

INSIDE:

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# Be Strong and We Will Strengthen One Another



RABBI JOSHUA M. DAVIDSON

n Shabbat evening, December 17, as the Omicron variant — or as we call it in my house the "OhmyGod" variant - began to threaten a return to the pandemic's most challenging days, I told a story of an old fellow named Zeke, who lived in Georgia on the banks of a river. Zeke was a faithful man, who prayed to God every day. One particular morning, Zeke and all his neighbors received word that a storm was coming and that, to save themselves, they'd better evacuate. Zeke would have none of it. He knew that God would save him. So, he went out and he sat on his covered porch in his rocking chair and watched as the rain began to fall.

All around him, folks were scurrying about, getting ready to leave. About five o'clock, a police car drove by. The officer hollered, "Zeke, it's time to go. We're the last car. Hop in, and we'll take you to safety." But Zeke said, "Nope, I'm fine. God will take care of me. You go on your way." So, the police car left.

The rain continued falling, and the water rose in the river and began overflowing the banks. Soon, the water was up to the first floor of Zeke's house, and he had to climb up to the second floor. When he got upstairs, he started praying, "Dear God, it's me, Zeke, your most faithful servant. I'm waiting on you to save me." Just that

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moment, a coast guard cutter pulled up. The captain hollered, "Lower the window, and jump in the water. I'll toss you a line and pull you in." Zeke said, "No, I'm fine. God will see to my safety." So, the boat pulled off.

The rain fell harder, and the water rose higher. Zeke had no choice now; he had to climb up to the roof. As the rain was pelting him in the face, he prayed aloud, "God, time's getting tight. I need that miracle. Where are you?" Just then, a helicopter flew overhead. The pilot dropped a rope and said, "Grab ahold of the rope, and we'll lift you." Zeke said, "No, I'm fine. God will protect me. You go on your way." So, the chopper flew off.

Well, the water kept rising, and sadly Zeke drowned. He entered Heaven, where he had an audience with God. Zeke asked, "God, I just don't understand it. I pray every day. Where were you when I needed you?" And God replied, "Son, I sent you a police car, I sent you a coast guard cutter, and I sent you a helicopter. I'm not sure what more you want."

I'll return to this story.

Those of you with whom I've studied modern Jewish thought have heard me speak of Hermann Cohen, the neo-Kantian German philosopher who wrote and taught at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. Immanuel Kant, from whom Cohen learned, believed that humanity can never truly comprehend how the world works. The best we can ever hope for is understanding how the human mind thinks about the world. Kant claimed that we draw conclusions about the world based on repeated patterns of experience, and that we think about the world in three particular spheres: aesthetics (beauty), science (nature), and ethics (moral decision making). Hermann Cohen adopted those divisions of thought, focusing mainly on science and ethics.

Like Kant before him, Cohen explained that we attempt to develop universal laws in both of these spheres. For example, in the realm of science and nature, there are universal laws like force equals mass times acceleration, E=mc², or the laws of gravity. And, in the realm of ethics, we also attempt to develop universal laws—moral codes—with commandments like "Thou shalt not murder" or "Thou shalt not steal." But there exists an essential difference between these two types of universal laws.

The laws of science are descriptive and predictive. And they're pretty reliable. If I drop something, I know that it's going to hit the ground ten times out of ten. But the laws of ethics are not descriptive. They're prescriptive. They prescribe the way human beings ought to act—the choices we ought to make in certain situations. And there is another essential difference between these two facets of human experience. The laws of nature are not ethical. Gravity won't cease to pull a building with corroded foundations down simply because the people living there will be left homeless. So, Cohen distinguished between these two realms—science and nature on the one hand and ethics and moral decision-making on the other—claiming that at no point do they intersect or overlap.

But Hermann Cohen didn't experience the world the way we currently experience it. I would suggest that there are certain areas where ethics and nature do overlap. In our time, humanity makes ethically questionable decisions that can lead to tragic "natural" consequences. Consider our society's reluctance to curb climate change, which in turn is leading to a growing number of environmental problems, such as wildfires, storms, and floods. Or, consider Covid, and how some are making vaccines and masks a political statement, refusing to take the steps that science deems necessary to help protect themselves and others around them. Over 800,000 Americans have perished in this pandemic. Disease is a natural phenomenon. As extraordinary as the human body is, it remains susceptible to infection and illness, as too many of us know too well. But certainly many of those Covidrelated deaths were preventable through ethical action.

Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of the landmark book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, taught that there are two types of what he called "Biblical Kryptonite." Two forces against which even God is powerless to act—human free will and the laws of nature. Combine those two forces and terrible tragedies can unfold. But that doesn't mean that God is absent from ethics or nature.

And so, I return to the story of Zeke. Because, perhaps, it is God who inspires us toward acts of compassion. Perhaps it is God who moves us to reach out to those who are in danger or who are suffering. And maybe it is God who inspires us to become doctors and nurses who care for those who are suffering, or scientists who seek out treatments and cures. Perhaps it is God who inspires in each of us the ability to persevere through life's most difficult and frightening moments.

As we conclude every book of Torah, we recite the words "Chazak Chazak V'nitzchazek, Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen one another." Those words are actually on the billboard on the corner of 65th Street and Fifth Avenue. We put them there in March 2020 during the pandemic's first and darkest days. Sadly, now we are experiencing frightening days once again. But, just as we persevered through those first difficult moments, so we will persevere through these. As we always have, we will lean on each other, and we will find in ourselves that strength that God has given us. So as we conclude an old year and begin a new one, we say those words again: Chazak Chazak V'nitzchazek. Be strong, be strong. We will strengthen one another. Whether our building is open or closed, our community remains open and ready and present whenever you need us. Don't hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours, Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson



#### Please note:

As the Temple continues to monitor COVID-19 in New York City, attendance conditions are subject to change. Check **emanuelnyc.org/covid** for up-to-date guidelines and information about services and programs.

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# Worship at Temple Emanu-El

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

## Shabbat Service with Guest Dr. Deborah Lipstadt

Friday, February 11 6:00 PM

Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, the Biden administration's nomination for US Department of State Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, joins us to talk about antisemitism across the globe. This program is sponsored by the Tisch family.

#### **Shabbat Kodesh**

Friday, March 4 6:00 PM

At Shabbat Kodesh, Hebrew prayers are sung with lively melodies, and we experience the weekly Torah reading through interpretation and storytelling. All are welcome for this uplifting family-friendly service: current and prospective Religious School families are encouraged to join us.

### FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

## Shabbat Service: Celebrate Israel's Independence Day

Friday, May 6

6:00 PM at Temple Israel

For this special Friday Night Live Shabbat service, we will gather at Temple Israel of the City of New York for a unique celebration of Israel's Independence Day with Keshet Chaim, a world-renowned Israeli-American dance company that tells our Jewish story through movement. Save the date for this celebration of the Spirit of Israel at 74. To register or for more information, visit emanuelnyc.org/israel74. This program is sponsored by the Tisch family.

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#### **Weekly Torah Study**

Every Saturday morning at 9:15 AM. For Temple Members, please email membership@emanuelnyc.org for the Zoom link to attend remotely.

#### **Daily Sunset Services**

Join us for services at 5:30 PM on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. You may watch these 30-minute services online via our website or on Facebook and YouTube. Archives of past Sunset Services can be found on YouTube.

#### **Meditation Circle**

Thursdays — 2:00 to 2:30 PM
Join Rabbi Andy Kahn in taking a break from your week with a 30-minute communal meditation reflecting on the themes of the prayerbook. Please visit emanuelnyc.org/meditate to register.

#### All are welcome

Temple Emanu-El is open to all who would worship with us in peace. All services are broadcast live on our website (experienceemanuel.org), Facebook and YouTube. Shabbat services take place every Friday at 6:00 PM and Saturday at 10:30 AM. Visiting in person? Be sure to review our attendance guidelines: emanuelnyc.org/covid.

# A Sacred Piece of Something Big

One distinct Temple Emanu-El program that has been adapted during the pandemic is our small-groups initiative, Gather. Whether bonding regularly over shared interests or meeting for the first time, Gather, Gather Family, and Gather Mingle connect Emanu-El members throughout the community.

