

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 80, Number 24

February 8, 2008

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday evening, February 15
Temple Sanctuary

Organ Recital—5 P.M.

Sabbath Eve Service—5:15 P.M.

WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) and Internet
(www.wqxr.com) broadcasts—5:30 P.M.

Saturday morning, February 16
Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 A.M.

Temple Sanctuary

Service—10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion—*T'tzaveh*

Readings—Exodus 27:20-30:10

Ezekiel 43:10-27

Sermon: Rabbi Howard Goldsmith

SHABBAT KODESH

Friday, February 29 — 6:30 P.M.

Beth-El Chapel (Fifth Avenue)

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, March 1 — 10 A.M.

One East 65th Street

(Join us as we try a new format!)

Sabbath and holiday services are available for downloading from the Temple Web site (www.emanuelnyc.org) generally within one hour of the conclusion of the live service and for up to one week.

And...Read our weekly Torah Commentary available online. Click "Learning: Adult Education."



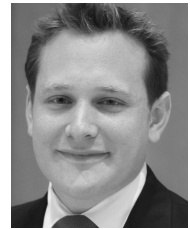
Hearing Loop installed in Temple Sanctuary and Beth-El Chapel; switch aid to T-coil. Headsets or neck loops also available for use.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE TEXTS WE LOVE TO QUOTE

Tuesdays, February 12, 19;
March 4 6:30 P.M.

In this three-week "mini-mester" **Rabbi Howard Goldsmith** will explore some of the texts we quote the most. How did the Rabbis of old understand these texts? Do we use them today in ways consistent with Judaism's traditional understanding of them? How much room do we have to take quotations from the Bible out of context? How can we reclaim traditional texts to make them relevant for our modern world? This course is appropriate both for those with years of text study and those just beginning.



STRENGTH, LEADERSHIP, COURAGE AND FAITH

Wednesdays, February 27; March 5, 12
12:30 P.M.



Rabbi Amy Ehrlich leads us in an introduction to four of the lesser-known women in our Bible: Tamar, Deborah, Yael and Jeptah's Daughter.

All classes are held at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 214

PULPIT FLOWERS

Pulpit flowers at Sabbath services this weekend are the generous donation of our congregants:

Mary K. and Rabbi Howard I. Bogot
in loving memory of
Maxine Livingston Elbaum

Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen
in loving memory of her parents,
Dr. Samuel and Esther Altman Weiskopf

Richard H. M. and Gail Lowe Maidman
in loving memory of Gail's father,
Edwin S. Lowe

TO BE NOTED

Temple Emanu-El is pleased to host the HUC-JIR's 2008 Dr. Fritz Bamberger Memorial Lecture*

**OPENING THE DOOR TO THE DEEP:
Creating a Women's Torah Commentary**

Thursday, March 6
Reception and Book Signing: 6 P.M.
Lecture: 6:30 P.M.

Featured Guests:

Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, *HUC-JIR/Los Angeles*
Dr. Andrea L. Weiss, *HUC-JIR/New York*

The co-editors of the Women of Reform Judaism's *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* will explore the challenges involved in composing this ground-breaking volume.

Admission is free. Enter at 10 East 66th Street. RSVP to (212) 824-2293 or kzeitman@huc.edu.

*Sponsored by the Bamberger family in memory of their father, Fritz Bamberger, ז"ל, who served as assistant to the president and professor of Jewish intellectual history at HUC-JIR/NY

Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel
1076 Madison Avenue (212) 753-5300
Our service is available in the Temple, home, or our Chapel.

**WINTER
at SKIRBALL**

The following class is the second of two sessions sponsored jointly by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El and the Educational Alliance.

DRAWING FROM THE TEXTS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
11 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Facilitators:
David Wander
Rabbi Leon Morris



“Drawing From the Texts” is an unusual experience facilitated by both an artist and a rabbi. Fellow artists are invited to gather for two intensive Sunday workshops (February 3 and 17) at which they will explore Jewish sources and create new visual commentaries on the ancient texts of our traditions. The texts will serve as a jumping-off point for imagination and creativity.



This program is held at the **EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE**,
197 East Broadway.
(212) 780-2300, ext. 463
www.edalliance.org/artschool

SKIRBALL



The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El

**The Cemeteries of Congregation Emanu-El
Salem Fields and Beth-El**

A limited number of above-ground crypts are available in our community mausoleum. For information, please call Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.

