RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS
New Members Have a Long History at Emanu-El

NEW LIFE THROUGH JUDAISM
Written by Temple Member Erica Rosenblum

HIGH HOLY DAY CALENDAR
Temple Emanu-El has a storied past and a bright future in its place as a Fifth Avenue landmark. To honor our building’s 90th anniversary, we are highlighting just a few of many fascinating pieces of its history. Read below to uncover some of our sanctuary’s secrets, and read more at emanuelnyc.org/building.

Temple Emanu-El was built on the site of the Astor Mansion. While our Fifth Avenue landmark bears no resemblance to the mansion pictured to the left, the original wine cellar was left untouched. Eventually, however, the cellar had to be reinforced due to a risk of collapse under heavier loads. This reinforcement was especially important for parades sent up Fifth Avenue.

Temple Emanu-El has a storied past and a bright future in its place as a Fifth Avenue landmark. To honor our building’s 90th anniversary, we are highlighting just a few of many fascinating pieces of its history. Read below to uncover some of our sanctuary’s secrets, and read more at emanuelnyc.org/building.

There is a time capsule underneath our building’s cornerstone. Some highlights of its contents include Bibles in both Hebrew and English, Union Prayer Books, a history of both congregations Emanu-El and Beth-El, copies of the consolidation agreement, list of members, a set of US government-issued coins, and a Yad (Torah pointer). The photo on the left shows the laying of the cornerstone of the new temple on the corner of 65th Street and Fifth Avenue. From left to right: Louis Marshall (President of the Congregation), Benjamin Mordecai (Chairman of the Building Committee) and William Spiegelberg, 1928.

From 1942 to 1946, Temple Emanu-El’s I.M. Wise Hall served as a United Service Organizations (USO) canteen. During this time, we welcomed more than 1,350,000 men and women of the armed forces of the United Nations. Over 5,000 volunteers helped to entertain, serve, and create a home away from home for servicepeople at Emanu-El during World War II.

Volume 92, No. 1, is a publication of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York. We welcome your questions, suggestions and contributions. Please contact Jackie Peterson at 212-507-9512 or jpeterson@emanuelnyc.org.
A message from our Temple President

Dear Congregants,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you were able to take some time this summer to recharge and reconnect with people and places, near or far, that hold a special place in your heart. Summer, to me, is a time for looking outward — a time to “get away.” Now, though, with the High Holy Days soon upon us, perhaps fall is a time for our thoughts to turn inward. It seems more of a time for reflection; a time for us to restore and revitalize the bonds that exist between those who are closest to us. I, for one, look forward to seeing you all on the Eve of Rosh Hashanah. When the shofar blows to usher in the new year, there is no place I would rather be than with my family, among the company of good friends and fellow members of Temple Emanu-El.

Our temple’s strength is and has always been our warm and caring community. We could do very little for anyone, inside or outside of these walls, if Emanu-El wasn’t devoted to building trust and strong bonds within our membership. It is for this reason that our temple remains committed to providing opportunities for our members to organize, gather, and connect in ways that are important to them — whether for specific interests, age groups, life-cycles or some other relevant aspect. But Emanu-El also works hard to offer programming that builds those bonds in more profound ways. We want to make our members think, we want them to laugh, and we want them to remember. We want to challenge convictions and foster conversations. We want to nurture love and understanding, instill respect, and provide hope. Temple Emanu-El is a living expression of Reform Judaism, built upon the foundation of our shared heritage, and we are deeply committed to excellence and meaningful engagement for our members. To me, this is the Emanu-El experience, and from what I see as I read through this bulletin, 5780 more than affirms our commitment.

Our Tikkun Olam committee’s remarkable impact over the course of 5779 is featured on page 9. Mitzvah by mitzvah, our members’ efforts have made a difference in the lives of many beyond our walls. In the coming year there will be, as usual, many opportunities for our members to lead and assist in “repairing the world” should they wish to do so, from regular involvement in our Sunday Lunch Program, Stitch’n Time, and Ronald McDonald House events to taking part in our larger community events such as Thanksgiving Dinner or Mitzvah Day. Our Philanthropic Fund provides even more opportunities to give to our greater community and beyond, with its yearly call for support on Yom Kippur.

Included in this bulletin you will also see many compelling events and experiences organized by The Men’s Club, The Women’s Auxiliary, Young Members of Emanu-El, Saviv, Fifth & 65th (our newest initiative from the Membership Committee), and others. We are continuing to expand our family programming, as well; adding new sessions for grandparents and expectant parents to an already broad schedule that will again feature successful programs such as Baby Yoga, Baby Fingers (focusing on sign language and music), and Storytime. Our Religious School is also offering inventive new ways to engage young families through initiatives such as Emanu-El Explorers and Jewish Family Time, providing even more innovative ways for families to participate in the school’s vibrant curriculum.

And of course, The Streicker Center this fall once again offers an incredible lineup of classes and events — including upcoming evenings with distinguished guests such as Mitch Albom, Andrea Bocelli, Rachel Maddow, George Will, Jim Acosta and Jeff Zucker, Dame Julie Andrews, and Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., to name just a few.

There is no shortage of significant and intriguing opportunities which our members can take part in. As we look even farther ahead in our calendar, I am very much looking forward to gathering with our congregation at the Central Park Zoo in June of 2020, where our bold American synagogue will kick off its year-long 175th Anniversary celebration. We will have much to celebrate when we reach this milestone, but truly we have much to celebrate already.

Our congregation has grown from humble beginnings, from a simple second-floor room above a storefront on the Lower East Side in 1845 to this, our grand and unparalleled landmark temple on the Upper East Side; from a gathering of 33 German Jews to a vibrant and diverse congregation of 2,300 families. We have come so far, and in that time, we have grown to be counted among this country’s foremost synagogues, with a future that holds so much vitality and promise. We are truly blessed and honored to be part of this esteemed congregation’s journey and Rabbi Davidson, the Board of Trustees, temple leadership, and myself are working to ensure that the Emanu-El experience stays true to its history and remains as profound and invigorating for generations to come.

L’shanah Tovah,

Harris Diamond
President, Temple Emanu-El
High Holy Days

Calendar of Services & Programs

5780 / 2019

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 21

Selichot Service
8:00 PM | Beth-El Chapel (Fifth Avenue entrance)
Music, poetry and penitential prayers for the New Year. Congregants and their guests welcome.

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 29

Eve of Rosh Hashanah Service
5:30 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Reserved seating, tickets required. Sermon: Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

Shir Chadash Service
8:00 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For adults; children welcome. Participatory music. Sermon: Rabbi Rachel Gross-Prinz

Monday, September 30

Young Families Service
9:00 AM | Greenwald Hall
Open seating, tickets required. For toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners and their families. Story: Saul Kaiserman, Director of Lifelong Learning

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
10:00 AM | Fifth Avenue & Lowenstein Sanctuaries
Reserved seating, both locations, tickets required. Both sermons: Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson

Discussion of Critical Issues Facing Israel
12:30 PM | Beth-El Chapel
Open seating, congregants and guests welcome. Special guest: Ambassador Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Teen Worship Service
12:30 PM | Lowenstein Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For teens and their families.

Family Worship Service
2:30 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For elementary and pre-teen children and their families. A reception will follow in I.M. Wise Hall at One East 65th Street. Story: Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson

Tashlich
4:15 PM | The Pond in Central Park
A symbolic ritual in which we “cast away” our sins, acknowledging the importance and complexity of repentance. All are welcome. Those who attended the Family Reception will gather in I.M. Wise; all others will gather in our One East 65th Street lobby.
Tuesday, October 8

**Shir Chadash Service**
5:30 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For adults; children welcome. Participatory music.
Sermon: Rabbi Andrue J. Kahn

**Kol Nidrei/Eve of Yom Kippur Service**
8:00 PM | Fifth Avenue & Lowenstein Sanctuaries
Reserved seating, both locations, tickets required.
Fifth Avenue Sermon: Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson
Lowenstein Sermon: Rabbi Andrue J. Kahn

**Yom Kippur Study Sessions**
12:30 PM | Goldsmith Religious School Building | 10 East 66th Street
Open to all congregants and their guests.
Course descriptions on page 7.

New this year: **Open Ark for Personal Prayer**
Open from 12:30 - 2:00 PM | Greenwald Hall
Enter our tranquil chapel for reflection on this past year and the year to come. This is an opportunity to approach the ark for personal prayer in the presence of Torah. Open to all congregants.

