

# Presidents Day Breakfast

February 19, 2024

## Temple Emanuel of North Jersey

558 High Mountain Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ (201) 560-0200 [www.tenjfl.org](http://www.tenjfl.org)

Joseph H. Prouser, Rabbi

Robert M. Goldberg, President

Co-Chaired by Temple Emanuel Members:  
Linda Schwager & Susan Bograd Yudin

PRESIDENT

**GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1790**

TO THE TOURO SYNAGOGUE IN RHODE ISLAND

“  
**The Government  
of the United States ...  
gives to bigotry no sanction,  
to persecution no assistance.**”



(Photo: © Shutterstock)

## Presidents Day 2024

Dear Friends:

What a privilege it is to welcome so many honored guests, elected officials, and public leaders to Temple Emanuel of North Jersey for our eleventh annual Presidents Day observance. For the Temple Emanuel community, this is a much anticipated event of high significance. It is a special joy to be celebrating together and in person.

It is an added joy to be celebrating together today because of the time on the Jewish calendar. This is the season in which we celebrate the holiday of Purim. At the heart of this holiday is the historic exercise of Jewish civic responsibility and resistance to tyranny, autocracy, hate, and persecution – from the Book of Esther’s description of events in ancient Persia and continuing to our own day. The Rabbis say of the current month, “When Adar arrives, our joy, our happiness increases!”

With fellow Jews still held hostage in Gaza, the global Jewish community struggles to achieve the joy prescribed and properly embraced at this season. The principled support of the United States and of local leaders and citizens for the State of Israel, America’s closest ally in the Middle East, is a blessing and a comfort.

This ordinarily (and extraordinarily) festive Jewish season – magnified by its confluence with Presidents Day – has always been about the combination and inseparable nature human happiness and moral duty.

On this Presidents Day, Temple Emanuel is filled with guests representing a wide variety of political stances and affiliations, as well as a wide variety of religious traditions and beliefs. Let us affirm together that our national “pursuit of happiness” depends on achieving moral clarity in our own lives, in our homes and communities, and in our national affairs. I am optimistic about our prospects! After all, it was President Abraham Lincoln, author of the Gettysburg Address at the center of today’s observance, who advised us that:

**"Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."**

My very best wishes for your happiness on this Presidents Day. May our joy – and may our devotion to moral duty – only increase.

