



'We carry the Torah in our midst, and hold it close.'

Voices of Torah



S H A B B A T

In Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas, Texas

Shabbat Ki Teitzei
August 26, 2023 | 9 Elul 5783
Lefkowitz Chapel



AN ENDURING EXPERIMENT

The Evolution of the Shabbat morning service at Temple Emanu-El

By Rabbi Debra Robbins

In 1986, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman initiated a Saturday morning Torah study group, Chever Torah, which he taught weekly. Around the same time, the congregation created a Worship Committee and one of its first decisions was to experiment with "...an intimate 10:30 a.m. service in the chapel on some Saturdays."¹ Josephine Goldman, the inaugural chair remembered: "These 'extra' services appealed to congregants who appreciated the option of worshipping in a small group apart from a larger Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony in the sanctuary."

Leonard Cohen, a regular attendee at Chever Torah and the service, used to say: "Shabbat morning is time for God to talk to me (through Torah study) and for me to talk to God (in prayer)." The service in its early days was led a capella by Rabbi Zimmerman. As the rabbinic staff expanded, different clergy rotated service leadership, which often included a soloist from the choir. With Rabbi Liza Stern's leadership, the service quickly became a joyous opportunity for 20-30 congregants to join together weekly to participate in services using the new-to-Temple Emanu-El prayerbook, *Gates of Prayer*. Over the years, the Shabbat morning service has affectionately become known as the Lefkowitz Minyan for its community and warmth.

In 1994, Rabbi Barry Diamond began to bring teens to the service periodically and would help to lead the service, using his guitar and an expanded repertoire of contemporary Jewish music. The response was enthusiastic, interest in the service grew, and his leadership became more regular. Rabbi Diamond nurtured the passions of musical congregants who formed a small ensemble, Shirat HaLev, helping to lead the service

monthly and enhancing the celebration with a variety of instruments and musical styles. As he reflected: “The Lefkowitz service...gave testament to the Reform Jews who take their Judaism and prayer seriously enough to craft an ongoing practice into their lives. It is a powerful lesson for how joyful a serious community can be.”² This legacy endures as the service enters its fourth decade.

The congregation’s commitment to Hebrew continued to grow in the 21st century with many congregants becoming adult *b’nai mitzvah* and choosing to read Torah regularly on Shabbat morning. As the clergy team expanded to include cantors, the Lefkowitz service was a welcoming venue for new liturgical settings and visiting guest artists because the experimental nature of the prayer community and the voices of congregants as leaders remained at the core. The earliest experiences of a *hakafah* (procession with the Torah) began in the center aisle of the Lefkowitz Chapel. *Mishkan T’filah*, the newest standard prayerbook of the Reform Movement, was piloted in these pews. A culture of warm welcome has led to lasting friendships and shared meals.

In 2023, the open hearts and ongoing commitment of congregants continue to provide inspiration and leadership to sustain this community of spiritual growth. Shabbat morning in Lefkowitz Chapel is a celebration of lay voices: rising in song from the pews, chanting Torah and Haftarah on the bimah, offering words of insight in sermons and reflections on prayer. The Saturday morning service continues to set an example for the holy relationships we embrace in all of our worship experiences as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Temple Emanu-El.

1. “*Light in the Prairie*,” p. 244

2. Rabbi Barry Diamond, email reflection June 2023

SERVICE LEADERS

Rabbi Debra Robbins
Cantor Vicky Glikin
Hallie Weiner, Cantorial Intern
Randy Pearlman, Cantorial
Soloist

with special guests from
Shirat Halev

TORAH SERVICE READERS

כי תצא

Ki Teitzei, Deuteronomy 22:1-12
Etz Hayim, p. 1115

Hebrew

Deuteronomy 22:1-3
Jan Timmons

Deuteronomy 22:4
Graham Coombs

Deuteronomy 22:5
Rabbi Josh Taub

Deuteronomy 22:6-7
Roz Katz

Deuteronomy 22:8
Frost Gardner

Deuteronomy 22:9-11
Ettie and Melvin Weinberg

Deuteronomy 22:12
Susan Cooper

English

Deuteronomy 22:1-12
Rob Kaufman

HAFTARAH

Isaiah: 54:1-10
Etz Hayim, p. 1137

Reader

Miriam Cohen

Blessings

Sheila Gardner

TORAH HONORS

Aliyah/Torah Blessings

Adult B'nai Mitzvah graduates
classes of 1986, 1987, 1990,
1992, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001,
2004, 2017, 2020 and anyone
in between!