Wednesday, October 9

**Young Families Service**
9:00 AM | Greenwald Hall
Open seating, tickets required. For toddlers, preschoolers, kindergarteners and their families.
Story: Rabbi Andrue J. Kahn

**Yom Kippur Morning Service**
9:45 AM | Fifth Avenue & Lowenstein Sanctuaries
Reserved seating, both locations, tickets required.
Fifth Avenue Sermon: Rabbi Sara Y. Sapadin
Lowenstein Sermon: Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson

**Teen Worship Service**
12:30 PM | Lowenstein Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For teens and their families.

**Family Worship Service**
2:00 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Open seating, tickets required. For elementary and pre-teen children and their families. The service is followed by a visit to the Bernard Museum of Judaica.
Story: Saul Kaiserman, Director of Lifelong Learning

**Avodah Service**
2:15 PM | Lowenstein Sanctuary
Led by Rabbi Stephen Franklin and soloist Steven Fox. Open seating, guests welcome.

**Yom Kippur Afternoon, Memorial, and N’Ilah Service**
3:30 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Reserved seating, tickets required.
Sermon: Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

Sunday, October 13

**Shake in the Shack**
5:00 PM | One East 65th Street
Pizza, ice cream and a chance to shake the lulav and etrog with members of our clergy in our outdoor sukkah. All ages are welcome.

**Eve of Sukkot Service**
6:00 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Congregants and guests welcome. No tickets required.

Monday, October 14

**Sukkot Morning Service**
10:30 AM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Congregants and guests welcome. No tickets required.

Sunday, October 20

**Sh’mimi Atzeret/Eve of Simchat Torah Service**
6:00 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Congregants and guests welcome; no tickets required.

Monday, October 21

**Sh’mimi Atzeret/Simchat Torah Morning and Yizkor Service**
10:30 AM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Congregants and guests welcome; no tickets required.

**Simchat Torah Family Service, Consecration and Family Dinner**
5:00 PM | Fifth Avenue Sanctuary | One East 65th St.
Welcome the new students in our school into our community. Young congregants will be blessed and family dinner will follow. Details on page 18.
OUR THANKS
We are grateful to our members, as your participation in our congregation enriches our community and affirms the legacy of our faith and heritage. Thank you. If you have questions regarding membership at Temple Emanu-El or the upcoming High Holy Days (5780), please contact the Membership Office at 212-507-9514 or membership@emanuelnyc.org.

TICKET MAILING
Tickets for the High Holy Days will be mailed by September 10 to temple members with reserved seats. Tickets for our Shir Chadash, Young Families, Family and Teen services will be sent automatically to all temple families with children under the age of 18. If you have not received your tickets by September 16, please contact our membership office at membership@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9514. Temple members not planning on using assigned seats for High Holy Day services should let us know so we may assign your seats to guests.

TICKETS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE
Tickets are required for all services without exception. If you should lose your tickets in advance of a service, please contact our Membership Office, and we will issue replacements. Membership staff will be on-site during High Holy Days services to assist members who have misplaced their tickets.

GUEST TICKETS
A limited number of High Holy Day tickets are available for out-of-town visitors. To make your request, please contact the Membership Office at membership@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9514 no later than Wednesday, September 25 for Rosh Hashanah services and Friday, October 4, for Yom Kippur services. There is a $150 fee per guest, per holiday. As always, we will accommodate your guests with the best seats available as close to you as possible.

ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE
At Temple Emanu-El, it is our tradition during Yom Kippur to read all names of the recently deceased from our temple family. To have a name added to our Roll of Remembrance, contact Prince Davis at 212-507-9513 or pdavis@emanuelnyc.org no later than September 25.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HIGH HOLY DAYS
For additional High Holy Days questions, including seating reciprocity (for Temple Emanu-El members in good standing who will be out of town during the High Holy Days and wish to attend services at another Union for Reform Judaism congregation) or serving as an usher, please contact Prince Davis at 212-507-9513 or pdavis@emanuelnyc.org.

LIVESTREAMING
All High Holy Day services occurring in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary will be live streamed at emanuelnyc.org/broadcast.

RETURNING TICKETS FOR EVE OF ROSSHASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SERVICES
To best serve all who are planning to attend our combined services, taking place in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary on Eve of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur afternoon, we ask that you let us know your plans. If your seats are in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary, please confirm your attendance; if you do not plan to attend either of those services, we ask that you let us know so those seats can be reassigned. If your seats are in the Lowenstein Sanctuary, please confirm whether you plan to attend these services so tickets can be issued to you in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary. Please contact our Membership Office at membership@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9514 if you have any questions.
Yom Kippur Study Sessions

After the Yom Kippur morning service we invite you to learn, study and reflect in a session led by scholars of the temple. Participation is open to all congregants and guests. Sessions are held from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Locations will be announced soon at emanuelnyc.org/ykstudy.

SIN IN A DIGITAL AGE
Rabbi Rachel Gross-Prinz
Technology and the internet have opened up our world. How do they impact our moral compass? What do repentance and forgiveness look like in an age of hyper-connection and virtual relationship? How can ancient texts guide this modern context?

WHY YIZKOR MATTERS
Rabbi Bruce Block
We will explore the origins of Yizkor, its power to draw us to the synagogue, its potential to be a healing balm, and the restorative effect of being present for Yizkor in our congregation and community.

EXPLORING THE ARTWORK OF OUR NEW PRAYERBOOK & NINETY YEARS ON THE CORNER OF 65TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
Warren Klein, Bernard Museum Curator
Take a closer look at some of the artwork featured in our new holiday prayerbook. We will look at the architectural design elements as well as examine many never before seen and recently digitized documents, photographs and papers from the temple’s archive celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of our main sanctuary and community house.

DO PEOPLE CHANGE?
Rabbi Joseph Skloot
On this momentous day, explore a range of Jewish texts about whether human beings can change and how. What are the possibilities for us and for our relationships in the New Year and what can we do to make them realities.

WHY DO WE CALL YOM KIPPUR THE SABBATH OF SABBATHS?
Rabbi Phil Hiat
In the Torah, Yom Kippur is called Shabbat Shabbaton, “Sabbath of Sabbaths.” Why does the day of atonement earn this title?

THE STRANGE CASE OF A MYSTERIOUS DAY: WHAT REALLY HAPPENS ON YOM KIPPUR?
Rabbi Richard Davis
Emmanuel Levinas wrote a collection of essays, Difficile Liberté (Difficult Freedom), that is considered an excellent introduction to Jewish thought, philosophy, Biblical and Talmudic commentary, as well as educational theory. One essay, “A Religion for Adults,” clarifies that religion is, indeed, ethics. His work reminds us of the classical Reform model of Jewish life out of which our Congregation Emanu-El has itself blossomed – and from which Yom Kippur itself is themed.
Tikkun Olam & Volunteering

For more information about these programs, contact the Tikkun Olam Committee at tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org.

Sunday Lunch Program
Every Sunday | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM | One East 65th Street
For more than 37 years, Congregation Emanu-El has been preparing meals for those in need, whether they are homeless, underemployed or food insecure. We particularly need volunteers on holiday weekends and during the summer. In addition to preparing meals, the Sunday Lunch Program also collects travel-size toiletries throughout the year. Items can be dropped off at the temple; bags should be marked “Sunday Lunch Program — Donation.” Please contact us at slp@emanuelnyc.org with any questions.

Ronald McDonald House
September 17, October 15 | 5:00 PM | 405 East 73rd Street
Once a month, under the sponsorship of the Women’s Auxiliary, Emanu-El congregants serve dinner and organize art projects and entertainment for the families residing at New York City’s Ronald McDonald House. Volunteers must register with the Women’s Auxiliary: 212-744-1400, ext. 235. Open to Temple members only.

Stitch’n Time
September 8, October 6 | 11:00 AM | 6th Floor Lounge
Stitch’n Time participants knit warm scarves and caps for clients of Temple Emanu-El’s Sunday Lunch Program, as well as knitted goods for children and other adults in need. Both experienced and novice knitters are invited to join us. Participation is limited to members of the congregation. Instruction is available for those who need assistance. Yarn and patterns are provided, but you must bring your own needles (#8).

Sukkot Fruit & Veggie Drive
October 11 - October 18
In celebration of the Harvest Festival of Sukkot and to alleviate hunger in New York City, Temple Emanu-El will be collecting donations of canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soup and pasta. Your donations will help those in need. Please help those who cannot provide for themselves. Donations may be left in the baskets in the lobbies at 10 East 66th Street and One East 65th Street. For more information, please contact tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org.

Annual Coat Drive
September 23 - December 13
As the cold weather approaches, many families in New York City soon may have to choose between buying coats for their children and themselves or paying the rent. Donations of gently used coats, jackets, hats, scarves and gloves (no other clothing, please) will help to make the decision an easier one. Collected items will benefit New York Cares. Donations may be dropped off at either One East 65th Street or 10 East 66th Street.

