



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 13

November 26, 2004

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 6 6:30 p.m.  
**A History of Murder and Forensic Science  
From Cain and Abel to Laci Peterson**

The Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El sponsors this special evening with Dr. Michael Baden, co-director of the New York State Police Medico-Legal Investigation Unit. An expert in forensic pathology, Dr. Baden is the author of *Dead Reckoning: The New Science of Catching Killers* and *Unnatural Death: Confessions of a Medical Examiner*. In addition, he hosts the HBO documentary series *Autopsy*. This event is open to all Temple members and their guests. The cost is \$30 for Men's Club members, \$35 for nonmembers. *RSVP by Wednesday, December 1 to (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.*



## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, December 3  
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, December 4  
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

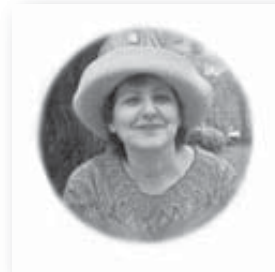
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.  
**Main Sanctuary**  
Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Vayeshev  
Readings—Genesis 37:1-40:23  
Zechariah 4:1-7

**Rabbi David M. Posner preaching**

MEET  
THE AUTHOR

Sunday, December 5  
11 a.m.  
**Fran Manushkin at  
Temple Emanu-El**

**N**oted for her whimsical imagination and her lovingly drawn characters, author Fran Manushkin has written more than 30 books for children of all ages. Her works include such entertaining picture books as *Baby, Moon Dragon* and *The Tickle Tree*, as well as *Lulu's Mixed-Up Movie* and *Val McCall, Ace Reporter?* (two of the novels in her *Angel Corners* series for girls). In addition, Ms. Manushkin is the author of several books that portray children and their parents celebrating both Jewish and Christian holidays.



In a writing career that has spanned more than two decades, Ms. Manushkin has provided young children with a window on the world where even the simplest things are transformed into joyous events.

Co-sponsored by the Religious School Parents Organization and the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library, this event is best suited for children of kindergarten age through fourth grade. Temple members are invited to join us for a light lunch and beverages following Ms. Manushkin's presentation.

**All attendees must preregister for this event. RSVP to the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 326.**

## TO BE NOTED

### Blood Drive a Success

Thanks to all who participated in our annual Blood Drive. Through your efforts, we were able to surpass our goal. Blood can be donated throughout the year at New York Blood Center.

**Please use our donor number: 2899.**

Call (800) 933-2566 to make a donation appointment.

### Andrew Chait Appointed to NFTB Board

Congratulations to Andy Chait, our dedicated Temple member and former president of the Men's Club, who has been named an at-large member of the North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods (NFTB). An affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, NFTB is the sponsor of the Jewish Chautauqua Society for interfaith education, as well as Achim Corps Projects and the Reform on Campus Program.

### Winter Clothing Drive

Temple Emanu-El's annual winter clothing drive will be held from Thanksgiving through Tuesday, December 14. Donations of new and gently used coats, scarves, hats and gloves for children and adults should be brought to the lobby of One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or the lobby of 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street during Nursery School and Religious School hours.

## B'NEI MITZVAH

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

*Connor Jarrett Kinslow, son of  
Faith and Edward Kinslow Jr.*

*Arlen Walters Blakeman, son of  
Nancy and Bruce Blakeman*

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

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

### America, American Jews and the Holocaust

FRED ROSENBAUM

Sunday, Dec. 5 10 AM – 2 PM

SKIRBALL  
CORNER

No U.S. president has been more beloved by American Jews than Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but during World War II his administration neither expanded immigration quotas nor rescued European Jews, nor bombed the killing machinery of Auschwitz. Drawing upon important new scholarship, we will examine carefully this record and consider the causes of what one historian has termed Roosevelt's "greatest failure."

