

Presidents Day Breakfast

February 17, 2025

Temple Emanuel of North Jersey

558 High Mountain Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ (201) 560-0200 www.tenjfl.org

Joseph H. Prouser, Rabbi

Susan Bograd Yudin, President

Co-Chaired by Temple Emanuel Members:

Linda Schwager & Susan Bograd Yudin



Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, US President Jimmy Carter, and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin listen to the national anthem before signing the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty on the north lawn of the White House, March 26, 1979.

Presidents Day 2025

Dear Friends:

What a privilege it is to welcome so many honored guests, elected officials, public leaders, friends and neighbors to Temple Emanuel of North Jersey for our twelfth annual Presidents Day observance. For the Temple Emanuel community, this is a much-anticipated event of high significance. Our Tradition teaches us that “Welcoming guests is akin to welcoming the Divine Presence.” Together with our guests, we celebrate the promise of the United States as well as its historic achievements. Surely God’s hand has guided this process and the finest of our leaders for these 249 years.

We look forward to celebrating 250 years of American independence – our sesquicentennial – next year.

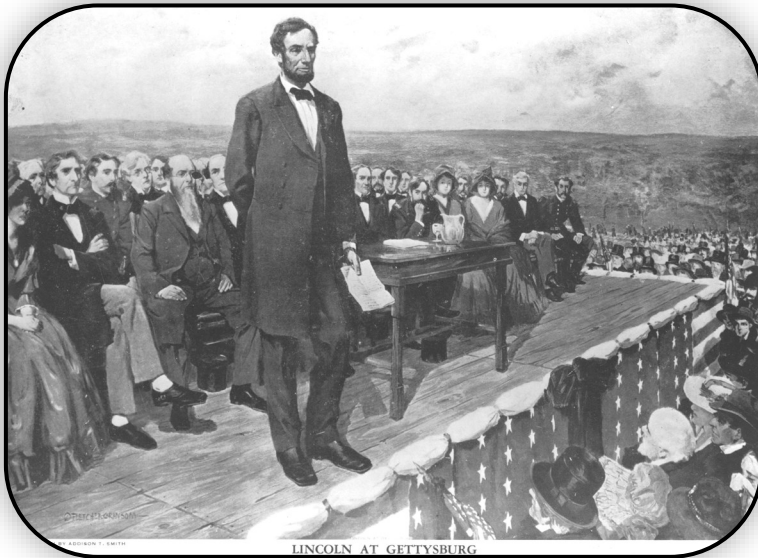
As that impressive milestone approaches, we take note of the recent passing of centenarian Jimmy Carter, the longest lived of American presidents (1924-2024)... as well as the longest tenured Sunday School teacher! We reflect on the wisdom of his insight that, at its best, American society is “not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.” May we continue to cherish that vision and that mosaic.

Thank you all for joining us in this day’s celebration. We look forward to welcoming you back to Temple Emanuel.

Most sincerely,

Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser

Ha-Motzi Blessing
Welcome, Gettysburg Address
Presidents Day Prayer
The Responsibility of Citizenship
America's Prayerful Aspiration
Prayer for the U.S.A.
Prayer for Israel
Greetings



***Special thanks to Temple Emanuel members,
Linda and Steven Schwager & Robert and Susan Yudin
for sponsoring this wonderful breakfast program.***

The Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשִׂינוּ בֶּן חוֹרֵץ:

Praised are You, Lord, Eternal Ruler of the Universe, Who has made me free.

