitism-study-group-reading-list/>

Session 1 (March 1): What is Antisemitism?

Isaac Chotiner, “How Anti-Semitism Rises on the Left and Right”

Paul Kivel, “What is Christian Hegemony?”

Shulamit S. Magnus, “A plea against ‘anti-Semitism’ The pseudo-scientific term, coined by a German racist, obscures the rising tide of hatred. We need to use the J word”

Jonathan Sarna, “Anti-Semitism is a Symptom”

Session 2 (March 8): Antisemitism and the Right

Dove Kent, “Don’t Fall for ‘Both-Siderism’ Trap on Anti-Semitism”

Dove Kent, “The Soros Myth”

Dusty Sklar, “The Alt-Right’s Antisemitism”

Eric K. Ward, “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism”

Session 3 (March 15): Antisemitism and the Left

Blake Flayton, “On the Frontlines of Progressive Anti-Semitism”

Jill Jacobs, “How to tell when criticism of Israel is actually anti-semitism”

Steven Lubet and Jeffrey (Shaye) Mallow, “That’s Funny, You Don’t Look Anti-Semitic: Perspective on the American Left”

Rebecca Pierce, “Black Antisemitism is not Inherently ‘Left-Wing’”

Session 4 (March 22): Responding to Antisemitism

Jeff Jacoby, “Jew-haters, right and left: If you condemn anti-Semitism only when it comes from the team you oppose, you haven’t condemned a thing”

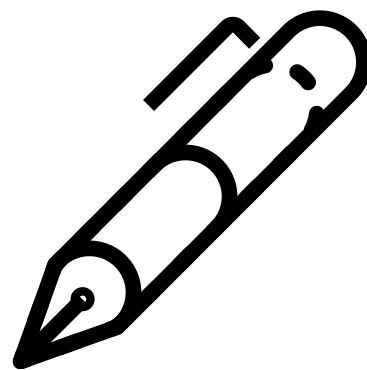
Rabbi Michael Adam Latz and Carin Mrotz, “Hanukkah anti-Semitism requires a response. But we cannot fight hatred with more hatred”

Rachel Shabi, “The left must restore the ties between antisemitism and other racism”

Mitchell D. Silber, “How to Protect New York’s Jews”

Bari Weiss, “To Fight Anti-Semitism, Be a Proud Jew”

RABBI'S D'RASH



1/31/2020 thoughts on Parshat Bo

One of the wonderful things about studying the Torah is that it can be understood on so many different levels. This is especially true of the Exodus story. It can be seen as a straightforward narrative of Israelite slaves being liberated by God's power but we can also think about it in a more personal way, as the Passover Haggadah instructs us to do when it states, "In every generation, each one of us must see ourselves as if we, personally, went forth from Egypt." In Hebrew, the word translated as "Egypt" literally means "place of constriction." While we may not be physically confined, we all must work to free ourselves from those tight or stuck places which hinder the freedom of our spirits.

The Exodus story also raises difficult, complex questions about human nature and the use of power. One of the most troubling is the narrative's repeated assertion that, just as Pharaoh is ready to free the Israelites, God hardens his heart so that the human ruler once again refuses. As a result, additional plagues bring more devastation and suffering to the Egyptian people and their land. For many of our ancestors, who themselves experienced oppression, this obstinacy and its consequences seemed appropriate to the enemies of the Jewish people. But for many contemporary Jews, it is hard to accept that such escalation reflects well on God's nature.

One way to respond to this problem is to object to God's behavior. From Abraham to Tevye, we have the example of generations of Jews who have argued with God. Another, more traditional approach, is to see the story as really being about God's supreme power. The purpose of the contest with Pharaoh is to make abundantly clear the fact that freedom is not to be given or withheld at the whim of any earthly sovereign but is due to the unique power of the Creator.

I also like to think that this aspect of the story is meant to be a lesson about the difference between acting out of the constricted space of selfishness and acting on the expansive viewpoint of liberation. Pharaoh brings about more suffering because he is only motivated by self interest. In contrast, Moses, Aaron and Miriam are leaders who understand the value of freedom and the desire to use it to create a better life for their whole people. We all remain enslaved when we can't see beyond our own, individual situation. In the words of our prayerbook, "When will redemption come? When we grant everyone what we claim for ourselves."

Rabbi Drorah Setel

Join our Temple family as we welcome
Shabbat together!

MARCH SERVICES

Friday, March 6

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE 6:00 pm

with Zorah Gussow, guest guitarist

and Birthday Blessings, followed by Kiddush & Motzi

Those wishing to go for supper after services, please gather in the foyer after service.