Participants find Gather through different routes. For Gather Group Leader Rebecca Weisberg, a phone call from Rabbi Sara Sapadin convinced her to get involved. While she didn't have any preconceived ideas about what kind of group she would lead, the two of them discussed options before landing on Binge-Worthy Watching. Weisberg started the group virtually in December 2020 and holds Zoom meetings every six weeks. Its members, who range in age from "midto-late twenties to mid-to-late seventies" and include individuals and married couples, have now already spent nearly more than a year staying inside and watching new shows during the pandemic.

The group, which usually keeps to about ten members at a time, focuses on scripted shows — the more accessible and recent, the better. They've already discussed "dozens" of such buzzworthy series like *Peaky Blinders, Fauda, Hacks, Bridgerton, The White Lotus*, and *Only Murders in the Building*. Rebecca compares it to your typical book club, albeit one that mixes in different genres because everyone's taste is different. Sometimes they'll focus on a specific one, like true

crime or drama. Group members watch the episodes as they air, but Rebecca issues a strong spoiler warning: If you haven't watched it, skip this meeting and come to the next one. "Sometimes, depending on how long we go between meetings, we generally pick only one show. If we're going out six weeks or two months, we'll probably pick two shows." In other words, if you'd like to know how the series ends and



Rebecca Weisberg, Gather Group Leader

you haven't watched the finale, you're free to attend the meeting anyway.

While this group proved to be wildly popular, there will be plenty of opportunities in the new year for members who haven't attended a Gather Group to experience it for themselves, whether they hope to bond over classical music, sports, or something else entirely. Weisberg plans to keep hers going, too. Temple members who met through Binge-Worthy Watching have become friends and regularly chat outside of Gather. She hopes that, in 2022, there will be more new Gather Groups starting as a result. "Everybody's really proud of our little group."

Curious about Gather? Visit www.emanuelnyc.org/gather or email gather@emanuelnyc.org.



Gather is Emanu-El's small groups initiative, bringing together congregants from across our community to learn, connect, and grow. These lay-led groups are based upon a range of topics, igniting marvelous conversations and dialogue. In these small groups,

# Community provides us with strength, comfort, and connection

# emanuelnyc.org/gather



meaningful friendships are formed and congregants truly get to know one another.

Follow the link to learn more about Gather, as well as our new Gather Family, and Gather Mingle programs.

# Torah Portions

February 5 to March 26, 2022

## **Weekly Torah Study**

For temple members, Torah study sessions take place each Saturday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Through engaging, thoughtful conversation and lively debate, we plumb the depths of our most important sacred texts and discover themes in the narrative that still affect our lives today. Please email membership@emanuelnyc.org for the Zoom link.

#### T'rumah

(Read Saturday, February 5) Exodus 25:1-27:19

#### T'tzaveh

(Read Saturday, February 12) Exodus 27:20-30:10

#### Ki Tisa

(Read Saturday, February 19) Exodus 30:11-34:35

#### Vavak'heil

(Read Saturday, February 26) Exodus 35:1-38:20

#### P'kudei

(Read Saturday, March 5) Exodus 38:21-40:38

#### Vavikra

(Read Saturday, March 12) Leviticus 1:1-5:26

#### Tzav

(Read Saturday, March 19) Leviticus 6:1-8:36

## Sh'mini

(Read Saturday, March 26) Leviticus 9:1-11:47



# Tikkun Olam



The Tikkun Olam Committee identifies ways that we, as a synagogue, can make life better for our community and beyond through social action. If you are interested in these opportunities or learning more about Tikkun Olam and other volunteering opportunities at Temple Emanu-El, email tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org or scan the code.

## Tuesday, February 8 · 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Eight volunteers are needed to assemble approximately 160 *Mishloach Manot* Packages for the Jewish Chaplains Council. Each year, Temple Emanu-El has assembled these packages so our troops can celebrate Purim. Jewish Chaplains Council® (JWB) is a nonprofit, U.S. government-accredited agency that serves the religious needs of Jewish military personnel and their families wherever they serve, as well as of patients in VA hospitals.