Most sincerely,

Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser

**Ha-Motzi Blessing ...**

**Susan Yudin, TENJ Past President**

**Welcome, Gettysburg Address ...**

**Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser**

**Presidents Day Prayer ...**

**Mayor Steven Fulop**

**The Responsibility of Citizenship ... Mayor Charles J.X. Kahwaty**

**America's Prayerful Aspiration ...**

**Assemblyman Robert Auth**

**Prayer for the U.S.A. ...**

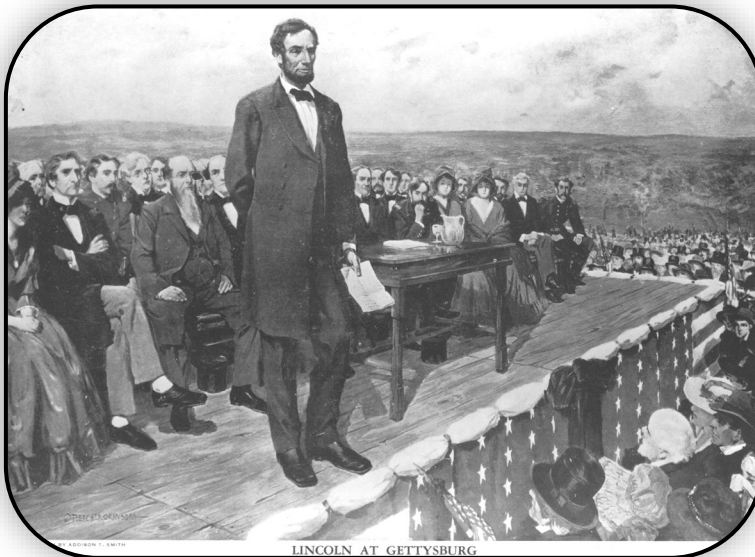
**Linda Schwager**

**Prayer for Israel ...**

**Commissioner Tracy Silna Zur**

**Greetings ...**

**Robert M. Goldberg, TENJ President**



***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.**

## ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שעשני בן חורין:

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

לפני שמונים שנה ושבע שנים הולידו אבותינו על-פני יבשת זו  
אומה חדשה שהורתה בחרות והיא מקדשת לעקרון שכל  
בני-האדם שנים הם מטבע בריאתם. כיום אנו מעורבים במלחמת  
אזרחים גדולה כדי שיבחון הדבר אם אומה זו אן | כל אומה  
שהורתה בשלזו והקדשתה בשלזו עשויה שתאריך ימים. נועדנו יחד  
בשדה-קרב גדול של אותה מלחמת באנו להתקדש חלקה אחת  
ממנו במקום מצוה אחרון לאלה שמסרה פה את-חייהם כדי שתחיה  
אותה אומה. נאה ויאה בתחלית שנעשה זאת. אבל לפי משמעות  
רחבה יותר אין-אנו יכולים להתקדש אין-אנו יכולים לקדש אין-אנו  
יכולים להעלות בקדש קרקע וזה האנשים אמצעי-הלב החיים  
והמתים שנאבקו פה הם קדשוהו לעלא לעלא מכל שיש בבחנו הדל  
להוסיף או לגרע. העולם יתן אל-לבו רק מעט אף-לא לאורך-ימים  
חבר את-אשר אנו אומרים פה אך עדי עד לא-יכל לשפח  
את-אשר פעלו הם פה. כי על-כן עלינו אנו החיים להתקדש פה  
למלאכה לא-גמורה זו שאלה שנלחמו פה הביאות עד הלום ברח  
נדיבה שבזאת. כי על-כן עלינו להתקדש פה לתפקיד גדול אשר  
עודנו לפנינו כדי שמן המתים האלה עטורי הכבוד נמל  
מסירות-יתר | לאותו רעיון שבעדו נתנו את-מלוא המדה הגדשה  
של מסירות. כדי שנכריע אנחנו פה בלבב שלם כי מתים אלה לא  
לשוא מתו. כדי שאומה זו בעזרת אדוני תולד | לדה | חדשה לחופש  
וכדי שממשל של העם | בידי העם | בשביל העם לא יבחר מעל פני  
הארץ.

# **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.<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

For liberty without learning is always in peril, and learning without liberty is always in vain.<sup>5</sup>

**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.<sup>6</sup>**

May our country be always successful, but whether successful or not, always right.<sup>7</sup>

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

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

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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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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.<sup>3</sup>



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

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.<sup>5</sup>**

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.<sup>6</sup>

**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.<sup>7</sup>**

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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 **MAYOR RICHARD GOLDBERG**

Mayor Emeritus Richard Goldberg of Hawthorne was a long time friend of Temple Emanuel of North Jersey and an enthusiastic participant in our annual Presidents Day observances.

His memory is a blessing.



# Temple Emanuel of North Jersey

*celebrates*

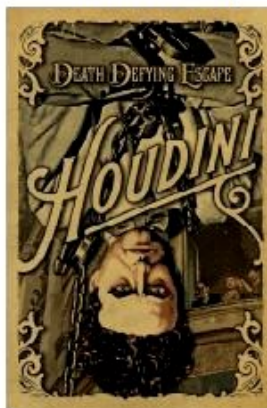
## Purim 2024/5784

*with a magical tribute to*

# Harry Houdini

*on his 150th Birthday!!!*

“And if I perish, I perish”



וְכִאֲשֶׁר אֶבְדֵּי אֶבְדֵּי

## Purim Evening Service

&

## Traditional Megillah Reading

*Saturday, March 23 8:00 p.m.*



אֶל־תִּדְמִי בַּנִּפְשִׁיךְ לְהַמְלִיט בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים

“Mordechai sent this message to Esther: ‘Do not imagine that you,

of all the Jews, will **escape with your life** by being in the king’s palace.

On the contrary, if you remain silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from some other quarter, and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a moment of crisis.” - *Esther 4:13-14*

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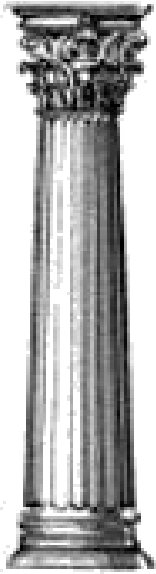
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*Attorney at Law*

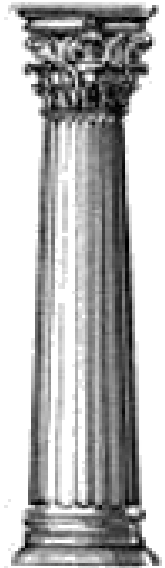
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# Scout Shabbat 2024

**BSA Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Israel Scouts,  
and Scouting Alumni of ALL FAITHS:**



**You are invited to a  
Havdallah and a Dessert Reception**

**Feb. 24, 2024 at**



**Temple Emanuel of North Jersey**

**Hosted by Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser, Past National Chaplain  
National Jewish Committee on Scouting**

**Featuring "Spin, Pop, Boom!" presented by:**



**Mad Science of Northeast New Jersey**



**Doors open 7:15 p.m; Havdallah 7:30 p.m;  
Mad Science Program 7:45 - 8:30 p.m.**

“  
**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**