לפְּנֵי שְׁמוֹנִים שָׁנָה וְשֶׁבַע שָׁנִים הוֹלִידוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ עַל-פְּנֵי יַבֶּשֶׁת זֶה
אוֹמֵר הַדְּשָׁה שְׁהוֹרַתָּה בַּחֲרַת וְהִיא מְקַדְּשֶׁת לַעֲקָרֹן שְׁכַל
בְּנֵי-הָאָדָם שׁוֹמֵם הֵם מִטְּבַע בְּרִיאָתָם. כִּיּוֹם אָנּוּ מְעוֹרְבִים בְּמַלְחָמַת
אֲזוּחִים גְּדוּלָה כְּדֵי שִׁיבְחֹן הַדְּבָר אִם אוֹמֵר זֶה אֵין | כֹּל אוֹמֵר
שְׁהוֹרַתָּה כְּשֶׁלֹּז וְהַקְדְּשֶׁתָּה כְּשֶׁלֹּז עֲשׂוּהָ שֶׁתֶּאֱרֹךְ יָמִים. נוֹעַדְנוּ יָחַד
בְּשֶׁדָה-קָרֵב גְּדוּלָה שֶׁל אוֹתָהּ מַלְחָמַת בְּאָנּוּ לְהַקְדִּישׁ חֶלְקָה אַחַת
מִמֶּנּוּ כַּמָּקוֹם מְנֹחַ אַחֲרָיון לְאֵלֶּה שֶׁמְסַרָּה פֶּה אֶת-הַיְיָהִם כְּדֵי שֶׁתַּחֲיֶה
אוֹתָהּ אוֹמֵר. נָעָה וַיָּצֵה בְּתַחֲלִית שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה זֹאת. אֲבָל לְפִי מִשְׁמַעוֹת
רַחֲבָה יוֹתֵר אֵין-אָנּוּ יְכוּלִים לְהַקְדִּישׁ אֵין-אָנּוּ יְכוּלִים לְקַדֵּשׁ אֵין-אָנּוּ
יְכוּלִים לְהַעֲלוֹת בְּקַדְּשׁ קָרַע זֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲמִצִּי-הַלֵּב הַחַיִּים
וְהַמְתִּים שֶׁנֶּאֱבָקוּ פֶּה הֵם קָדְשׁוֹהוּ לְעֵלָה לְעֵלָה מִכֹּל שֵׁשׁ בַּפְּחָנוּ הַדָּל
לְהוֹסִיף אוֹ לְנַרְעֵי. הָעוֹלָם יִתֵּן אֵל-לְבוֹ רַק מַעֲט אַף-לֹא לְאוֹדֵךְ-יָמִים
חִפְּרָה אֶת-אֲשֶׁר אָנּוּ אוֹמְרִים פֶּה אַךְ עָדִי עַד לֹא-יִכָּל לְשַׁפֵּחַ
אֶת-אֲשֶׁר פִּעֲלוּ הֵם פֶּת. כִּי עַל-כֵּן עָלִינוּ אָנּוּ הַחַיִּים לְהַתְקַדֵּשׁ פֶּה
לְמַלְאָכָה לֹא-נִמְוָרָה זֶה שֶׁאֵלֶּה שֶׁנִּלְחַמוּ פֶּה הַבִּיאָה עַד הַלּוֹם בְּרַח
גְּדִיבָה שְׁבוֹאָת. כִּי עַל-כֵּן עָלִינוּ לְהַתְקַדֵּשׁ פֶּה לְתַפְקֵד הַגְּדוּלָה אֲשֶׁר
עוֹדְנוּ לְפָנֵינוּ כְּדֵי שֶׁמֶן הַמְתִּים הָאֵלֶּה עֲטוּרֵי הַכְּבוֹד נִמָּל
מִסִּיחָת-יִתֵּר | לְאוֹתוֹ רַעִיּוֹן שֶׁבְּעָדוֹ נִתְּנוּ אֶת-מְלוֹא הַמְּדָה הַגְּדוּשָׁה
שֶׁל מִסִּיחָת. כְּדֵי שֶׁנִּכְרָע אֲנַחְנוּ פֶּה בְּלִבְבֵי שְׁלָם כִּי מְתִים אֵלֶּה לֹא
לְשׂוֹא מְתוֹ. כְּדֵי שְׁאוּמָה זֶה בְּעוֹרֹת אֲדוֹנֵי תוֹלָד | לְדָה | הַדְּשָׁה לְחוֹפֵשׁ
וְכֵדִי שֶׁמְמַשֵּׁל שֶׁל הָעָם | בִּידֵי הָעָם | בְּשִׁבְלֵי הָעָם לֹא יִכָּחַד מַעַל פְּנֵי
הָאָרֶץ.