#### Tuesday, February 22 · 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Twelve volunteers are needed to assemble 500 Essential Toiletry Kits for the Bowery Mission. The Bowery Mission has served homeless and hungry New Yorkers since the 1870s. This results-oriented organization is recognized as one of New York City's most effective.

#### Thursday, March 10 · 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Fifteen volunteers are needed to make 300 sandwiches and assemble meal bags for the clients of the New York Common Pantry. New York Common Pantry reduces hunger and promotes dignity, health, and self-sufficiency, working toward the reduction of hunger and food insecurity through several outreach programs.

Space is limited for all mitzvahs. If registration is full, a waitlist will be available. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated and, as of this time, masks are mandatory.











After more than a year of successful online programming, the Young Members Circle has come back together in person to reinvigorate our community. We have brought new members onto our committee to breathe fresh life into our planning and maintain our traditions.

On October 7, our first event of the year brought us back to the Temple for a fun night of trivia on the roof. We then met on December 2 for a joyful food- and drink-filled celebration of Chanukah at a local bar, followed by our intergenerational holiday mitzvah project co-hosted by Tikkun Olam on December 12.

If you have any questions or would like to be more involved with Young Members Circle, please email Rabbi Kahn at akahn@ emanuelnyc.org.

Photos from our Trivia Night gathering on the temple roof — October 2021

# THE TEMPLE EMANU-EL ANNUAL FUND

Thank you to all of you who have supported the temple through the Annual Fund since June 1, helping us to be a stronger resource for our community. Every donation – large or small – helps enrich the Jewish experiences Emanu-El can provide.

If you have not yet made your gift to the 2021-2022 Annual Fund, there is still time. Temple Emanu-El's fiscal year fund runs through May 31. You can make your contribution as a tribute to honor or remember someone of importance in your life.

To make a donation to the Annual Fund, scan the QR code or visit emanuelnyc.org/donate.



Your gift may also be made through your Donor Advised Fund, as a qualified distribution from your IRA if you are at least 701/2, or via a transfer of securities. Please contact the Development Office with any questions: gdrazen@ emanuelnyc.org = 212-507-9525.



# Never Missed a Sunday

Miriam Reines and the Sunday Lunch Program at Temple Emanu-El

Erica Slutsky |: Communications Manager

This April, the Sunday Lunch Program will celebrate its 40th anniversary. In that time, it has not missed a Sunday. Members gather on the weekends to make and distribute food to many in our community who are in need, continuing even when the pandemic has restricted inperson access. Miriam Reines, a temple member of 77 years, has been with the program since its beginning and now serves as its chair. The program is one of the temple's longest-standing volunteer efforts.

When you head down to the Wise Hall kitchen, you'll see a wall covered in photographs representing dozens of participating members, a testament to our members' involvement since 1982. Miriam has been committed to the program's growth since its inception.

One of many temple programs funded by donations, it was first created to serve the hungry of New York under Rabbi

Dr. Ronald B. Sobel and his wife, Joanne. As Reines remembers, "We had 27 volunteers each week because we waited on tables," serving hot soup and coffee. Floral arrangements in the temple were repurposed as centerpieces. At some point, Miriam noted, the temple moved from seating guests to distributing bagged lunches.

"At first, the temple redid the floor downstairs, so we couldn't use the Wise Hall for a while. That's when we started doing bag lunch," where beneficiaries would line up outside as the temple security staff distributed the meals.

Volunteers prepared and distributed about 150 to 175 lunches every Sunday at noon. Much of the food was ordered from a distributor each week, although some of it was donated. Leftover food from other programs held at the synagogue was also included, as were collected toiletries. In 2019, the program started preparing 50 extra lunches to be distributed through City Harvest.

"When the pandemic hit (in March of 2020)...the temple was intent that we still feed people, even though our volunteers could not come into the temple to prepare it, as they had in the past," Miriam said. Instead, they ordered prepared food from vendors who would deliver the food to the temple. Here, the temple's security team gave the food out at the door — just as in the past. A year later, as the

intensity of the pandemic eased and members were allowed to come back inside the temple, a limited number of volunteers returned to assemble the bags for distribution outside.