Save the Date:
Toy Drive for CHAM: November 11 - December 13
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner: Wednesday, November 27
Mitzvah Day: Sunday, December 8
Children’s Village Holiday Party: Friday, December 27
A Profound Impact: Join Us This Year
Temple Emanu-El Members Repair the World

Temple Emanu-El is home to an extremely active Tikkun Olam committee. Each year, they seek to impact our community in a meaningful way — mitzvah by mitzvah, they work to repair the world. The Tikkun Olam committee not only better上千 lives in our city, but also creates and strengthens meaningful connections in our temple community by encouraging us to create a more just and compassionate world together. Below is an abridged list of what the Tikkun Olam Committee accomplished in the last year alone. Visit emanuelnyc.org/tikkunolam to view the full list. To get involved, contact our Tikkun Olam Chair at tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org.

- Donated 8 large cartons filled with toys and art supplies to Urban Resource Institute
- Packed 12 large cartons filled with diapers, first-aid supplies, glucerna and tarps for the Hurricane Florence Drive.
- Donated 25 pet blankets to Urban Resource Institute, the only domestic violence shelter that accepts pets
- Donated 38 personal hygiene products to the Jan Hus Outreach Program
- Supplied 45 stockings filled with stocking stuffers as well as decorations and desserts for the Good Shepherd dinner
- Sent 50 Haggadahs and 50 boxes of matzah to troops in Okinawa, Japan
- Accepted 50 backpacks filled with school supplies from Saint Francis Food Pantries which were donated to the Kravis Center at Mount Sinai Hematology/Oncology
- Welcomed 51 seniors from the Carter Burden Center for the Religious School 5th Grade Dinner
- Donated 60 specialized ports to help alleviate anxiety for children during chemo treatments at Mount Sinai Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- Assembled 72 snack packs for the Children at New York Center for Children
- Distributed 94 Thanksgiving turkeys to our partners
- Donated 96 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to the New York Center for Children, in partnership with Saint Francis Food Pantries
- Created 96 “warm winter” packages for the Bowery Mission residence
- Sent 100 decorative pails filled with chocolate and 100 chocolate roses to Brooklyn VA veterans
- Donated 111 gift cards through the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter
- Donated 118 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables to DOROT HPP
- Assembled 150 Mishloach Manot packages for the troops in partnership with the Jewish Chaplains Council
- Assembled 192 backpacks for the Children’s Village to distribute before the start of the 2019 school year
- Delivered over 200 coats to New York Cares
- Collected over 200 toys for young children undergoing medical challenges from the CHAM (Children’s Hospital at Montefiore) Toy Drive
- Hosted over 200 guests at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Hosted over 250 children and their foster parents for the Children’s Village Annual Holiday party
- Donated 336 leftover snacks from Project Prom to Temple Emanu-El’s Sunday Lunch Program
- Donated 350 pieces of clothing and jewelry to Children’s Hospital at Montefiore
- Delivered over 350 meals through the Sunday Lunch Program
- Donated 390 kosher food items to the City Harvest Passover Food Drive
- Donated $500 in gift cards to the New York Center for Children
- For the sixth year, Project Prom helped 300 under-served New York City high school seniors celebrate their academic achievements.
- On Mitzvah day alone, temple members assembled over 2,300 packages for those in need. This yearly event allows the entire temple community to come together to participate in multiple mitzvah projects.
More Powerful Together.

Yom Kippur is an especially important time for our community to come together and support this important fund. To read more and give online, visit emanuelnyc.org/philanthropic.

Why give as a congregation?

A gift to The Temple Emanu-El Philanthropic Fund is an affirmation of our long-standing congregational history of impacting lives. Each year the Philanthropic Committee, made up of members and leaders of the temple, evaluate a wide range of organizations and wisely invest the generosity of our congregants in humanitarian, educational and cultural causes that are impactful and relevant. Your gift matters; we are more powerful together.

Help us support programs that allow members to meaningfully volunteer through programs such as our Tikkun Olam Committee, Sunday Lunch Program, Teen Philanthropic Committee and Young Members of Emanu-El Giving Circle.

Help us respond quickly and significantly in cases that need immediate Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid by working through IsraAID; donating to flood and famine relief in Africa; providing hurricane relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico; and supporting Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA.

Help us support a wide range of charities within our community which support populations fighting hunger, homelessness, poverty and more.

Help us show our support for Israel by supporting Israeli Reform institutions such as our sister synagogue in Jerusalem, Har El. We also help vulnerable populations in Israel through the funding of organizations like Leket (Israel’s National Food Bank).

Help us support Reform Jewish institutions including Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion as well as the American Jewish Archives, Union for Reform Judaism camps, and many other organizations.

Making a Difference:

“The Tikkun Olam Committee provided the most terrific holiday dinner for our foster girls living at 17th Street; wonderful food, gifts, activities — they made the girls feel very special!”
- Foster Pride, a New York City organization that supports and mentors foster children

“Thank you for Temple Emanu-El’s wonderful support of The Bowery Mission. We are grateful for the many people in your congregation who care about the poor and homeless in NYC.”
- The Bowery Mission, a New York City organization serving the hungry and homeless

“Thank you to the members and trustees of Temple Emanu-El for over 40 years of generous support, and for your outstanding commitment to strengthening our east side community!”
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a New York City organization serving the entire Lenox Hill area with programs for children, adults, and seniors

Tax-deductible contributions to the Philanthropic Fund are kept separate from the congregation’s Annual Fund and are not used for our temple’s operational expenses. There are many ways to make a gift. To read more or make a donation, visit emanuelnyc.org/philanthropic.
Religious School Sweethearts: New Members Have a Long History at Emanu-El

By Jackie Peterson, Communications Manager

Religious School is a time to learn about Jewish identity and history, to develop a sense of right and wrong, to make lasting friendships, to study for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah… and, for some, a time to meet their future spouse.

Matt and Annabel Perelman did not start their romantic relationship until long after they left Temple Emanu-El's Religious School, but their friendship dates back to second or third grade. On Wednesday afternoons, the two shared a classroom. “He was a troublemaker and the class clown,” Annabel said of Matt. The two share fond memories of their time at Emanu-El, with many involving the late Rabbi Posner.

“Any time Rabbi Posner would stop by a class or we would interact with him, it felt like you were being graced by a head of state,” Matt said. “People would sit up really straight and hang on his every word.”

Annabel shared a story in which some Horace Mann students, herself included, treated themselves to a leisurely outdoor lunch before going inside, where they should have been preparing for their Confirmation.

“Imagine our surprise when (Rabbi Posner), followed by our entire class, marched out of the synagogue and down the block to where we were eating. ‘Children, look upon your classmates!’ he said. As we scrambled to gather our things he said, ‘Oh no! Don’t let us rush you!’ before turning around and heading back inside with all of the students,” she recounted. “Of all the lessons Rabbi Posner taught us, this was one of his finest.”

Both Matt and Annabel stayed in Religious School through Confirmation. They remained friends throughout their time at Emanu-El, Annabel said, but did not remain in contact after Religious School. Though they both continued to attend services at the temple with their families, they held seats in different sanctuaries and rarely ran into each other.

For 11 years after leaving the Religious School, Matt and Annabel didn’t stay in contact.

“It’s probably a good thing we didn’t keep in touch,” Matt said, “because I was a terror as a teenager and probably would have scared her off for life.” But in 2012, the couple ran into each other, and the rest is history.

Matt and Annabel are now married and have a young daughter. They previously stayed involved with the temple under their parents’ memberships, but recently joined as new members. “Now that we’ve started a family of our own, it felt like the right time to join ourselves,” Annabel said.

Though the pair met in their early years at Religious School, Matt also attended Nursery School at Emanu-El. The couple is planning on applying to Nursery School as well and, when their daughter is old enough, enrolling her in Religious School. “Maybe she’ll meet her future husband!” Annabel joked.

It seems that Temple Emanu-El has made a lasting mark on the Perelman family. What makes this a community that encourages young couples to join the temple with their new families? Annabel shared her thoughts with us:

“Temple Emanu-El is truly generational. Most of our friends don’t belong to the same synagogue they attended growing up, except for our friends who grew up attending Temple Emanu-El,” she said. “We continue to go back (to temple) along with our parents and grandparents, and the temple has seen us through our life’s most important events.”

Annabel’s parents were married at Emanu-El by Rabbi Chapin; Rabbi Posner officiated Matt and Annabel’s Bar and Bat Mitzvahs; Rabbi Ehrlich and Rabbi Davidson helped to bury Annabel’s father and Matt’s grandparents. Last month, Rabbi Davidson officiated the Perelman’s daughter’s baby naming.