FOLKWAYS, LEGEND, LORE: CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE

By Rabbi David M. Posner

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS tells us that “the spirit of man is the light of the Lord,” and in Jewish tradition, light has long been a symbol of the immortality of the soul. As early as the Talmudic period it was the custom to burn a candle following a death, and to this day, many Jews observe the tradition of burning a memorial light beside a coffin from the moment of death until burial. Special lights also are kept burning for the duration of the shivah period of mourning and in some communities the entire 30-day mourning period of *sheloshim*.

In medieval Germany, the custom arose of commemorating the anniversary of a death (*yahrzeit*) with the kindling of a light for 24 hours. It also became the practice at this time to kindle memorial lights on holy days when the *Yizkor* service was recited, particularly on Yom Kippur and on the last day of Passover.

The kindling of memorial lights, either special glass-enclosed candles or electric bulbs, remains a very widespread tradition among Jews today. Many American synagogues have developed a variation on this custom with the installation of memorial plaques complete with electric bulbs, kindled on the Sabbath nearest one's *yahrzeit*.

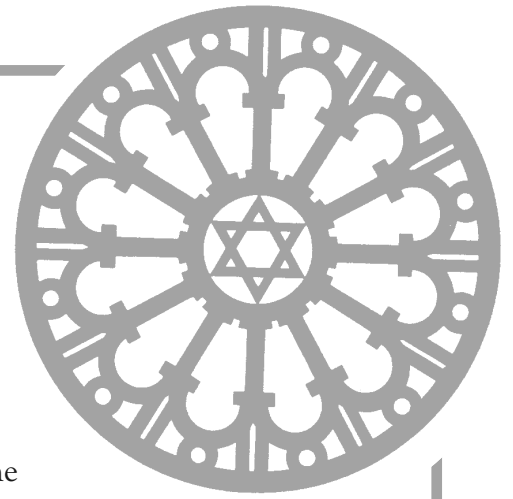
DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE

One of the most familiar of all queries posed to teachers of Judaism concerns the realm of the afterlife: Do Jews believe in such a concept? The honest response must take carefully into account the broad spectrum of our people's geographic and intellectual history.

While it may be true that the notions of the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul became more clearly defined during the Talmudic period

and through the Middle Ages, Jews have not, throughout their history, shared one identical concept. Presently there is nothing authentically Jewish about either accepting such beliefs as true or rejecting them as false.

As evidence that various concepts of an afterlife have weaved their way in and out of the tapestry that is Judaism, one might consider a view of immortality that was prevalent during part of the biblical period involving the family, ancestor worship and the patrimonial estate. The essential belief was that the dead could be at true rest only if they and the family all were located on the same property. The cohesiveness of the clan and its property was the key to a happy existence in the life beyond. Such a belief influenced Jewish life in the ancient Land of Israel for perhaps five centuries.



ON VIEW NOW AT THE
BERNARD MUSEUM OF JUDAICA...

Houses of Life

JEWISH CEMETERIES OF EUROPE

In this exhibition, from the book of the same title by Joachim Jacobs, the Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica offers a view of nearly 20 immensely varied Jewish burial grounds, using photographs, art, maps and narratives. The exhibition demonstrates that despite periodic destruction — such as the Nazi use of Jewish gravestones to pave streets — Europe's Jewish cemeteries continue to survive.

SUNDAY – THURSDAY, 10 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
ADMISSION FREE. (212) 744-1400, EXT. 259

AROUND THE TEMPLE

TIKKUN OLAM: Stitch'n Time
Sunday, February 24 11 A.M.

Join us for a sociable afternoon of knitting and light refreshments. All knitters (or crocheters) are welcome — beginners and old hands. Our volunteers are making blanket squares, baby sweaters and caps to be donated to the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and to Beth Israel Hospital. Yarn, needles and patterns are provided. We also have a professional instructor to aid us in our work. Enter at One East 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 452

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
BOOK CLUB**
Tuesday, March 4 12:30 P.M.

Rabbi Ehrlich will lead our discussion of *The World to Come* by Dara Horn.

**EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN:
Realities, Responsibilities, Challenges**
Tuesday, February 26 6 P.M.

As opposed to a secular education, religious education is quite literally "words apart" for children and adults alike. Rabbi David Posner will focus on the differences, discrepancies and challenges that are unique to the pedagogy of the spirit. This event is sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by Thursday, February 21. Enter at One East 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

MEN'S CLUB READING GROUP
Tuesday, March 11 9 A.M.

We will discuss *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by New Yorker legal writer Jeffrey Toobin.

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