



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 8

October 28, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 5 7 p.m.
Club 56: Night at the Improv

Fifth and sixth grade Youth Group members are invited to an evening of fun and laughs at National Comedy Theatre New York (located at 347 West 36th Street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues). For details, call Youth Group Advisor Lori Jacobson at (516) 965-4736.

Sunday, November 6 3 p.m.
**Young Artists Concert Series:
Natalia Kazaryan**



All are welcome to attend the first of three free performances by winners of The Second New York Piano Competition. Enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, November 4
Main 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, November 5
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Noah
Readings—Genesis 6:9-11:32
Isaiah 54:1-55:5
Sermon: Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

Following are highlights of the nearly 30 projects in which Temple members can participate on **Sunday, November 13:**



Annual Blood Drive

One pint of blood can help up to five people. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Prior donation must not occur within 56 days of the drive. Donors must bring photo ID with proof of age (17 to 75 allowed).

Brown-Bag Art

Brighten the day of a Sunday Lunch Program recipient with a one-of-a-kind decorated brown-bag lunch. Children will color/decorate brown bags that will then be filled with a nutritious meal and distributed to those less fortunate. Open to children ages 1 to 5 (parent supervision required).

Get Down and Boogie!

Greet, host and dance with seniors from the Carter Burden Program in Temple Emanu-El's Leventritt Room. Refreshments and live entertainment will be provided. Open to adults and teens (age 15+).

Hanukkah Happiness

Create a Hanukkah card that will be included in a gift package for Jewish troops stationed in Iraq. Temple members of all ages are welcome to participate.

**For more information,
call the Mitzvah Day hotline at
(212) 744-1400, ext. 452.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 6 10 a.m.
Inner Lives of the Kabbalists

Dr. Joel Hecker leads a study of the *Zohar* and 16th century mystical texts to explore the emotions, anxieties and ecstasy of the kabbalists. Discover how these internal experiences reflected and inspired their mystical scholarship.

One of three Sunday seminars sponsored by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, the cost for this session is \$50. Coffee and bagels will be served. Participants must enter at One East 65th Street. To register, call (212) 507-9580.

Friday, November 11 6:15 p.m.
Young Families: Family Shabbat

In what is to be a "Young Families Reunion," all families who have participated in this amazing program over the last 13 years are invited to our first Tot Shabbat of the New Year. Younger children (through early elementary age) will celebrate Shabbat with **Young Families**. Children who can read (through B'nei Mitzvah age)

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PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Jim, Susan and Hannah Baumann in loving memory of Jay S. Baumann

Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen in loving memory of our dearest Fanny de Margoulies-Rosenak, today and always

Harriet Heilbrunn and the Heilbrunn Family in loving memory of Robert Heilbrunn

Jo C. Jordan in loving memory of Hortense Jordan

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

will celebrate with our **Junior Congregation**—led by Rabbinic Intern David Young—which provides a unique, hands-on approach to the Shabbat service. After services, families will gather for dinner, an art project, catching up and renewing old friendships. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242 for *Young Families*, ext. 501 for *Junior Congregation*.

Don't forget these activities and dates:

- **Youth Leadership Academies**
Monday, October 31 (10th–12th grades)
Monday, November 7 (eighth grade)
Monday, November 14 (ninth grade)
All meet at 6:30 pm.
- **Short Story Discussion Group**
Monday, November 7 @ 6 p.m.
(*The Complete Stories of Bernard Malamud*)
- **Men's Club Reading Group**
Tuesday, November 8 @ 8:30 a.m.
(*Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond)
- **Women's Auxiliary Book Group**
Tuesday, November 15 @ 12:30 p.m.
(*Revenge: A Story of Hope* by Laura Blumenfeld)—discussion led by Rabbi Amy Ehrlich

B'NEI MITZVAH

**The following students of
our Religious School will become
B'nei Mitzvah this weekend:**

Ethan Hamilton and Annie Hamilton,
son and daughter of
Sara and Douglas Hamilton

Gregory Schuster Nissan,
son of
Marla Schuster Nissan
and Michael Nissan

**We are grateful for their
sponsorship of Friday evening's
Oneg Shabbat.**

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: BUILDING A TEMPLE SCHOOL

THE 1950s WERE a period of great growth for Temple Emanu-El. Membership had reached 2,700 congregants—triple the membership of the 1930s, when the new facility was built at Fifth Avenue and 65th Street. Along with increased membership, however, came an overcrowding problem, particularly in a lack of seating during High Holy Days and for the 650 students of Temple Emanu-El's Religious School—who exceeded existing classroom capacity by about 200 students.