“That is just so incredibly special, and unlike any other synagogue we know.”
When Rabbi Davidson joined our congregation six years ago, temple leadership went through an exciting and challenging process to create a vision statement for our synagogue — a statement of who we are and whom we strive to be, a living document to help set goals and guide our work. The Membership Committee embraced this document and set its own goals, seeking to fill gaps in programming to ensure that all members of Temple Emanu-El, at all ages and stages of life, have opportunities to form (or rediscover!) meaningful connections through participation in varied and dynamic programs and events.

One demographic that stood out was members who raised their children here at the temple, but for whom their children were no longer the driving force of their family’s participation in congregational life. Perhaps the family became less engaged after celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or a child went off to college. There are also many congregants who join Emanu-El having moved to the city after years in the suburbs and are looking to meet people and build community. Or those who are simply looking for more ways to connect with other members in addition to the many other ways they are already involved in temple life. While we don’t seek to define ourselves by age, we tend to be in our 50’s and 60’s. And so Fifth & 65th was born.

Over the past year and a half, the Membership Committee has piloted different models of engagement: cocktail receptions in partnership with Streicker Center programs, Shabbat dinners at local restaurants following worship services here at the temple, and even small gatherings in peoples’ homes to mark Havdalah, the ceremony that concludes the observance of Shabbat. We have seen members whose children were in Nursery or Religious School together reconnect, new members of our congregation make friends and learn additional ways to get involved, and friends new and old making plans to see each other at temple events.

We look forward to continuing to build community together. Please consider joining us throughout the year (more events to follow):

- **September 14, 2019**
  Havdalah on the Roof
  Temple Emanu-El

- **October 17, 2019**
  Reception Prior to the Streicker Center’s Julie Andrews Event
  Temple Emanu-El

- **January 10, 2020**
  Shabbat dinner at Fred’s Barney’s on Madison Avenue

- **March 9, 2020**
  Purim Food and festivities at De Gustibus Macy’s Herald Square

- **June 9, 2020**
  Rosé on the Roof
  Temple Emanu-El

*A limited amount of reserved seating is available for those attending the reception — RSVP today!*
September 16
CAN THE RELATIONSHIP BE SAVED?
Daniel Gordis and Thomas Friedman tackle the rift between American and Israeli Jews

September 17
POGGY AND BESS
A sneak peek into the Met's forthcoming visit to Catfish Row

September 19
GOATS, BREADCRUMBS & HORNs
A spiritual and physical guide to the High Holidays

September 24
JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.
Chief Justice of the United States

October 16
ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE?
CNN's Jim Acosta and Jeff Zucker on their battle to defend the truth

October 17
JULIE ANDREWS
On Mary, Maria and a half century in Hollywood

October 23
AMBASSADOR SAMANTHA POWER
From hell-raiser to White House insider

Various Dates
HELLO GORGEOUS!
Celebrating Barbra Streisand, in an original exhibition and an eclectic series of events. See pages 30-31

October 30
GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM
The hate that won't die . . . and what to do about it; in partnership with AJC

November 7
JEWISH MYSTICISM
Daniel Matt on how the Zohar reimagines God

November 14
SHTETL IN THE SUN
A trip down memory lane to old (Jewish) Miami Beach

December 4
REBECCA TRAISTER
A primer on the world-shaking potential of women's rage

December 5
ANITA HILL
Speaks truth to power . . . 28 years later; moderated by Gail Collins

December 12
ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S
Returns for the 39th time with the beloved music of Bach
September 16
CAN THE RELATIONSHIP BE SAVED?
Daniel Gordis and Thomas Friedman tackle the rift between American and Israeli Jews

September 17
PORGY AND BESS
A sneak peek into the Met's forthcoming visit to Catfish Row

September 19
GOATS, BREADCRUMBS & HORNS
A spiritual and physical guide to the High Holidays

September 24
JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.
Chief Justice of the United States

October 3
RACHEL MADDOW
On the Most Destructive Industry on Earth

October 16
ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE?
CNN's Jim Acosta and Jeff Zucker on their battle to defend the truth

October 17
JULIE ANDREWS
On Mary, Maria and a half century in Hollywood

October 23
AMBASSADOR SAMANTHA POWER
From hell-raiser to White House insider

Various Dates
THE FRENCH JEWISH EXPERIENCE
A 7-part lecture series

October 25
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
On the anniversary of the Tree of Life shooting, Bari Weiss issues a stark warning about what we face

October 29
AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE
On Israel, Iran, Russia and things worth fighting for

November 4
GEORGE F. WILL
In conversation with Dan Abrams on the hijacking of conservatism

November 5
MITCH ALBOM
On what he learned from Morrie — and how it led him to Chika

November 7
JEWISH MYSTICISM
Daniel Matt on how the Zohar reimagines God

November 10
FIDLER AFN DAKH
The bittersweet story of Anatevka, in an acclaimed Yiddish production

November 14
SHTETL IN THE SUN
A trip down memory lane to old (Jewish) Miami Beach

November 17
THE PEOPLE VS. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS
On the charges of kidnapping and child trafficking

November 25
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
On the anniversary of the Tree of Life shooting, Bari Weiss issues a stark warning about what we face

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December 16
ANDREA BOCELLI
An intimate conversation with Michael Strahan

December 19
DAVID BROZA & FRIENDS
Live in concert; the Israeli superstar, with a Latin flavor

June 5
SHABBAT DINNER AT THE ZOO
For Temple Emanu-El members

THIS IS JUDAISM.
THIS IS THE STRECKER CENTER.
SPECIAL CLASS

RABBI DAVID WOLPE
JEWISH MYSTICISM: THE SPARK OF THE SOUL

MONDAYS

DR. DIANE M. SHARON
ANCIENT EGYPT IN GENESIS: MYTH AND HISTORY

DR. ERIC GOLDMAN
THE FILMS OF BARBRA STREISAND

MARTIN KAUFMAN
HANNAH ARENDT’S THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM

DR. DAVID E. KAUFMAN
A HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY SYNAGOGUES

TUESDAYS

DR. DAVID KRAEMER
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: THE MEANING AND POWER OF THE TORAH’S MOST FAMOUS TEXT

RABBI GEOFF MITELMAN
THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON JUDAISM

DR. A. J. BERKOVITZ
THE MYSTERIES OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

WEDNESDAYS

RABBI JOSEPH A. SKLOOT, PhD
JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD, PART I

DR. DANIEL RYNHOLD
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT: JEWISH ESCHATOLOGY

DR. MARK W. WEISSTUCH
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, AN INDICTMENT OF INTOLERANCE

THURSDAYS

RABBI PETER WEINTRAUB
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: A MODERN TAKE ON JEWISH LIFE

TOBI KAHN
RABBI DIANNE COHLER-ESSES
ARTISTS’ BEIT MIDRASH: THE SACRED IMAGINATION
For more information about these events, contact the Religious School at 212-507-9546 or school@emanuelnyc.org.

First Days of School
**Sunday, September 8 | 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**
**Monday, September 9 | 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**
10 East 66th Street
Our first days of classes include a reception for all parents and an opening assembly for students in Grade 3 through Grade 7, with their families. (Receptions are at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM.)

Shofar Blowing Workshop
**Sunday, September 15 | 12:00 PM | Blumenthal Hall**
Join our Shofar Corps! Religious School-age students are invited to practice their skills so they can blow the shofar at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur family services. The workshop will conclude with a pizza lunch. Shofarot will be provided. RSVP to school@emanuelnyc.org.

Family Dinner and Shabbat Kodesh Service
**Friday, September 13**
**Dinner at 6:00 PM (10 East 66th Street)**
**Worship at 7:00 PM (Beth-El Chapel)**
We look forward to welcoming you to our first Family Dinner of the year, followed by our Shabbat Kodesh Worship Service. At Shabbat Kodesh, Hebrew prayers are sung with lively melodies, and we experience the weekly Torah reading through interpretation and storytelling. The charge for dinner is $55 per family (up to two adults, any number of children) by September 8; $75 after September 8. Teens (8th-12th graders), if unaccompanied by an adult: $15 each. Additional adults: $20 each. Make your dinner reservation at www.emanuelnyc.org/familydinner.

The Blessings of Bread — Challah Baking
**Sunday, October 6 | Monday, October 7**
10 East 66th Street
Twice this year, we will join together to bake! During our fall baking program, we will experience the rituals of Shabbat and bake challah together. Meet other parents in

HEBREW ENRICHMENT PROGRAM VIA SKYPE
Take advantage of our complementary program for Religious School students
Each lesson is 20 minutes long and builds on topics taught in class

Who uses this program?
- Students who want to move at a faster pace
- Students who do better in a one-on-one setting
- Students who need additional support beyond the classroom

All you need is a computer or tablet with Skype!
For more information contact Jackie Schreiber at jschreiber@emanuelnyc.org
Though the Temple Emanu-El Religious School has been operating in some form since the 1850s, its vibrant programming is ever-evolving. The Emanu-El Explorers program is the latest in a long line of innovations: a program that gives a taste of Religious School without a weekly commitment.