Hakafah and Undressing the Torah

Diana Telesca and
Avi Geatchew

Dressing Torah and Holding During Haftarah

Ernest Richards

IYUNIM: TEACHINGS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Text of Lefkowitz Chapel
Peggy Kaufman

The Joy of Shabbat
Jean Maza

Freedom Abides
Alan Kogan

The Taste of Community
Rachel Gilbert and her
parents Andrew Gilbert
and Greg Leyden

READING

Raising the Torah

Mishkan Hanefesh for Yom Kippur, p. 274

We stand before the Tree of Life —
source of our strength;
our comfort, our challenge,
our call to holiness.

We stand before the Tree of Life,
our Torah —
ancient, yet ever-renewed.
Its message is for all people;
its words speak to all generations;
its truths endure and give hope.

Like those who came before us,
we carry the Torah in our midst,
and hold it close.
For those who will come after,
we preserve and cherish its teachings.

This is the Torah:
our gift, our blessing, our responsibility.
In reverence and gratitude,
we stand — all of us this day — before the Tree of Life.

MUSIC

Asher Yatzar

Music by Dan Nichols

I thank You for my life, body and soul
Help me realize I am beautiful and whole
(oh so beautiful, oh so holy)
I'm perfect the way I am and a little broken too
I will live each day as a gift I give to you (my God, my God)

Baruch Atah, Adonai

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי,

Rofei chol basar umafli laasot

רוֹפֵא כָּל בָּשָׂר וּמַפְלִיא לַעֲשׂוֹת.

Blessed are You, Adonai, who heals all flesh, working wondrously.

Hame'irah

Music by Coleen Dieker & Josh Warshawsky, Based on Yotzer Or

Hame'irah, hame'irah,

הַמְאִירָה, הַמְאִירָה

hame'irah la'aretz

הַמְאִירָה לְאֶרֶץ

V'ladarim alehah b'rachamim

וְלִדְרִים עָלֶיהָ בְּרַחֲמִים

Hame'irah, hame'irah,

הַמְאִירָה, הַמְאִירָה

hame'irah la'aretz

הַמְאִירָה לְאֶרֶץ

V'ladarim alehah (V'ladarim alehah) x3 (וְלִדְרִים עָלֶיהָ) 3x

V'ladarim alehah b'rachamim

וְלִדְרִים עָלֶיהָ בְּרַחֲמִים

U'vtuvah mechadeshet b'chol yom tamid וּבְטוֹבָה מְחַדְּשֶׁת בְּכָל יוֹם תָּמִיד

U'vtuvah mechadeshet ma'aseh b'rashit וּבְטוֹבָה מְחַדְּשֶׁת מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית

The Holy One, who lights up the world and
all of Her inhabitants with mercy.

And in Her goodness, each day, renews the act of creation.

Ivdu et Adonai

Psalm 100; by Elana Arian, TE150 Commission

Bring in spirit, bring in joy
Endless blessings, open doors.

Ivdu et Adonai b'simcha

Ivdu et Adonai b'simcha

Bo'u l'fanav birnana, bo'u l'fanav birnana

Ivdu et Adonai b'simcha.

עֲבֹדוּ אֶת-יְהוָה בְּשִׂמְחָה

בְּאוֹר לְפָנָיו, בְּרִנָּה

Come rejoice and praise
With our hearts beating strong and brave.

Raise a joyful noise
As we sing, as we sing!

IN GRATITUDE

We express our sincere thanks to the members of the Prayer & Spirituality Committee of TE150:

Peggy Kaufman, Chair
Eli Cohn-Wein

Barbara Einsohn
Philip Einsohn

Andrew Gilbert
Jo-Sandra Greenberg
Greg Leyden

and to

Women of Reform Judaism, for providing dessert for this afternoon's lunch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Hebrew

Learn Hebrew or brush up on your skills as classes resume this fall.

Contact Beri Schwitzer,
bschwitzer@tedallas.org

Milestone Moments

Would you like to mark a significant occasion with a blessing on Shabbat morning? Contact Jennifer Dietz,
jdeitz@tedallas.org

Chanting and Torah Honors

Interested in chanting Torah (in Hebrew) or reading Haftarah (we read the portion in English and the blessings in Hebrew) on a Shabbat morning? Excited to participate with one of the honors (chanting the blessings or carrying the Torah)? Please contact Hallie Weiner at
hweiner@tedallas.org or
214.706.0000.