At present, Miriam estimates that up to 95 volunteers participate in the SLP. "Angels," as they are known informally, are willing to come in on short notice or during a holiday weekend when more people are needed. Over the years, the SLP has folded in other temple outreach efforts. The Stitch'n Time group knits scarves and hats throughout the year for the program. Once a year, on a certain Friday, students in Emanu-El's Teen Group do a Midnight Run, where they travel through the city distributing sack lunches provided by them. (This year's Midnight Run occurred on January 28, 2022.) Every year, seventh-grade students in the Religious School come into the kitchen and work with the volunteers. Members contribute ongoing donations—"extra things to add to the lunch bags"— as mitzvot.

The Sunday Lunch Program will celebrate its anniversary in April of 2022 with a special Shabbat service. In the meantime, Miriam and Sunday's "angels" plan to keep this essential food-distribution program going, getting bagged lunches and other essential items into the hands of those who need them during these very challenging times.

# Miriam Reines

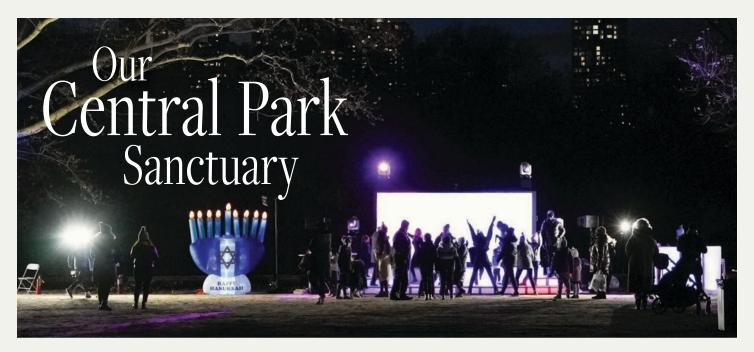
Sunday Lunch Program Chair

Growing up in Queens, Miriam
Reines first became involved with
Temple Emanu-El through her
family. She went to Religious School
and then joined the "Junior Society"
after her confirmation in 1950. She was married in the
Rabbi's study. She and her late husband have five
children. She taught at the Religious School for five
years, her husband for 15, and all of her children also
attended. Miriam is an active member of the Tikkun
Olam Committee. A participant with the Sunday Lunch
Program since its beginning 40 years ago, she has
been its leader for the last 25 years.









With the arrival of the global pandemic, Temple Emanu-El, like all synagogues, had to make many adjustments to prioritize the safety of its members and guests. Our circumstances eventually permitted us to return to limited in-person services as our synagogue has the space to accommodate and spread out visitors. The 5782 High Holy Days, however, presented a challenge as these services always see our highest attendance numbers. This year, filling our Fifth Avenue Sanctuary to capacity was too much of a risk.

Along with adding more services to spread out guests indoors, Temple Emanu-El made the historic decision to hold outdoor Yom Kippur services. The weather was pleasant on September 16, as we welcomed hundreds of our members throughout the day for our formal, teen, and family services at Central Park's SummerStage venue. This unique location allowed us to demonstrate our commitment to offering these important holiday services for our community while

also taking into consideration the health and safety requirements of the pandemic.

We were so heartened by our members' reception of our Yom Kippur SummerStage services that we returned to the same venue to host a family-friendly Chanukah festival. On November 29, over 400 members braved the chilly evening temperatures to welcome the second night of Chanukah with a joyous celebration that featured a DJ dance party, food trucks, kid-friendly activities, and a candle-lighting ceremony.

Response to these outdoor services was overwhelmingly positive. We pray for a speedy end to this awful pandemic. Assuredly, we will someday put Covid behind us. But, even when the day comes that we no longer need precautions, the SummerStage location will always offer a fun and meaningful place for our congregational family to gather. In the future, no doubt, we will be returning to our sanctuary in Central Park.





















## **NEW**

# Five-Morning Week for Incoming Twos

The Nursery School is pleased to announce an exciting new change for the 2022-23 school year. We will be discontinuing the two and three-morning-a-week programs for incoming two-year-olds. The Nursery School will now offer all incoming children a five-morning-a-week program. We are also building a beautiful new classroom for the oldest students to accommodate this change.