Hands-on activities like challah baking and menorah making allow students to fold themselves into the fabric of Emanu-El. Current students will be attending sessions alongside the Explorers, allowing them to catch a glimpse of our weekly Religious School programming. Caretakers, parents and guardians are also welcome to attend any of the seven monthly sessions, which are run by veteran Religious School faculty and tailored to pre-kindergarteners, kindergarteners and first graders.

Simchat Torah Family Service, Consecration and Family Dinner
Monday, October 21 | 5:00 PM
Fifth Avenue Sanctuary/One East 65th Street
Join us in welcoming new students into our Emanu-El community. Our youngest congregants will be blessed by our clergy and will receive their own “mini-Torah” to take home. A festive family dinner and activities will follow. Register at www.emanuelnyc.org/simchattorahdinner. Charge: $55 per family before October 16, $75 after October 16.

Third-Grade Family Program Tzedakah: Why Do We Give?
Sunday, October 27 & Monday, October 28
10 East 66th Street
At Emanu-El, the weekly collection of tzedakah is an integral part of our curriculum. The Hebrew word tzedakah, often translated as “charity,” literally means “justice,” and in our Religious School, we think of it as “righteous giving.” During this program, get to know other 3rd grade families and explore together how Jewish wisdom and practice guide us to create a more equitable and just society. Parent-teacher curriculum meetings will conclude our day of learning. Contact school@emanuelnyc.org with any questions or to register.
Temple Emanu-El mourns the passing of Yaffa Kaye, a beloved teacher for over 30 years in our Religious School and Streicker Center. She brought humor, passion, and love to every class and to each individual student, and shepherded a generation of Emanu-El families through their training to become Bar and Bat Mitzvot. Our deepest condolences go to her family.

May her memory be for a blessing.

If you wish to send a note of condolence to her family, please contact the Religious School office and they will pass it along on your behalf:

school@emanuelnyc.org | 212-507-9546

Mini Mitzvahs: How our Religious School makes a difference all year

Congregation Emanu-El has a long history of helping others, and our monthly mitzvah projects as well as yearly Mini Mitzvah Day events create opportunities for our Religious School families to practice Tikkun Olam throughout the year. In the last year alone, our students packed:

- 48 backpacks for the Children’s Village
- 72 Comfort Packages, including a fleece blanket and toiletry kit, for the Sunday Lunch Program
- 72 activity packages for the Children’s Village
- 72 “FUN KITS” for the children at the New York Center for Children
- 72 Purim packages for Selfhelp
- 96 toiletry kits for DOROT HPP
- 72 welcome packages for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system
- 96 nonperishable meal bags for the Jan Hus Outreach Program
- 250 toiletry kits for the Temple Emanu-El Sunday Lunch Program
- 144 activity packages for children at Mount Sinai Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Cardiology departments.
- A number of cards created by students to be placed in the Mishloach Manot packages for the troops in partnership with Jewish Chaplains Council
- A number of cards decorated by students to be delivered to those who receive a Passover homebound delivery bag

Mourning the loss of Yaffa Kaye

Temple Emanu-El mourns the passing of Yaffa Kaye, a beloved teacher for over 30 years in our Religious School and Streicker Center. She brought humor, passion, and love to every class and to each individual student, and shepherded a generation of Emanu-El families through their training to become Bar and Bat Mitzvot. Our deepest condolences go to her family. May her memory be for a blessing.
Come Together to Serve New Yorkers

Our Teen Philanthropic Committee comes together once a month to find out how they can best serve the New York City community with their yearly grant.

Teens have the opportunity to design their own grant applications, research nonprofits in their community, and even go to on-site visits to see what organizations are most deserving of their grant.

To read more about the committee, see page 21.

For more information, contact Emma Kate Lindsay at elindsay@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9529.

Teen High Holy Day Services

Rosh Hashanah:
September 30 | 12:30 PM | Lowenstein Sanctuary

Yom Kippur:
October 9 | 12:30 PM | Lowenstein Sanctuary

For more information about the High Holy Days, visit emanuelnyc.org/hhdguide.

High School Confirmation

Join your classmates on Sunday mornings to discuss God, Torah, Israel and your Jewish identities with Rabbi Joshua Davidson. Take your first step in the Confirmation journey!

For more information, contact Emma Kate Lindsay at elindsay@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9529.

7th GRADE MITZVAH CORPS

For more information, contact Emma Kate Lindsay at elindsay@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9529.
Our Teens Help New Yorkers In Need
Emanu-El Teen Philanthropic Committee answers a $10,000 question

By Emma Kate Lindsay
Coordinator of Youth Learning & Engagement

What would you do with $10,000 to help New Yorkers in need? It’s a daunting question. Which population would you help? Would you donate to an organization with a large operating budget or an organization with a smaller operating budget? Would you donate to a program with a proven track record or one that is just kicking off? And, most importantly, how are you going to find agreement amongst everyone you are making this decision with?

The Committee

In 2013, a small group of teens were invited to answer these questions — and pilot the Teen Philanthropic Committee (TPC). After a successful first year, TPC was opened up to all 8th-12th graders at Emanu-El. It has quickly grown into one of our largest teen programs, with 17 teens participating last year.

Teen Philanthropic Committee is an unusual program. Not many teenagers have the opportunity to decide what to do with $10,000. In my two years at Emanu-El, I have seen every committee member take this privilege seriously and passionately. They all pay attention to the world and want to help the community around them. This past year, the committee chose to focus on addiction prevention and recovery, inspired by the constant headlines about the national opioid epidemic and the conversations they were having in their own communities about e-cigs and Juuls.

Not every committee member had done previous research into our area of focus, which led to debates and presented an opportunity to do some extended learning about Jewish responses to addiction.

The Process

The committee is led by two student co-chairs, who work together to lead the committee through the entire grant making process. At the beginning of the year, the committee hits the ground running and decides where to place its focus. Many of these teens have a good sense of what issues are facing New Yorkers and have become passionate about specific areas through their work with Mitzvah Corps and Tzedeck League.

Once everyone has agreed on the area of focus, the committee works together to create a Request for Proposal, or an RFP, which includes their mission statement. With the RFP ready to be sent out, the teens begin to research different organization that might be interested in applying for their grant. While waiting for the applications to come in, the co-chairs help the committee focus on creating a scoring system for the applications to help standardize the review process and ensure that each proposal is aligned with its mission statement. Once the teens have agreed on two or three finalists, the organizations are invited to come in to interview with the entire committee.

What to Do with $10,000

The committee is now ready to answer the big question: What is it going to do with $10,000? Sometimes this question is answered easily, with the committee in agreement. Often, however the committee has to compromise by splitting the grant in two. Once the decision is made, TPC presents its decision to the temple’s Philanthropic Committee for final approval. Finally, the committee invites its chosen organization to the Religious School End of Year Assembly for a check presentation.

In addition to awarding the grant at the end of the year, the committee members learn a lot from their process and work on skills that they can apply to other areas in their lives. A major focus every year is consensus building. Beginning with the first meeting, their skills are put to the test. Conversations can get heated and tense, but that’s all right. The goal of these conversations and debates isn’t to run away from disagreement or to simply acquiesce, but rather how to work through them constructively and make sure everyone feels heard. For some, this means learning how to step back and listen to others. For others, this means learning how to advocate for their ideas. Not everyone is going to have their way, but at the end of the day, everyone feels good about where the decision ends up.
Parenting at Emanu-El

Register for the 2019-20 Year Now!

Dr. Juliet Cooper and other early education professionals lead enriching groups that support families and children in various stages of early life. Engage in educational and supportive parenting discussions as your child enjoys stimulating, age-appropriate activities with our Parenting Program staff. Visit emanuelnyc.org/parenting for more information and to sign up.