Prayer for Presidents Day

arranged by Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser

I now make it my most earnest prayer, that God would incline our hearts to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for our fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for our brethren who serve in the armed forces.¹

May it be the true glory of the United States to cultivate peace by observing justice,² for whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America.³

Let us by all wise and constitutional measures promote intelligence among the people as the best means of preserving our liberties.⁴

For liberty without learning is always in peril, and learning without liberty is always in vain.⁵

May that Being who is supreme over all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice, and the Protector in all ages of virtuous liberty, continue His blessing upon this nation and its Government, and give it all possible success.⁶

May our country be always successful, but whether successful or not, always right.⁷

Let us not mistrust the future,⁸ but swear upon the altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man.⁹

Having chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear.¹⁰

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1. George Washington, first President of the United States.
 2. James Madison, fourth President of the United States
 3. Dwight D. Eisenhower, thirty-fourth President of the United States.
 4. James Monroe, fifth President of the United States.
 5. John F. Kennedy, thirty-fifth President of the United States.
 6. John Adams, second President of the United States.
 7. John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States.
 8. Benjamin Harrison, twenty-third President of the United States.
 9. Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States.
 10. Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States.

“The Responsibility of Citizenship in a Democracy”

I myself am a part of democracy -- I myself must accept responsibility. Democracy is not merely a privilege to be enjoyed--it is a trust to keep and maintain. When by idle word and vain prejudice, I create distrust of democracy itself, by so much do I diminish all democracy. When I tell my children that all politics is a rotten machine and all politicians thieves and liars, by so much do I shake their faith in the world that they too must build. When I let loose intolerance, whether it be of race, creed or class, I am letting loose a tiger. When I spend my time vilifying and abusing a duly-elected government of the people because I did not vote for it, by so much do I weaken confidence in government by the people itself. Rich or poor, young or old, Republican or Democrat, I cannot afford these things.

I cannot afford them because there are forces loose in the world that would wipe all democracy out. They will take my idle words and make their own case with them. They will take my halfhearted distrust, and with it sow, not merely distrust, but disunion. They will take my hate and make of it a consuming fire.

I am an American. I intend to stay an American.
I will do my best to wipe from my heart hate, rancor
and political prejudice. I will sustain my government.
And, through good days or bad, I will try to serve my country.

- Stephen Vincent Benet

“America’s Prayerful Aspiration”

arranged by Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser

I once more give expression to America's prayerful and continuing aspiration: We pray that peoples of all faiths, all races, all nations, may have their great human needs satisfied;

that those now denied opportunity shall come to enjoy it to the full;

that all who yearn for freedom may experience its spiritual blessings;

that those who have freedom will understand, also, its heavy responsibilities;

that all who are insensitive to the needs of others will learn charity...

that, in the goodness of time, all peoples will come to live together in a peace guaranteed by the binding force of mutual respect and love.¹

History and experience tell us that moral progress comes not in comfortable and complacent times, but out of trial and confusion.²

Our Nation can be strong abroad only if it is strong at home. And we know that the best way to enhance freedom in other lands is to demonstrate here that our democratic system is worthy of emulation.³

Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write.⁴

Ours was the first society openly to define itself in terms of both spirituality and human liberty. It is that unique self-definition which has given us an exceptional appeal.

It also imposes on us a special obligation to take on those moral duties which, when assumed, seem invariably to be in our own best interests.⁵

Because the world is more connected every day in every way, America's security and prosperity require us to continue to lead in the world.

We must remember that America cannot lead in the world unless here at home we weave the threads of our coat of many colors into the fabric of one America.

As we become ever more diverse, we must work harder to unite around our common values and our common humanity.⁶

Give to us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for – because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything.⁷

1. Dwight D. Eisenhower

2. Gerald R. Ford

3. Jimmy Carter

4. John Adams

5. Jimmy Carter

6. Bill Clinton

7. Rev. Peter Marshall, Chaplain, U.S. Senate, 1947



“I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State... Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight), the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions.”

- *George Washington, Farewell Address, 1797*

U.S. Presidents on the State of Israel

Farther I could find it in my heart to wish that you had been at the head of a hundred thousand Israelites... marching with them into Judea and making a conquest of that country and restoring your nation to the dominion of it. For I really wish the Jews again in Judea an independent nation.

(John Adams)

I believe in the rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation.

(John Quincy Adams)

The allied nations with the fullest concurrence of our government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth.

(Woodrow Wilson)

It is impossible for one who has studied at all the services of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity.