# Save the Date

Nursery School Gala at Tavern on the Green

Honoring Our Alumni!

May 23, 2022 Details to follow

# A New Director at Temple Emanu-El's Nursery School

An integral part of Temple Emanu-El since 1951, the Nursery School began its first full year under the new leadership of Gabrielle Savoldelli. She succeeded Ellen Davis, who oversaw the incredible growth and development of the school for 35 years in keeping with the larger overall mission of the Congregation.

A lifelong educator and the daughter of an English professor and a nursery school teacher, Gabrielle Savoldelli has spent her entire career at Temple Emanu-El Nursery School. She graduated from Brown University with a BA in History and went on to earn her master's degree in Elementary Education from Columbia University Teachers College. In March 2020, she received her Certificate in Early Education

Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Gabrielle began her career as a classroom teacher in the school from 1990-1997 and 2009-2019 and became Assistant Director for the 2019-2020 school year. She is also a proud Nursery School parent. Her twin sons Hugh and James recently



graduated from Brown University and Stanford University. Gabrielle lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Fabio Savoldelli. She is an avid reader who enjoys dancing, learning to speak Italian, cooking, and traveling. She also serves as an alumni interviewer for Brown University.

# THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

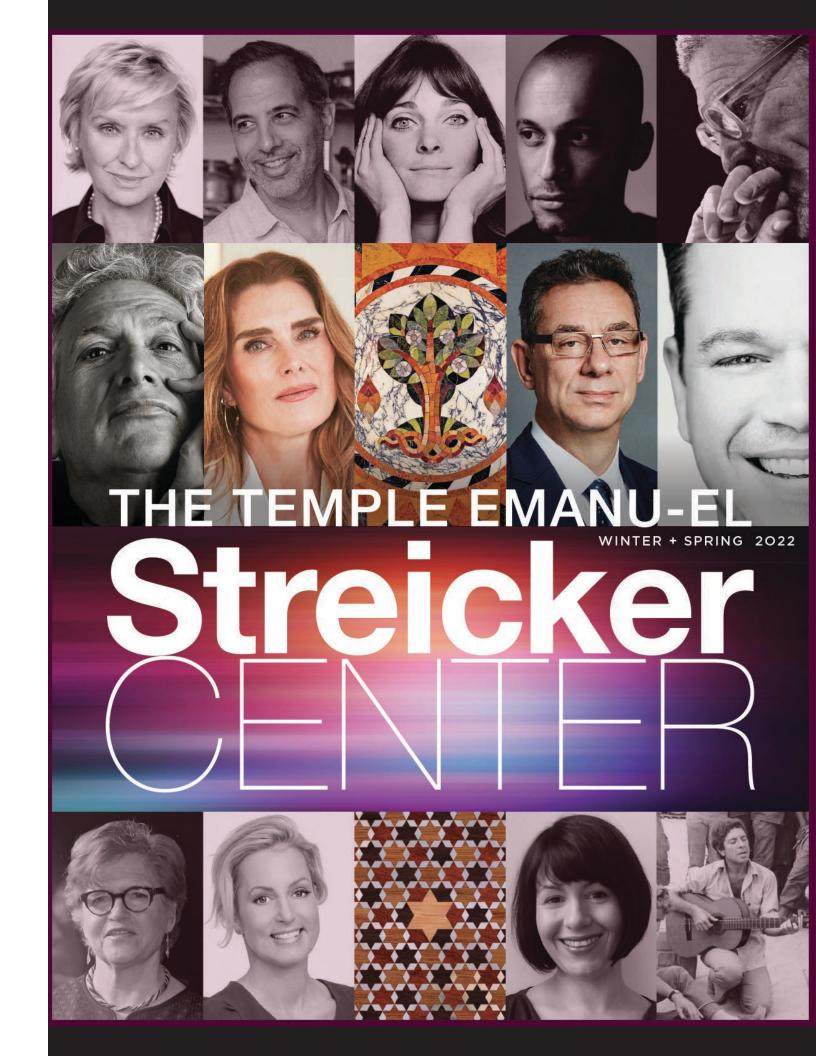
You may already be eligible for membership in The Heritage Society! The Heritage Society honors those who have made a provision for the temple in their estate plan. If you have already included a bequest from your will or trust, designated the temple as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment, or bank account, or as a recipient of a charitable remainder trust or paid-up life insurance policy, you are eligible to join The Heritage Society.