The following classes take place between September 2019 and May 2020:

New Parents
(2- to 12-month-olds)
2 session options:
Mondays, 9:15 to 10:15 AM
Fridays (Spring only), 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Toddlers
(12- to 21-month-olds)
2 session options:
Mondays, 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM
Wednesdays, 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Twos
(21- to 28-month-olds)
Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM

Growing Families
(Welcoming new siblings)
Fridays, 11:00 AM to 11:55 AM

New this year - Plan ahead! Sign up for Fall and Spring Semesters now at emanuelnyc.org/parenting.
Young Families of Emanu-El is a vibrant group for preschool children, Nursery School students and their families who enjoy celebrating Jewish time together: Shabbat and holidays, parenting, Storytime and singing. Come join the fun! For more information and future event dates, contact youngfamilies@emanuelnyc.org or visit emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Celebrate the New Year with us at the Young Families Service! More information can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Rooftop Party
Sunday, September 8 | 9:30 AM | 10 East 66th Street
Get together with friends old and new! Enjoy apples and honey, kiddie pools, and bubbles. Be sure to bring a towel, sunscreen and change of clothes for your child. If it rains, we’ll play indoors.

Baby Bop
Tuesdays, starting September 10 | 11:00 AM
One East 65th Street
Join Early Childhood Educator Hadar Orshalimy as she introduces the Jewish holidays, Hebrew words and movement through music and art. Baby Bop is for children 6 to 20 months old. You may register for the series or drop in. Please RSVP at emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Baby Yoga
September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17 | 11:00 AM
One East 65th Street
The Karma Kids Yoga studio is coming to Temple Emanu-El! Join us for a series where children are encouraged to “play” yoga and experience how their breath and body move together in a fun-filled way. To register, visit our website, emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Storytime: Babies of the Book
September 12, October 10 | 10:00 AM | One East 65th Street
Babies and toddlers up to age three (with their trusted adult) are invited to join us for stories, songs and fun at the Temple Emanu-El Library. Each session will focus on a theme, or a Jewish holiday. To register, please visit our website, emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Shake in the Shack
September 13 | 5:00 PM | One East 65th Street
Pizza, ice cream, and a chance to shake the lulav and etrog with members of our clergy in our outdoor sukkah. All ages are welcome.

Baby Shabbat
Friday, September 13 | 9:15 AM | One East 65th Street
Introduce your baby to the music and blessing of Shabbat and a taste of challah with Rabbi Amy Ehrlich and dynamic musician Hadar Orshalimy. Proud grandparents are welcome to join us, too! There is no charge for this program, but please register in advance at emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Grandparents Group
September 25, October 23 | 8:30 AM | One East 65th Street
Be the grandparents you want to be! Led by Ellen Davis, Director of the Temple Emanu-El Nursery School, and Rabbi Amy Ehrlich, grandparents will explore the many ways to support and provide structure for grandchildren (and adult children). Please RSVP at emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Young Families Shabbat (previously Tot Shabbat)
Saturday, October 19 | 9:30 AM | One East 65th Street
Young Families Shabbat (previously Tot Shabbat) is geared specifically for preschool and Nursery School students and their families. Jewish music educator Shira Kline joins Rabbi Amy Ehrlich to make each Young Families Shabbat “singing service” a meaningful and memorable experience. There is no charge for this program, but please register in advance at emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Baby Fingers: A Musical Journey Through Language & Learning
October 24, 31 | 11:00 AM | One East 65th Street
Bond with your child through music and song, creative communication and self-expression. Whether you intend to incorporate sign language in your life for the long term or simply during this pre-verbal and developing verbal time, watch in awe as your child discovers the world of language. These sessions will continue through December; please see our website at emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies for dates.

Expectant Parents Group
In partnership with Ready To Parent™
September 23 & 24, October 1 & 2 | 6:00 to 8:00 PM
One East 65th Street
Prepare for parenthood by taking part in a dynamic lecture series focusing on topics ranging from labor and delivery, healthy sleep habits, developmental milestones, infant CPR and postpartum health, to the unique joys and rituals of welcoming a Jewish child. Sessions will help you feel informed, empowered and ready for this next chapter. To register, contact Marni Turner-Serbin at 212-507-9515 or mturner-serbin@emanuelnyc.org.
New Life Through Judaism: A New Member Conversion Story

By Erica Rosenblum, Temple Member

On December 7, 2018, I emerged from the West Side Mikveh on 74th Street a member of the Jewish community. The ceremony marked not only one of the most pivotal moments of my life, but also one of the happiest thus far.

I like to say that I grew up “Christian – Other,” as my parents are loosely Catholic and Presbyterian but chose not to bring any formal religious education or church community to our family life. Throughout my childhood, I was inexplicably drawn to spirituality of all kinds. My elementary through high school years were a time of spiritual exploration for me and it seemed that every friend I made brought a new opportunity to ‘try on’ a new sect or religion. Life was an exhausting, if exciting, whirlwind of Lutheran Vacation Bible School, Unitarian Universalist Sunday school, Roman Catholic mission trips, Bat/Bar Mitzvah ceremonies and even a hearty yet failed attempt at reading the Quran in 11th grade. To me, the only idea of religion that made any sense at all was that of one omnipotent G-d. I prayed to this Higher Power on my own and enjoyed a kind of peace for years, though I was acutely aware of my desire for a large community.

When I met my now-husband Grant and his wonderful Jewish family in 2011, I felt right away that a Jewish life was something I could be a part of and offered to convert. Grant, always looking to bring equality to our relationship, worried he’d create an imbalance of power if he asked me to make what he saw as potentially a major sacrifice. It was six years into the relationship, sitting at a Rosh Hashanah dinner and not understanding a word of Hebrew, that I realized I wouldn’t be sacrificing a thing by converting. I’d only be gaining an understanding of my husband and my in-laws’ religion, a deeper connection to a Higher Power and an opportunity to connect with my future children in the most meaningful way.

There were a couple of clunky attempts at meeting with rabbis in conservative synagogues before I found Temple Emanu-El and Rabbi Sara Sapadin on a sunny day in October 2017. At the end of our first meeting, having explained my years-long exploration of religion and desire to find a spiritual home, Sara told me that my search was over and that she was ready to start working with me on my conversion.

So began a new chapter of my life, the very first in which I’ve felt completely at home and at peace. With Sara’s incredible guidance, my year of Jewish learning was one of the most fulfilling I’ve had. Grant and I enrolled in a three-month-long Introduction to Judaism course (which may have been just as enlightening for him as a Jewish adult as it was for me as a convert!). We visited Israel together and saw our relationship mature and deepen in direct correlation with our spirituality. Of course, we joined Temple Emanu-El and continue to reap the benefits of this vibrant community, with a membership that seems never to accept the status quo and consistently works to improve upon itself. We are amazed by what we see within this organization.

Through Temple Emanu-El, my Jewish life has surpassed all expectations. This spring, I had the privilege of being involved in the planning committee for the Women’s Passover Seder and was moved by the smart, funny and talented women I met through the committee and the amazing event we put on together. I also joined the Tikkun Olam committee and am honored to work with such a passionate, dedicated group. The events I’ve chosen to dedicate the most time to — specifically, Project Prom and the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner — are months away, but planning is already underway thanks to the group’s organization and commitment.

For my Hebrew name, I chose Chaya, as I feel that Judaism has truly given me new life. Though my search for a spiritual home may have happily concluded, my exploration of Judaism is truly just beginning. To me, the mezuzah on my front doorpost signifies so much more than the fulfillment of a mitzvah. It’s a gateway to the unlimited amount of Jewish reading, travel, discussion and community my family and I will experience in this lifetime. Thank you all for being a part of the road toward connection, fulfillment and discovery that we take together as a community.
Emanu-El Cares

The Emanu-El Cares initiative was created to support, care for and celebrate every member of our congregation through a variety of programs and opportunities. As we support each other, we grow stronger.

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
September 10 & October 10 | 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM
One East 65th Street

Struggling to build a family? Currently pursuing infertility treatments, donor egg or sperm? Considering adoption? Looking to connect with others on a similar journey? We invite you and your loved ones to join RESOLVE’s Upper East Side General Infertility Peer-Led Support Group. Monthly meetings are held at no cost. Participation and regular attendance are voluntary. To RSVP for a meeting, or contact the volunteer support group leaders, please email us at mjkstrong@gmail.com. Feel supported, empowered and less isolated. Join us and see that you are not alone.

Meet DOROT Partner in Caring Yael Kornfeld, LMSW

Please note: Yael Kornfeld will no longer hold regular hours at the temple; she will now take all meetings by appointment. You may schedule an appointment by calling 917-441-3705 or emailing her at ykornfeld@dorotusa.org.

DOROT provides support to adults 60 and over and those who are primary caregivers for a relative or friend. Yael Kornfeld can help with home visits, short-term counseling, escorts to medical appointments, and caregiver support. DOROT has vast offerings, including intergenerational programs, on-site classes at DOROT, assistance with getting to medical appointments and with shopping, volunteer visits and more!