Friday, March 13

PURIM CELEBRATION & POTLUCK 6:00 pm

Shabbat Table Blessings followed by our Potluck Shabbat Dinner. Purim Celebration includes Megillah reading, music, games, and entertainment. Bring a big pillow to recline on, dress in your most regal, sparkly attire, and invite your friends! **RSVPs appreciated, by Wednesday, March 11.**

Call the Temple office (266-1978) or email FlowercityTEE@gmail.com to sign up with your dish-to-pass.

Friday, March 20 - Shabbat Mevarchim Nisan

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE 7:30 pm

followed by **Discussion Oneg**: A representative from Catholic Refugee Services will speak about problems refugees face, and what is being done in the community.

Friday, March 27

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE 7:30 pm

Shabbat Vayikra Torah reading



CHEVRA TORAH

Join us every **Saturday morning at 10 AM** as we explore Torah together. Rabbi Setel guides *chevarim* with reading and discussion of our weekly parashat.

These engaging studies help bring our ancient stories to new light, giving us insights for our daily lives.



March 7 Exodus 27:20 - 28:30

March 14 Exodus 30:11 - 31:17

March 21 Exodus 35:1 - 37:16

March 28 Leviticus 1:1 - 2:16

SHABBAT NOTES



If any Temple Emanu-el member wants to volunteer for the honor of setting up kiddush, donating goodies for an oneg, lighting the Shabbat candles, or helping with oneg, please contact Lydia at (585) 544-1831 or pillar248@aol.com. Many people enjoy honoring the memory of a loved one by participating in Temple services. Contact Renate Livingston at Rliving5@rochester.rr.com to participate by making the blessing before/after Torah reading, carrying or dressing the Torah.

Join us for Books & Bagels

Sunday, March 22, 10 am

We're a group passionate about books!
We would love to have you join us for a
lively discussion of books of Jewish interest.

Contact Carl Wetzstein
(carlwetzstein38@gmail.com or 266-6982)
by Friday, March 21
to confirm that we're meeting

Request from our Tikkun Olam Team

We've been very successful in collecting food and clothing items for homeless people. Our big drive was for the High Holidays, but we'd like to do more.

We're suggesting that when you come to temple, especially when you come to eat, you bring something, say a can or two, for our food box. Many small donations can add up. We will take these donations to the Irondequoit Food Cupboard and the House of Mercy. Questions? Please contact Carl W. (contact info above).



Temple Teams in Need of Assistance

If you'd like to help Temple Emanu-El by volunteering according to your time and skills, please let us know! Call the office or contact:

- Monthly Pot Luck Coordination - Randy Perlson, please call 729.1588
- House/Property Team - Jule Rayburn, email ule8552@hotmail.com

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Rose Levin's 98th Birthday Party

AN OPEN HOUSE PIZZA PARTY AT TEMPLE



**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 / 1 - 3 PM
TEMPLE EMANU-EL SOCIAL HALL
2956 ST. PAUL BLVD, ROCHESTER NY**

**No Gifts. If you choose, a donation to
Temple in Rose's honor would be nice.**



It's PURIM Let's PARTY

Put on your favorite costume
or party clothes and join us for
a night of celebration!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020
8-11 PM


The Out Alliance
100 College Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607



**DJs MORDECAI B2B ESTHER
AND NOISEMAKER**

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUMES

CASH BAR



Voluntary donation at
the door. All proceeds
go to The Out Alliance.

Sponsored by



emanuelrochester.org



Out Alliance

outalliance.org

Mask Icons: Vecteezy.com

THANKS TO YOU

We are grateful to those who give of their time and resources to make each event and service happen at Temple Emanu-El.

The following donations to the Temple fund (unless otherwise indicated) were received since the last bulletin:

In Memory

In memory of Carol Brickman

Stuart Brickman

In memory of Gerry Kates Campbell

SuSan J. Campbell

In memory of Karen D'Amico

Barb Silverstein

In memory of Anne Dettenmayer

Joyce & Morrey Goldman

In memory of Jean Dietch

Robert Dietch

In memory of Belle Dresner, Barbara Ellis,
Allan L. Dresner, Allan Napier, Harold Dresner,
and Jacob Dresner

Gladys Napier

In memory of Lona Feldman

Larry Slotnick

In memory of Margaret Fink

Ronald Gluck

In memory of Jeffrey Frankel

Donald Hurwitz

In memory of Elmer Gluck

Ronald Gluck

In memory of Ruth S. Harris, Charles David Harris,
Neil Jeffrey Harris, Lillian Harris, Isaac Harris,
Bernhart Spiwak, Lena Spiwak, & Theodore Fine

