



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 36

May 12, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 16 6 p.m.
Film Screening and Q&A:
Diamonds in the Snow

Temple Emanu-El and the American Society for Jewish Heritage in Poland are pleased to announce an open screening of *Diamonds in the Snow*, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, Mira Reym Binford. This international prize-winning film tells the stories of three young children from Bedzin, Poland—including the filmmaker—who were saved from the Nazis by Polish strangers. Thousands of Jewish children lived in Bedzin before the Nazi invasion, but only about a dozen survived. *This event is free and open to the public. Enter at One East 65th Street.*



SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, May 19
Lowenstein 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, May 20
Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Lowenstein Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Behar-Behukotai
Readings—Leviticus 25:1-27:34
Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

MEET
THE AUTHOR

Wednesday, May 17
6:30 p.m.
**Memoir, Memory
and Identity:**
**Discussion With
Author Abigail Pogrebin**

Journalist Abigail Pogrebin was aware of her personal connection to other Jews but confused about her own relationship to Jewish tradition and what she wanted to pass along to her two young children. In her book *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish*, Ms. Pogrebin shares intimate conversations with 62 well-known Jews—including New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, director Steven Spielberg, actress Sarah Jessica Parker, singer/songwriter Paul Simon—on childhood rituals and superstitions, experiences in (and out of) synagogue, as well as feelings about God, Israel, anti-Semitism, intermarriage and assimilation.



This program is the final session in the 2006 lecture series co-sponsored by Temple Emanu-El's Ivan M. Stettenheim Library and the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica. Admission is free and open to the public. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Renee S. Neu in loving memory of *Emma, Amedeo and Dario Sabatello*

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Jason Maxwell Kingdon, son of
Anla Cheng Kingdon and Mark Kingdon

Stephen Merritt Langer, son of
Bobbi and Bruce Langer

William Zabar, son of
Tracey and David Zabar

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 23

11 a.m.

***Life in Shadows:
Hidden Children and the Holocaust***

The Women's Auxiliary is organizing a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage to view *Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust*. Created by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, this exhibit recounts the experiences of Jewish children who were forced to conceal their identities and leave their families in order to survive. *As we will be guests of the museum, this event is open only to Women's Auxiliary members who have paid-in-full membership.* On the day of the event, we will meet at the museum (36 Battery Place). Space is extremely limited. *RSVP by Monday, May 22 to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.*

Charles S. Salomon

The Universal Funeral Chapel

1076 Madison Avenue (212) 753-5300
Our service is available in the Temple, home, or our Chapel.

TO BE NOTED

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting will be held **Thursday, May 25 at 5:30 p.m.** in **Greenwald Hall**. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. Refreshments will be served. *Questions? Call the Temple office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 215.*

English in Action

The Women's Auxiliary is seeking volunteer tutors for the English in Action session that meets Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. *To sign up, or for more information about the program, interested persons should call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.*

**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.

B'ASHER TELKHI ELEKH: WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO...

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

THERE IS NO Judaism without interpersonal commitment and the sense of a shared fate. *The Book of Ruth*, the ancient biblical scroll we read every year during the holiday of Shavuot (this year on June 2), embodies the extent to which love and the desire to share the same fate as another is so foundational to Judaism that we could not survive without it.

After her husband's death, Ruth is encouraged to go back to her father's house, for she was not an Israelite but a Moabite. Safety, especially for a woman in the ancient world, is found among her own people and, if unmarried, with her family of origin. Against all logic, however, Ruth chooses to follow her widowed and bitter mother-in-law, Naomi, back to the Land of Israel.

The text is emphatic about Ruth's choice. While her also widowed sister-in-law Orpah finally follows Naomi's pleadings and, though weeping, returns to "her people and her gods," Ruth holds fast to Naomi. Literally, Ruth clings (*davka*) to Naomi, not just as a person but to her entire culture, nationality, faith and fate.

Ruth's clinging to Naomi is a foundational moment in Judaism not only because of the power of the tale about interpersonal commitment but because of its historical and *halakhic* significance. Had Ruth not fol-

lowed Naomi back to the Land of Israel, she would not have joined with Boaz and borne Oved—which then produced Jesse, the father of David, who would become King David, the forerunner of the Messiah. In other words, our redemption as a people is dependent on the choice that Ruth made.

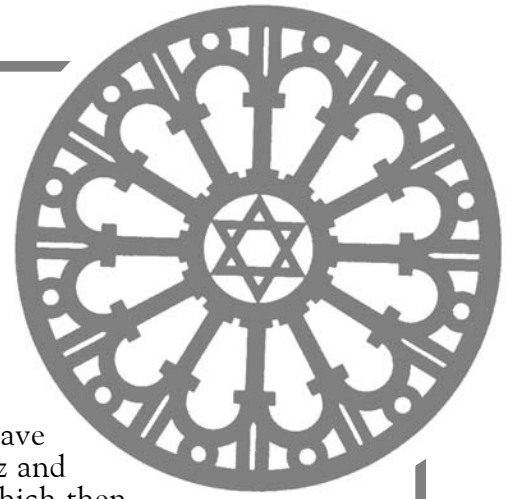
This choice—and the royal and redemptive lineage that it produced—is even more remarkable given the earlier biblical text that marriage with a Moabite is forbidden and that one doing such shall not enter the House of Israel. In spite of this earlier biblical prohibition, the later text indicates perhaps an ancient process of conversion. Even more than that, it indicates that our tradition, in spite of itself, is able to change. Judaism allows for and celebrates conversion, for ours is a religion that can accept as members those not born into it and can recognize

their redemptive presence.

If the ancient Sages were able to find ways of explaining how Ruth, the Moabite, nonetheless not only entered the House of Israel but served as its savior, we can and certainly must find our own ways of working to save people in our times.

**AND RUTH SAID,
"DO NOT ENTREAT ME
TO LEAVE YOU, OR TO
KEEP FROM FOLLOW-
ING YOU; FOR WHERE-
EVER YOU GO, I WILL
GO; AND WHERE YOU
LODGE, I WILL LODGE;
YOUR PEOPLE SHALL
BE MY PEOPLE, AND
YOUR GOD MY GOD;
WHERE YOU DIE, I
WILL DIE, AND THERE
WILL I BE BURIED..."**

— THE BOOK OF RUTH



AROUND THE TEMPLE

Men's Club Annual Dinner & Samuel Sacks Award Presentation

TEMPLE MEMBERS and their guests are invited on **Thursday, May 18 at 6 p.m.** to join the Men's Club for its end-of-year dinner and meeting, featuring the installation of officers and presentation of the Samuel Sacks Achievement Award. This year's recipient is **Frances Aaron Hess**. A congregant since 1992, Mrs. Hess served as a Temple trustee for more than a decade. She also served many years as chairperson of the Museum and Program committees. Her current activities include being treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary, a member of the Daily Readers Panel, a captain of the Sunday Lunch Program and Temple archivist.



Samuel Sacks, a dedicated and devoted member of the congregation and of the Men's Club, established a fund nearly 30 years ago whereby the Temple receives a yearly contribution. Mr. Sacks also wished to recognize members of the congregation for their service and support of the Temple. Each year since 1977, the Men's Club board of directors has established a committee to recommend deserving individuals to receive this award.

The cost for this event is \$60 per person. Checks should be made payable to the Men's Club. Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

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Dr. David M. Posner

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