Marking a meaningful moment
Are you, or is someone you know in our community, facing a life-changing moment — the birth of a child, a wedding, a death in the family, illness or a hospital stay? Please contact Emanu-El Cares by calling Rabbi Amy Ehrlich at 212-507-9606 or emailing emanuelcares@emanuelnyc.org.

Community as Family

Monday, October 21 | 6:00 PM | One East 65th Street

Temple Members of all ages without close family, or who may be anticipating “aging solo,” are invited to Community as Family, a cordial group which empowers our later years by developing diverse meaningful relationships, learning how to access important resources, and thinking strategically about the future.

For more information, contact us at 212-507-9603 or communityasfamily@emanuelnyc.org.

Applications Are Available

Applications for the 2020-2021 school year may be downloaded from the temple website in PDF format:

emanuelnyc.org/nsforms

As required by the Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York (ISAAGNY) rules, we will not review any applications until after Labor Day.

QUESTIONS? Call 212-507-9531
Mens Club

**From Murder to Museums: Abraham Lincoln, Adolf Hitler, and the Hunt for Nazi Looted Art in America**

October 20 | 10:00 AM | One East 65th Street

Raymond J. Dowd, partner at the New York City law firm Dunnington, Bartholow & Miller, LLP will recount how his firm seized two stolen Schieles after they were spotted at the Salon+Art Show at the Park Avenue Armory in November 2015, leading to international headlines upon their restitution to their clients. The Schieles are now at Christie’s with an appellate court blocking the sale. The presentation traces Abraham Lincoln’s idea of taking the profit out of war to show that returning the stolen property to Holocaust victims was an American idea.

Insights On Contemporary Art: A conversation with Sam Shikiar and Daniel S. Palmer

October 31 | 7:00 PM | One East 65th Street

Sam Shikiar has developed a passion for art collecting with a focus on Abstract Expressionism, Pop art, Color Field paintings and other contemporary works. He serves on the Guggenheim Museum’s Young Collectors Acquisitions Committee and the Chairman’s Council at Lincoln Center. He has spoken publicly at the 92nd Street Y and the New York Academy of Art. Professionally, Sam is at Shikiar Asset Management, a wealth advisory firm in Manhattan.

Daniel S. Palmer is Curator at the Public Art Fund and has organized numerous exhibitions. Previously, as the Leon Levy Assistant Curator at the Jewish Museum, he curated Masterpieces & Curiosities: Diane Arbus’s Jewish Giant (2014). He is a contributor to numerous exhibition catalogues and publications, including The Whitney Museum of American Art’s Hopper Drawing (2013), the Kunstmuseum Bonn’s New York Painting (2015); and media outlets including ARTnews, The Brooklyn Rail, and Guernica, among others. This event is free, but registration is required at emanuelnyc.org/calendar or by calling 212-744-1400 ext. 250 by October 24.

Women’s Auxiliary

**West Point Academy & Boscobel House and Gardens**

Monday, September 23
Departs temple at 8:30 AM | Tour starts at 10 AM

There is no better way to experience what makes West Point Academy and Boscobel House and Gardens so special than to see them for yourself. West Point Academy has been educating, training, and inspiring leaders of character for our United States Army and for the nation for more than 200 years. Boscobel is an esteemed Historic House Museum containing one of the finest collections of decorative arts, including furniture from the Federal period. Join us for guided tours with lunch in between at Hotel Thayer. Bus transportation provided. RSVP by September 18. Price: $130 for Women’s Auxiliary and Men’s Club members; all other temple members $140.

**Community Sabbath Dinner**

Friday, October 18 | 7:15 PM | One East 65th Street
Details to follow. Check our monthly emails or the website for updated information. RSVP by October 15. Price: $50 for Women’s Auxiliary and Men’s Club members; all other temple members $60.

**Museum of Jewish Heritage**

Tuesday, October 29 | Lunch (Gigino at Wagner Park): 11:45 AM, Tour: 2:30 PM

Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away. In this 90-minute tour, a trained Gallery Educator will lead a structured program covering key artifacts from the exhibition. Lunch to start and then tour to follow. RSVP by October 24. Price: $85 for Women’s Auxiliary and Men’s Club members; all other temple members $95.
The following students of our Religious School will become b’nai mitzvah in September and October.

NEW: Dates for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service may now be scheduled beginning in 3rd grade. For more information, visit emanuelnyc.org/bnaimitzvah.

Saturday, September 14
• Brandon Schechter, son of Eileen and Joel Schechter

Saturday, September 21
• Ava Grace Weisselberg, daughter of Jennifer and Barry Weisselberg
• Isabelle Beatriz Kless, daughter of Rachel and Aaron Kless
• Alec Murillo, son of Stacy Eisenberg and Mauricio Murillo

Saturday, September 28
• Oliver Levick, son of Kate and Jeffrey Levick
• Kaitlyn Helf, daughter of Jill and Eric Helf

Saturday, October 5
• Avery Goldstein, daughter of Stacey Sayetta
• David Harwood, son of Frances Janis and Mitchell Harwood
• Ella Sunshine, daughter of Kimberly and David Sunshine

Saturday, October 19
• William Leon, son of Wendy and Eric Leon
• Naomi Gelfer, daughter of Inna Vaysman and Max Gelfer
• Dylan Yohai, son of Janine Azriliant and David Yohai

Saturday, October 26
• Lincoln Solomon, son of Vanita and James Solomon
• Rex Cohen, son of Clodagh and Charles Cohen
• Nathaniel Helpern, son of Lauren Helpern

Bimah flowers at our upcoming worship services have been donated by the following congregants:

For the Sabbath of September 6 and 7:
• Patricia, Elizabeth, John and Jack in loving memory of Barry Michael Berkule
• Mrs. Arthur Schulte in loving memory of Arthur Schulte’s birthday

For the Sabbath of September 13 and 14:
• Robert Siegel in loving memory of his father, Mortimer Siegel

For the Sabbath of September 27 and 28:
• Roberta S. Lazar and Kathryn S. Pershan in loving memory of Nat Lazar and Gertrude and Leon Schaeffer

For Rosh Hashanah (September 29 and 30):
• Rabbi and Mrs. Ronald B. Sobel in loving memory of Ethel and Peter Sobel
• In loving memory of Dr. Robert Katz, from his family, who misses him every day
• Jeanine Parisier Pottel and Roland Pottel in loving memory of Lea and Maurice I. Parisier and Frances and Charles Pottel
• Lynne Scheurer-Foster and Andrew Scheurer, in loving memory of our parents, Edie and Eddie Scheurer, and our grandparents Norma and Lew Raabin, and Harry Scheurer

For the Sabbath of October 4 and 5:
• In loving memory of Hyman Fisch

For Yom Kippur (October 8 and 9):
• Carol, Ellie and Laura Grossman in loving memory of Charles Grossman
• Rosalind Jacobs in loving memory of her husband, Melvin Jacobs
• Joan A. Mayer in loving memory of Harold C. Mayer Jr., and Margaret and Alexander Arinstein
• Eileen Milloy in loving memory of Ida Broz
• Peter B. and Robert H. Yunich in loving memory of their parents, Beverly B. and David L. Yunich

For the Sabbath of October 11 and 12:
• Ann and Robert Freedman in loving memory of Hilda Fertig

For Sukkot (October 13 and 14):
• Virginia and Benjamin Sadock in loving memory of Fred Alcott
• With gratitude to Temple Emanu-El’s Women’s Auxiliary for their contribution towards the construction of our magnificent sukkah

For the Sabbath of October 18 and 19:
• James L. Buttenwieser in loving memory of his mother, Helene L. Buttenwieser
• Sandy Pessin in loving memory of her mother, Edith R. Ploss

For the Sabbath of October 25 and 26:
• Barbara Stoller Wittenstein and Myles Wittenstein in loving memory of Barbara’s sister, Carol Weinberg Garcia
Mourning the Loss of Robert Arthur Bernhard

Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York mourns the death of our esteemed Past President and Life Trustee Robert A. Bernhard. His leadership and commitment were also manifested in the numerous positions he held throughout the city’s most distinguished cultural, medical and academic institutions. Temple Emanu-El’s own history is interwoven through his family legacy and their multi-generational involvement. To Joan and his children, we express our profound sympathy. His memory will be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Mourning the Loss of The Honorable Robert M. Morgenthau

It is with profound sadness that Congregation Emanu-El records the passing of Robert M. Morgenthau, days away from what would have been the 100th anniversary of his birth. His life was long in years and brilliant with accomplishment. He stood as a giant in the legal profession, uncompromising in his integrity and unflinching in his pursuit of justice. Rarely has our nation known so great a public servant. Not only will he be remembered for his extraordinary career as the longest-serving district attorney in New York County, but as well as for the distinguished years that he occupied the office of United States Attorney for the Southern District. In addition to his official public duties he served for decades as president of the Police Athletic League. The Jewish World will long remember his role in the creation and leadership of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. We at Congregation Emanu-El will forever cherish his many years of creative service on our Board of Trustees. To his beloved Lucinda, children and grandchildren and all the members of the family, we express our sympathies along with our gratitude for the life that he lived and the memories he bequeaths.
**HERITAGE SOCIETY: SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Dinner for Members of The Heritage Society**
October 25, 2019

*What is The Heritage Society?*
Established to thank and honor our many generous members and friends who have included a donation to Congregation Emanu-El in their estate plan, The Heritage Society consists of Emanu-El’s most devoted members and friends. These gifts, to be received in the future, will ensure Emanu-El’s continued leadership and excellence just as earlier bequests have helped to build the Emanu-El of today. This is a sacred bond linking generation to generation. If you have already provided for a gift to the temple in your estate plan, or for more information about how to include a bequest to Emanu-El, please contact Robyn Cimbol at 212-507-9524 or rcimbol@emanuelnyc.org.