### Why Is This Day Different From All Others? Jews at Christmas

DR. JOSHUA ELI PLAUT

Sunday, Dec. 12 10 AM – 2 PM

For many 19<sup>th</sup> century European Jews, Christmas Eve was known as Nittel Nakhkt, an occasion to refrain from Torah study and public Jewish activities. At the same time, in America, some Jews were attending social balls and engaging in acts of goodwill—such as Christmas gift drives. This seminar will look at key texts, oral history testimonies, sermons and reports from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and contextualize this behavior in reference to today.

SKIRBALL



To register, call  
(212) 507-9580 or  
log on to [www.adultjewishlearning.com](http://www.adultjewishlearning.com).

## PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Croman  
in loving memory of *Dr. Jack Seigel*

The Harteveltdt Family  
in loving memory of *Henry H. Harteveltdt Jr.*  
and *Lucile S. Harteveltdt*

Dr. Virginia Sadock in loving memory  
of her father, *Fred Alcott*

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.

## KEYAM DISHMAYA AND REVITALIZING CHANUKAH

*The intellectual and spiritual life of the Jew always has been riddled with eternal and internal conflict and tension: this world and the world to come; reason and revelation; justice and mercy; negative commandment and positive precept; body and soul. Another such tension is to be found in the simultaneous tendencies of isolation and assimilation. No Jewish festival better embodies that tension than does Chanukah—ostensibly a festival of freedom but ultimately the freedom to be true to our own Jewish selves and not slave to the appeal of foreign traditions. This is only something to keep in the back of our minds as we all celebrate a happy holiday and wish our neighbors the same for their season.*

*Dr. Jonathan Sarna, the preeminent historian of American Jewish history (and a close relation to Temple Emanu-El), in his latest work, American Judaism—A History, points to the date of October 5, 1879, as the genesis meeting of an American Jewish organization called Keyam Dishmaya. It was a group of young Jews who focused their sights on the Chanukah festival, and Sarna's account is well worth reprinting.*

On the “fateful...night” of October 5, 1879, a group of earnest young Jews from Philadelphia and New York met at an undisclosed Philadelphia location and bound themselves together in a solemn covenant “for God and Judaism.” They called themselves *Keyam Dishmaya*, an Aramaic term signifying their goal to uphold the dictates of heaven, and they pledged to do all in their power to bring Jews back “to the ancient faith.” “The great question for contemporary Judaism,” 26-year-old Max Cohen, later librarian of New York’s Maimonides Library, exclaimed in a letter to a friend, “is whether it will continue God’s work or cease to be.” His own conclusion, which the group as a whole shared, was unambiguous: “Israel must be whatever its children make it.”

A major goal of *Keyam Dishmaya* was to “recreate the ancient Hebrew Sabbath.” Sabbath observance had declined markedly in the post-Civil War years, as surging business pressures combined with stricter Sunday closing laws to magnify the losses experienced by Jews who kept their stores and offices shuttered on Saturday. A public appeal to New York Jews in 1868 “to restore the Sabbath to its pristine sanctity” had fallen on deaf ears. Now the young people hoped that their efforts might enjoy greater success. They viewed revitalization of the Jewish Sabbath as a first step

in promoting the observance of a wide range of neglected Jewish practices and the fostering of a “higher spiritual life.”

Beyond this, members of the group led adult Bible classes, taught Sunday School, delivered lectures, promoted “the restoration of our people to the land of our inheritance,” and—most surprisingly from the perspective of later generations—worked to revitalize the Jewish “national” holiday of Chanukah.

This winter holiday, which commemorates the Maccabean victory and the rededication of the ancient Temple, seemed in danger of falling into “oblivion” in post-Civil War America.

The holiday’s message of anti-assimilation and national renewal ran counter to Reform Judaism’s universalistic ethos, and its comparatively minor status in the Jewish calendar made it an easy festival to neglect.