(Warren G. Harding)

I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now.

(Harry S. Truman)

Israel was not created in order to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.

(John F. Kennedy)

Our society is illuminated by the spiritual insights of the Hebrew prophets. America and Israel have a common love of human freedom, and they have a common faith in a democratic way of life.

(Lyndon B. Johnson)

Americans admire a people who can scratch a desert and produce a garden. The Israelis have shown qualities that Americans identify with: guts, patriotism, idealism, a passion for freedom. I have seen it. I know. I believe that.

(Richard M. Nixon)

My dedication to Israel's future goes beyond its military needs to a far higher priority -- the need for peace. My commitment to the security and future of Israel is based upon basic morality as well as enlightened self-interest. Our role in supporting Israel honors our own heritage.

(Gerald R. Ford)

Since the foundation of the State of Israel, the United States has stood by her and helped her to pursue security, peace, and economic growth. Our friendship is based on historic moral and strategic ties, as well as our shared dedication to democracy. For the people of Israel and America are historic partners in the global quest for human dignity and freedom. We will always remain at each other's side.

(Ronald Reagan)

America and Israel share a special bond. Our relations are unique among all nations. Like America, Israel is a strong democracy, as a symbol of freedom, and an oasis of liberty, a home to the oppressed and persecuted.

(Bill Clinton)

For more than a generation, the United States and Israel have been steadfast allies. Our nations are bound by our shared values and a strong commitment to freedom. These ties that have made us natural allies will never be broken. Israel and the United States share a common history: We are both nations born of struggle and sacrifice. We are both founded by immigrants escaping religious persecution in other lands. Through the labors and strides of generations, we have both built vibrant democracies, founded in the rule of law and market economies. And we are both countries established with certain basic beliefs: that God watches over the affairs of men and values every human life.

(George W. Bush)

Prayer for the United States

God and God of our ancestors, We ask Your blessings for our country -- for its government, its President and officials, for the armed forces, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from Your Torah, that they may lead and defend our nation wisely, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom, may forever abide in our midst.



Prayer for the State of Israel

Heavenly Father, Rock and Redeemer of the People Israel: Bless the State of Israel with its promise of redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our Holy Land. Deliver them. Crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the Land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: AMEN.

In grateful memory of Congressman William Pascrell



Congressman Pascrell,
Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser,
Mayor Stephen Fulop of Jersey City,
and Sheriff Anthony Cureton



Congressman Pascrell
at Presidents Day '24



TENJ's Kerry Skolnick,
Sheriff Anthony Cureton
and Congressman Pascrell

Purim is Pi Day

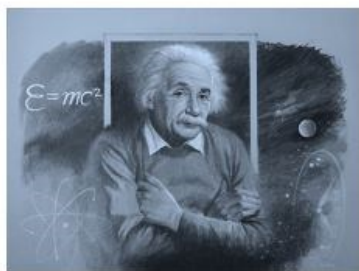
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Temple Emanuel of North Jersey

Purim EVE Service and Traditional Megillah Reading

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025.... 7:00 p.m.

With Tributes to Albert Einstein & Stephen Hawking



π



"Do not worry about your difficulties in Mathematics.

I can assure you mine are still greater."

- *Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879*

"One cannot really argue with a mathematical theorem."

Stephen Hawking, died March 14, 2018

Pi
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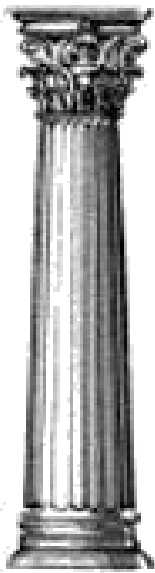
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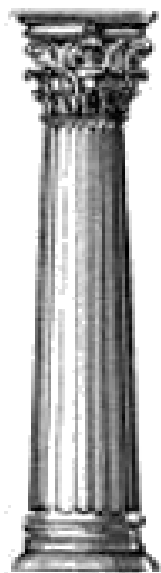
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“It says something about our country that people around the world are willing to leave their homes and leave their families and risk everything to come to America. Their talent and hard work and love of freedom have helped make America the leader of the world. And our generation will ensure that America remains a beacon of liberty and the most hopeful society this world has ever known.”

- President George H.W. Bush