When a segment of property contiguous to the Temple on 66th Street became available, Emanu-El's leadership of the day acted quickly to purchase the property and to establish a building fund to raise money for the project. The goal: \$3 million to cover the cost of purchasing the land, constructing the six-story school building—including an “air-conditioned 1,100-seat auditorium, providing a bright and beautiful setting for High Holy Day services”—and undergoing necessary renovations to the Community House.

At the congregation's annual dinner-dance, held Dec. 15, 1959, at the Waldorf=Astoria, a 10-foot photo mural of the proposed Religious School and auditorium were on display. According to an article published in *Building Fund News*—a periodic newsletter launched by the congregation that same month—“Some members announced their gifts [to the building fund] from the floor; while others, who had given prior to the



Building for the Future

Among those attending the 1960 Demolition Ceremony at 66th Street are (front row, adults) Dr. Nathan Perilman, Dr. Julius Mark, Building Fund Chair Benjamin Lazarus, Temple President Alfred R. Bachrach, and Life Trustee Herbert C. Bernard (second row, far left).



Set in Stone

Temple President Alfred R. Bachrach plasters with cement the top edge of the granite cornerstone dated 5723 and 1962.

meeting, gave permission to have their contributions publicly announced. With 2,700 congregation members to draw from, Mr. [Benjamin] Lazarus [chairman of the Building Fund Committee] said he was confident that the campaign would meet its goal.”

Nearly a year later, on Dec. 8, 1960, members and leadership of the Temple gathered for a “Demolition Ceremony” at the site, where two limestone residences and four brownstones were razed. Many of the newspapers of the day—including *The New York Times*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *New York Journal American* and the *New York World-Telegram*—ran brief articles about the project. In a prayer at the demolition, Senior Rabbi Julius Mark said:

We ask Thy blessing, O Father, upon those who have given and will continue to give of their means, their energy and their wisdom to the construction of our greatly needed school. Bless those who are about to pull down and these who will soon build! And above all, we pray that the children who will be using its classrooms may be imbued with “the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of reverence for Thee.”

Groundbreaking for the new facility was held May 11, 1961, with Dr. Mark turning the ceremonial first spade of earth. He was followed by longtime Temple member and textile giant Leon Lowenstein, who gave what at the time was the largest single gift to the Building Fund drive, which underwrote the new auditorium. A noted philanthropist of the day, Mr. Lowenstein entered the business world at age 21 as a partner in the firm M. Lowenstein and Sons, which under his leadership became the number-one producer and finisher of cotton goods in the United States. According to *Building Fund News*, “[Mr. Lowenstein] interrupted his industrial career only once—to serve as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in World War I.”

Approximately 150 congregants witnessed the laying of the building cornerstone (after attending the Temple's Thanksgiving service) on Nov. 22, 1962. The new facility—with 33 classrooms for up to 1,000 students (attending either Religious School or Nursery School)—opened in September 1963. Topping off what was considered to be “one of the largest expansion programs ever undertaken in American Temple history,” a formal dedication ceremony was held April 19, 1964.

In a letter to the congregation at the start of the Building Fund campaign, Dr. Mark wrote, “Emanu-El has never been supported by a few but has always been maintained on a congregation-wide basis. It is not so much a duty as a privilege for every member of the congregation



to contribute in accordance with the heart's willingness to give and the standard of material resources with which God has blessed us.”

Over the years, many Temple families have donated funds for subsequent improvements to the Religious School building. We are ever grateful for their generosity.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

On April 30, 1961, Temple Emanu-El sponsored an Oratorical Contest for the Building Fund in which more than 50 boys and girls from the Religious School participated. Following are several excerpts from some of the winning speeches that were published in the May 1961 edition of *Building Fund News*:

“In this fine tradition of Moses and obedience of the Lord's wishes, Temple Emanu-El is erecting a House of Study, where our culture can be preserved, where the father can diligently teach the laws of Israel to the son, where new ideas can mold the future of Judaism so that it can survive in conformity with the times.”

— Harold Benenson (age 14, ninth grade)

“The past generations have erected the beautiful Temple which we are in today...Now we must expand and do as well as our forefathers.”