For those seeking to revitalize Judaism, however, Chanukah provided the perfect symbol. Chanukah celebrations, complete with convivial pageants and extensive publicity, served to counteract the growing allure of Christmas. [And,] the Chanukah festival sponsored in 1879 by *Keyam Dishmaya* proved particularly successful. “Every worker in the cause of revived Judaism,” one of the organizers wrote, “must have felt the inspiration exuded from the enthusiastic interest evinced by such a mass of Israel’s people.”



GRAND REVIVAL  
OF THE  
Jewish National Holiday of Chanucka,  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC,  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 1879.

# ALL THINGS CHANUKAH

## Don't miss any of our wonderful Chanukah activities!

Saturday, December 4 1:30 p.m.

### Senior Youth Group: Chanukah Jam Session

Come spread some pre-Chanukah cheer to the fabulous residents of the Hearthstone at the Esplande. These seniors with Alzheimer's are a warm group of people who love music and visits from teens. We'll sing songs, light Chanukah candles and play dreidel. This is a great opportunity to do something good for the community and earn an hour of community service credit for your school.

We'll meet at Starbucks  
(2140 Broadway, near  
West 75<sup>th</sup> Street) before  
heading over. RSVP to  
Student Rabbi Howard  
Goldsmith at (212) 744-  
1400, ext. 501.

Tuesday, December 7  
7 p.m.

### Emanu-El League Chanukah Party

Join us for an evening of food, fun and good conversation. Make new friends or connect with old ones. Don't miss our special attraction—tarot card readings by Marion Hedger, our resident professional psychic with 25 years of experience.

Emanu-El League is a group for singles in their 20s and 30s. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 241 by Wednesday, December 1.

Enter through the Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street.

Wednesday, December 8 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 12 9:15 a.m.

### Young Families: Chanukah Storytime

Librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read about Chanukah from our wonderful collection of children's books. Storytime is for preschoolers (from age 2½) with a parent. All attendees must preregister by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.

Friday, December 10 5:15 p.m.

### Candle Lighting and Oneg

Temple members and their friends are invited to join us in the Main Sanctuary as we celebrate the Sabbath and kindle the Chanukah lights. Students from our Religious School will be called up to the *bimah* to light the Chanukah candles. Following the service, an Oneg Shabbat with traditional holiday food and songs will be held in the Isaac Mayer Wise Hall.

This event is co-sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary, the Men's Club and the

Religious School Parents

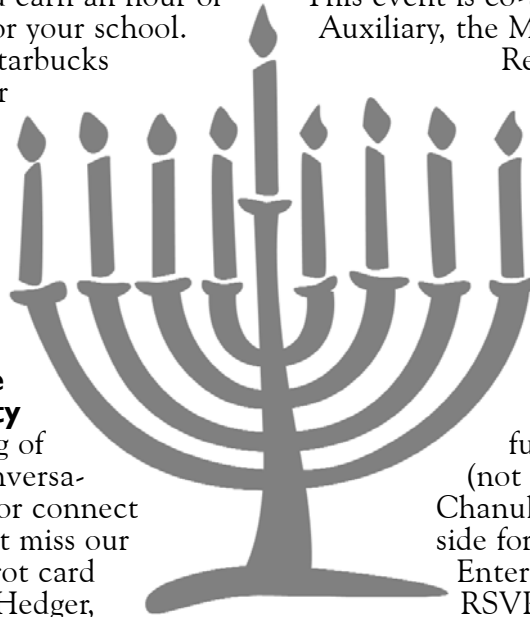
Organization. Please let us know that you plan to attend—call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

Sunday, December 12  
10 a.m.

### Young Families: Chanukah Party

Join us for treats, games, songs and lots of fun! Bring a gift (not wrapped, please) for our Chanukah Toy Drive (see other side for more information).

Enter at 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street.  
RSVP by Friday, December 10  
to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.