Burt & Sue Harris

Jeremy Harris

In memory of Irene Herman

Ina Suher

In memory of Libbie Hesser, Joseph O. Girard, and
Andrea Collins

Charles & Charlene Sommers

In memory of Lester Karchefsky (for Library)

Rose Levin

In memory of Sonya Larman

Michael & Michelle Weinstein

In memory of Hannah & Samuel Leibowitz

Larry & Sharon Feldman

In memory of George Miller

Carl Wetzstein

In memory of Goldie Miller, Rose Dresner, and
Florence Goldstein

Gladys Napier

In memory of Annie Newman

Rona Newman

In memory of Paul Newman

Rona Newman

In memory of Joanne Rhoides

Barb Silverstein

In memory of Eric R. Samuel and Hinda Gold

Lydia Samuel

In memory of Dr. Maurice Sanders and

Lynette Rosenbloom

Fred & Gale Rosen

In memory of Bonita Scharff

Gladys Napier

In memory of Annette Schwartz and Su Gaw

Leslie Schwartz & Ching Tang

In memory of Adele C. Shaw

Ruth Siegel

In memory of Chuck Skopinsky

Bernie Skopinsky

In memory of Adele Slotnick

Larry Slotnick

In memory of Harry Slotnick, Anne Slotnick, and
Charles Feldman

Larry Slotnick

In memory of Marjorie Sommers

Rose Levin

Gladys Napier

Bernice & Jule Rayburn

Carl Wetzstein

(continued on next page)

THANKS TO YOU

(Continued)

In memory of Herbert Stern

Janet Stern

In memory of Janet Wagner

Nettie & Ronny Goeler

In memory of Molly Weinstein

Michael & Michelle Weinstein

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Rabbi Setel on being
named to the Rochester Police Accountability
Board

Bernice & Jule Rayburn

Happy Birthday to Michael Weinstein

Gladys Napier

Thank You

To Renate Livingston for arranging a ride for
me

Gladys Napier

Health and Well-being Wishes

Speedy Recovery to SuSan Campbell

Edie Bonferraro

Carl Wetzstein



Jewish Perspectives on the New Testament

**Thursdays, March 12, 19, 16, April 2
10 am - 12 noon**

*Please note: This class is being offered
through The Rochester Kollel and will held at
Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.,
Brighton NY 14618.*

A rabbi (our own Rabbi Setel) and a minister (Rev. Matthew Nickoloff) discuss Jewish perspectives on the New Testament and you're invited to join them. Many Jews have never studied this essential Christian text and many Christians have never learned what's Jewish about it. For both there is much to be examined and debated as we address topics such as Judaism and Jewish Movements in the time of Jesus, Messianism, parallels between the New Testament and (other) Jewish texts, and anti-Jewish teachings in the New Testament. Our textbook will be *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Ziv Brettler (Oxford University Press). If you have any difficulty obtaining the book (financial or otherwise), the Rabbi will be happy to help.

MARCH 6 (ADAR 5 - 11)

Elizabeth (Betty) Cohen

Sylvia Solway

Joseph S. Butler

Elmer Gluck

Jennie Hurwitz

Martin Buskin

Ellen Arndt

Sheila Gold

Mollie Weinstein

Anna Nemeroff

Jane Wasserberg

Eva Gissin

Sam Razes

Samuel Karch

Hyman Levy

Julius Shapow

Joseph Gerowitz*



*May the
Memories of
our loved ones
be for a blessing*

MARCH 13 (ADAR 12 – 18)

Jacob Dresner

Margot Pagener

Thomas Edward Skopinsky

Belle Dresner

Ben Miller

Jacob Etkin

Morris Rosenthal

Philip Ross

Ruth Harris

Max Abse

Salvator (Sam) Burgio

Sylvia Wagner

James Francis Mudd



**English Date*

MARCH YAHRZEITS

MARCH 20 (ADAR 19 - 25)

Harold Eskin

Jack Weber

Gary Levin

Jacob Solomon Calderon

Ida Kaplan

Ida Sallerson Levine

Calvin David Salzberg

Jerome Weistrop

Murray Wagner

Harold Dresner

MARCH 27 (ADAR 26 – NISAN 3)