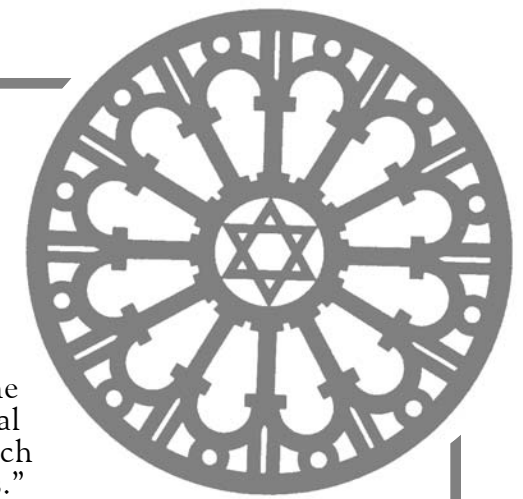
— Bruce Racusin (age 11, sixth grade)

“I don't think the parents should give all the money, for after all, we get most of the benefit. I am taking 20¢ off my weekly allowance of 35¢ for one brick a week.”

— Donald Daniels (age 7, second grade)

A Sanctuary to Dwell Among Them

Readying the scrolls for the Ark in the new Leon Lowenstein Sanctuary are (from left) Dr. Julius Mark, Dr. Nathan Perilman, Temple President Alfred R. Bachrach, Leon Lowenstein and Dedication Committee Chairman Morton Pepper.



**WITH GRATITUDE —
HIGH HOLY DAYS REMEMBERED**

Each year, Temple Emanu-El receives numerous messages of thanks from grateful listeners both near and far who have logged on to our Internet broadcasts during Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur. We happily share some of them with you!

I'm visiting this Web site from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Shana Tovah.
— N. Kuperman

Listening from Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada.
— S. Stanway

We are waiting for you to put up the Yom Kippur service so that we can listen this evening. We did this for Rosh Hashonah, and we found it inspiring. Thank you for your efforts.
— R. and A. Habin
(regular Friday night listeners) from Orlando, Fla.)

Visiting from Kailua, Hawaii.
— Craig

As I am 14 hours from the nearest synagogue, I am listening to your broadcast from Smithers, BC, Canada.
— K. Spiro

I am in Plainview, N.Y., visiting from out of town. I could not find a congregation who would permit me to attend their Kol Nidre service. It is a special chant for me each year, and your offering of it is a blessing for me and perhaps for many others.
— J. Mehr

... AND THEN THERE WAS SUCCOS

Visitors to the Temple had the chance to view our beautiful succah during a tour led by Temple docent Hadassah Mushinsky. Thank you to the Women's Auxiliary for this wonderful treat!



MESSAGE FROM NEW ORLEANS

I am displaced due to Hurricane Katrina and unable to find a congregation in southern Mississippi to take part in their service. It was wonderful to be part of yours.

We have missed hearing the shofar and some very important prayers for the New Year, but your Internet services have made that possible for us this year and, I hope, for years to come.
— N. and E. Hartz

Listening to your wonderful service was so inspiring, uplifting, comforting and meaningful... Please know how much we treasure this. On a personal note, I am a former executive who worked near Fifth Avenue. When my father was diagnosed with terminal cancer, there were days that were very rough for me to get through. On my lunch hour, I used to walk up to Temple Emanu-El and sit in the sanctuary and pray. I don't remember what I said or what prayers I uttered, but I do remember how being in your sanctuary helped my frame of mind and gave me a special, sustained strength to face and embrace those difficult days that followed.

— S. Heller

Internet broadcasts are sponsored in part by a grant from Jeffrey S. Gould.

AROUND THE TEMPLE

Sunday, November 20

10 a.m.

Anti-Semitism: Its Root Causes

The Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El invites Temple members to an enlightening discussion led by Dr. Judson R. Shaver, president and professor of religious studies at Marymount Manhattan College. Dr. Shaver will provide a scholarly analysis of anti-Semitism, who started it and why it has continued to permeate throughout our lifetime. Hear what Dr. Shaver has to say about the New Testament and the position of the Gospels in biblical times. More than a history lesson, this is a message for each of us. Don't miss it!

The cost for this event is \$20 per person, which includes a hot breakfast. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 250 by Wednesday, November 16. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.



Judson R. Shaver, Ph.D.
President, Marymount Manhattan College

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Editor's note: Some letters used above were edited for space and to maintain privacy.