## REMEMBER:

First night of Chanukah:

Tuesday, December 7

(first candle is lit)

Last night of Chanukah:

Tuesday, December 14

(eighth candle is lit)

## ALL THINGS CHANUKAH (CONTINUED)

### ANNUAL CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

**T**emple Emanu-El once again will be collecting new toys for less fortunate boys and girls from age 3 through 13. Donations—not wrapped, please!—should be brought to the lobby of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or to the lobby of Goldsmith Religious School Building, 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, during Nursery School and

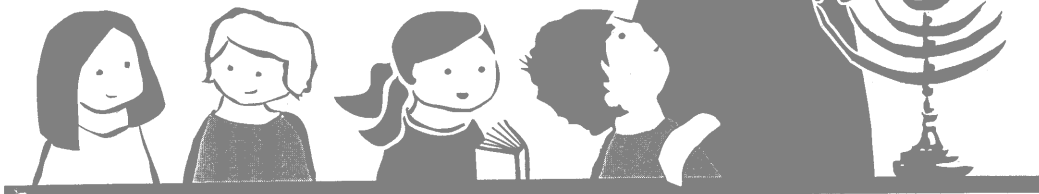


Religious School hours. Packages also may be given to Religious School and Nursery School teachers.

Toys will be collected from Thanksgiving through Tuesday, December 14. Call the Temple office at (212) 744-1400 for more information.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHANUKAH PARTIES

*Classroom parties for students only:*  
Monday, December 6—Grades K-4  
Wednesday, December 8—Grades 5-7  
Sunday, December 12—Grades K-7



### CANDLE LIGHTING WITH DOROT

**F**ulfill the mitzvot of lighting the Chanukah candles and of giving *tzedakah* by bringing great joy to a DOROT senior in need of companionship during the holiday season. Set aside one of your Chanukah nights to help light the *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) in the home of a DOROT senior.

DOROT provides visiting families with a *chanukiah*, candles, chocolate gelt, a dreidel and helpful guidelines for Chanukah blessings, songs and dreidel playing. All you need to bring is your family, and together with a DOROT senior, you can create a memorable and meaningful Chanukah tradition. Visits should last between 20 and 30 minutes and will be arranged on a Chanukah night and at a time that is convenient for your family.

As part of the program, each family is asked to contribute \$50 per visit. If you are unable to make an actual visit, DOROT will send a teen volunteer in your place for every \$50 collected. To register for a Chanukah night visit, call the DOROT office at (917) 441-5051. Checks should be made payable to DOROT and mailed to DOROT, 171 West 85<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024.

*This program is underwritten in part by our Temple members Joanna and David Silver.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Thursday, January 6, 2005

7:30 p.m.

### Yefim Bronfman at the New York Philharmonic

The Women's Auxiliary invites Temple members and their friends to attend a performance by Yefim Bronfman, who is regarded widely as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today.

His commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide. The cost for this event is \$85 per person (\$25 of which is tax deductible). Seats are located in the Preferred Orchestra section, keyboard side.

Paid reservations must be received by Friday, December 17. Make checks payable to Women's Auxiliary of Congregation Emanu-El and send to Temple Emanu-El Women's Auxiliary, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021.

Please include your name, phone number and address. Orders will be filled in the order they are received. Questions? Call the Women's Auxiliary at (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.



## TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



November 26, 2004  
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**Dr. David M. Posner**

*Senior Rabbi*

**Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich**

*Associate Rabbi*

**Rabbi Nadia E. Gold**

*Assistant Rabbi*

**Lori Corrsin**

*Cantor*

**Dr. Ronald B. Sobel**

*Senior Rabbi Emeritus*

**Robert A. Bernhard**

*President*

**Rabbi Leon A. Morris**

*Director of the Skirball Center  
for Adult Jewish Learning*

**Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch**

*Administrative Vice President*

**Mark H. Heutlinger**

*Administrator*

**Robyn W. Cimbol**

*Director of Development*

**Henry Fruhauf**

*Administrator Emeritus*

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