Harry Silvers

Jacob Cohen

Hedwig Field

Bernard W. Siegel

Lester Siegel

Anne Dettenmayer

Joseph Kerstein

Gerald Schnabel

Robert Segelin

Gladys Zweig

Harry Braiman

Maurice Cherney

Benno Pagener

Harry Vertlieb

Sophie Elias

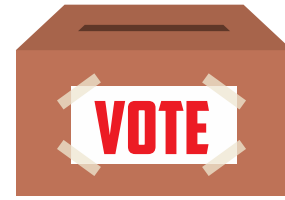
Maxine Biernbaum

Sarah Silverstein Lona

Feldman Raymond Kantrowitz

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS VOTING

Dear Temple Emanu-El Members and Friends,



Temple Emanu-El is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ); Reform Judaism is the largest branch of Judaism in the United States. Right now, the URJ is trying to encourage its members (and friends) to vote in the current World Zionist Congress Elections. ***The last day to vote is March 11, 2020.***

As a service to our members and friends, we are providing the following information about the vote. The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is a representative body of the world's Jewish people. It is comprised of 500 delegates and meets in Jerusalem every five years. It enables delegates to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and the global Jewish agenda, as well as allocate financial and other resources to various organizations – including the Reform Movement – in Israel.

The 38th WZC is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem from October 20-23, 2020; the elections will determine the size of the various delegations to the Congress. Currently, the United States has 145 delegates in the WZC, the largest single delegation outside Israel. As a result of the 2015 elections, 56 of the 145 delegates represent the Reform Movement. The Reform Movement works to influence Israeli society in matters of conversion, marriage and divorce, religious pluralism, gender rights, and combatting racism; as a result, it has passed key resolutions in the World Zionist Organization's policy body for equality, transparency, and pluralism.

There are 15 slates running in the 2020 US Election for the 38th World Zionist Congress. You will be able to click on each slate's name and see their platform statement and list of candidates. Each voter will select one slate to vote for (and not for individual candidates). The Reform Movement is listed as "Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism." For more information about the Reform platform, visit azm.org. For general information about the vote and the other slates, visit zionistelection.org.

All voting will be completed online and will be accessible from mobile devices. It is a simple process and will take only a few minutes. In order to vote, you need to be at least 18 years old, self-identify as Jewish, agree to the Jerusalem Program, and pay a small processing fee to support the cost of the elections. To vote, go to zionistelection.org.

The last day to vote is March 11, 2020.
(submitted by Leslie Schwartz)



* * *

Learn to Make Matzah

Sunday, March 29 at 11 am

Pesach will be here soon. Get prepared by learning how to make your own matzah. Connect with generations of the Jewish people as we make this simple but meaningful bread

TEMPLE OUT & ABOUT

Leslie Schwartz and Ching Tang send all good wishes from Hong Kong

Pictured here, dining out in celebration of the Chinese New Year (January 25, 2020)
It's the Year of the Rat!



SCENES FROM RECENT TEMPLE PROGRAMS

Shira May, director of *Partners in Restorative Initiatives* led an exercise during a discussion oneg. It gave us experience sharing and participating in restorative work. We shared our values for our community. Some values shared included the need to be respected, feel cared about and included. This a meaningful activity and gave us insights into restorative practices and how they are used.



Adam Chodak, News Anchor and Managing Editor at WROC, Channel 8 Rochester, spoke at our February brunch about the roles of a local journalist and a local station vs. those of a national journalist and a national network. He also touched on media coverage of anti-Semitic incidents: the issue as a whole, as well as the issues of bias and the current President's accusations that journalists are the "enemy of the people." It was a very well attended and received brunch.



Tu B'Shevat Seder was a great way to see the connection between the natural elements, special foods of the season, and how we relate to the world around us.



MARCH MEETINGS

Monday, March 2 (3:30 pm)

Ritual Team

Tuesday, March 10 (9 am)

Men's Club at Panera (12 Corners)

Sunday, March 15 (10:30 am)

Temple Board Meeting

***Did you know?** Unless otherwise specified,
Temple board meetings are open to all
Temple members.*



**Mark your calendar now for
these April events!**

LOOKING AHEAD



Thursday, April 9

Congregational Passover Seder, 6 pm

Watch for eBlasts and flyers with details

Friday, April 17

Shabbat Service with Discussion Oneg, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 19

Adult Education Brunch with Dr. Donna Kowal:

Emma Goldman, 11 am

Saturday, April 25

Mika Slotnick's Bat Mitzvah, 10:30 am

Sunday, April 26

The Rabbi's Book Club, 10-11:30 am

Join Rabbi Drorah Setel in reading and discussing
some of her favorite Jewish books. If you have any

difficulty obtaining the book (financial or otherwise), the Rabbi will be happy to help.
For April, we will be reading *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a
Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism* by Sarah Hurwitz.

Rabbi's Book Club meets every other month (rotating with Books & Bagels).

Future dates will be June 28 and August 23.

Please RSVP through flowercitytee@gmail.com.