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**Sabbath Eve Lay-Led Union Prayer Book Minyan**

*Fridays, September 6 & October 4*
5:15 PM | Greenwald Hall

Gather with friends old and new for a contemplative welcoming of the Sabbath, prior to our service in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering to read on future dates, contact Dr. Frederick Roden at fsroden@aol.com.

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**You are invited to become a Reader**

Continue a time-honored tradition at Temple Emanu-El by becoming a Sunset Service Reader.

The Sunset Service began in 1945 when the Men’s Club committed themselves to lead worship throughout the week. While under the auspices of the Men’s Club, participation is open to all congregational members and families who have completed a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Becoming a Sunset Service Reader would require attending a training session during a sunset service. Session dates are:

- **Wednesday, September 11, and Wednesday, September 18**

For more information and to sign up for a Sunset Reader training session, contact Prince Davis at 212-507-9513 or pdavis@emanuelnyc.org.

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**Torah at a Glance**

The following are weekly readings for September and October 2019.

- **Shoftim** (Read Saturday, September 7)
  Deuteronomy 16:18–21:9

- **Ki Teitzei** (Read Saturday, September 14)
  Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19

- **Ki Tavo** (Read Saturday, September 21)
  Deuteronomy 26:1–29:8

- **Nitzavim** (Read Saturday, September 28)
  Deuteronomy 29:9–30:20

- **Vayeilech** (Read Saturday, October 5)
  Deuteronomy 31:1–32

- **Haazinu** (Read Saturday, October 12)
  Deuteronomy 32:1–52

- **Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot** (Read Saturday, October 19)
  Holidays Exodus 33:12–34:26

- **B’reishit** (Read Saturday, October 26)
  Genesis 1:1–6:8

**WEEKLY TORAH STUDY**

Torah study sessions will resume September 7 from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. All are welcome to attend. Through engaging, thoughtful conversation and lively debate, we plumb the depths of our most important sacred text and discover themes in the narrative that still affect our lives today.

**Talmud Study Begins**

*Wednesdays, September 4 through June 24*

6:15 to 7:15 PM | One East 65th Street

This year’s class will continue studying the first of the six chapters that comprise Mishnah: there was more than one year’s worth of learning! The chapter is called Seder Moed, and concerns the rules of the Sabbath. Even more interesting than the rules themselves is the process by which the rabbis of old examined and codified them.
**THE EXHIBITION**

*At the Bernard Museum of Judaica*

**October 29, 2019 – April 7, 2020**

The arc of Barbra’s story unfolds on our gallery walls, providing a glimpse behind the scenes of her life.

Barbra Streisand was too talented to be ignored. A force of nature, she not only parlayed her vocal prowess and unique style into international stardom; she redefined female celebrity, paving the way for a new generation of women performers — and millions of Jews — to unapologetically be themselves.

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**THE FILMS**

A Special Class
Dr. Eric Goldman

**Mondays 6:15 – 9:00 PM**

**November 4, 18, 25**

December 2, 9, 16

$240 | $120 Temple Emanu-El members

Barbra Streisand rose to superstardom as a vocalist but went on to prove herself as a versatile actor and outstanding director. We will look at Streisand’s cinematic work, focusing on how she and her Jewish background influenced the films in which she appeared, even when she took no credit for her participation as cowriter.


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**THE PLAY**

**Buyer and Cellar**
Written by Jonathan Tolins
Starring Michael Urie

**Sunday, February 2 | 3:00 PM | $45**

Original Off-Broadway Production by Rattlestick Playwrights Theater

In the basement of a house on her Malibu estate, Barbra Streisand created a private fantasy world to display her accumulated tchotchkes: a narrow cobbled “street” of boutiques, from an antique doll store and confectionery with its own taffy-making machine to a dress shop filled with favorite costumes from her films.

In a one-man comedy for which he won a Drama Desk Award, Michael Urie takes audiences inside this fascinating wonderland of a woman who grew up in a tiny Brooklyn apartment with only one doll. Playing a down-on-his-luck actor who lands a job as the mall clerk, as well as his agent, boyfriend, Barbra, her husband and housekeeper, Urie creates a poignant friendship with a superstar still scarred by a troubled childhood.

*World premiere produced by Rattlestick Playwrights Theater*

David Van Asselt, Artistic Director
Brian Long, Managing Director

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**THE MUSIC**

**Monday, October 28 | 7:00 PM**

$45 general admission

$99 reserved section, post-reception with artists

The Streisand anthology spans more than half a century with songs from 117 singles, 52 albums and 15 soundtracks that have sold a mind-boggling 145 million records, making Barbra Streisand the bestselling female vocalist of all time.

Take a journey down her musical memory lane with performances by Broadway stars of Streisand classics, from “People” and “The Way We Were,” to “Papa, Can You Hear Me,” “Happy Days Are Here Again,” and “Don’t Rain on My Parade.”

Produced by Scott Siegel, creator of the Broadway by the Year series at Town Hall.
THE PHOTOS

**Tuesday, February 18 | 6:30 PM | Free**

Imagine being with Streisand as she shopped in a thrift store, rifled through outfits in her apartment, met David Merrick when he offered her the starring role in Broadway’s *Funny Girl* or swooned over the latest styles in Paris with Marlene Dietrich and Coco Chanel.

Award-winning *Life* magazine photographer Bill Eppridge was — and he captured those moments in a series of stunning candid photographs that document her life and career. Adrienne Aurichio, Eppridge’s wife, edited those images into the magnificent book *Becoming Barbra*, and she will share those images and the stories behind them in a photographic tour of Barbra Streisand’s life.

**THE ENTERTAINER**

**STEVEN BRINBERG**

Is *Simply Barbra*

**Tuesday, March 17 | 7:00 PM**

$25 general admission

$75 reserved section, post-reception with artist

The lights dim, the piano player begins and she emerges in all her glory, the perfect pitch, the self-deprecating humor, the occasional bit of Brooklyn shtick. For a moment, you might forget that you’re not watching Barbra Streisand but Steven Brinberg.

Brinberg embodies Streisand — and he’s been doing so for more than a decade across the globe. He has performed with Marvin Hamlisch, appeared in the last benefit production of *Funny Girl* and embodied Barbra at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center . . . and now at the Streicker Center.

**THE SING-A-LONG**

**YENTL ON THE ROOF**

**Monday, May 18 | 8:00 PM | $45**

Tune up your vocal pipes for a special screening and sing-a-long under the stars of Barbra Streisand’s unforgettable musical about a Polish girl who dons a man’s clothing in order to study in a yeshiva. The film received an Oscar for Best Original Score and Golden Globes for Best Picture-Musical and Best Direction, making Streisand the first female director to earn that award.

Enjoy live music, nosh and special cocktails on the roof of Temple Emanu-El with its spectacular view of New York! Then watch the film on a big screen while singing its hit songs (lyrics provided), including “Papa, Can You Hear Me” and “The Way He Makes Me Feel”!

Popcorn, freshly made donuts and drinks included!

Gorgeous

**CELEBRATING BARBRA STREISAND**
Receive a free copy of a new book recommended by the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library and join the author for an important discussion on *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*.

Bari Weiss of the *New York Times* is raising her ardent voice about the alarming rise of anti-Semitism in her new book, a *cri de coeur* about the chilling convergence of anti-Semitism from the left and the right that opened the way for the oldest hatred to creep back into the modern mainstream.

On the anniversary of the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue, join Bari Weiss at Friday Night Live, **October 25 at 6:00 PM**, for a discussion of what we all should do about the rising peril.

Temple Emanu-El members can pick up their free copies of the book in the Stettenheim Library, the 65th Street lobby and the Nursery School/Religious School offices.