If you would like to learn more about the temple's legacy and planned giving program, please contact Robyn Cimbol at rcimbol@emanuelnyc.org or call 212-507-9524.

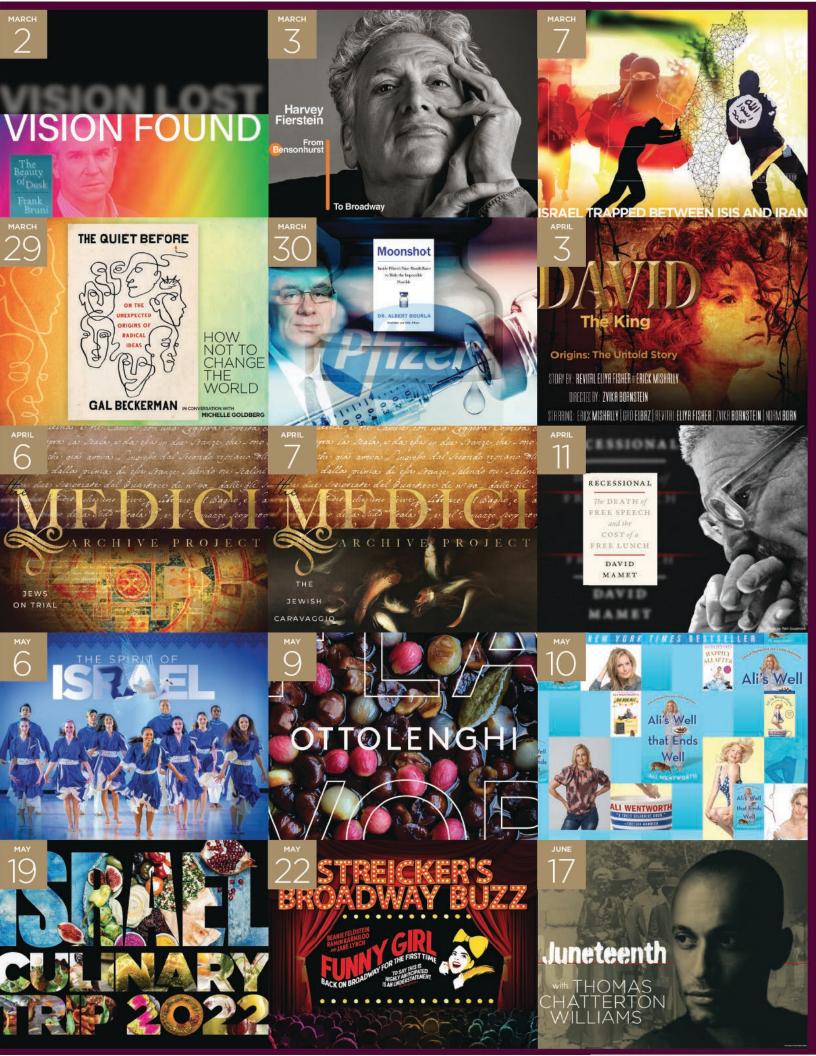
Save the Date

The Heritage Society Shabbat Dinner May 20, 2022, at The Lotos Club

5 East 66th Street, New York, NY Invitation to follow



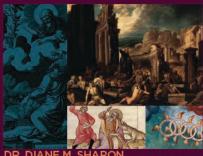




# WOMEN ON THE MOVE



Streicker.NYC 212.507.9580



AGONY OF THE LATTER PROPHETS

# SKIRBALL **ACADEMY CLASSES**



JUDAISM AND THE AMERICAN LEGAL TRADITION

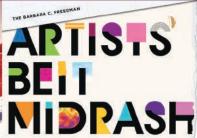


DISRAELI AND MARX— EXPLORATIONS





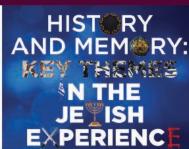
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM



REST, RESTORE, REIMAGINE: THE SHMITA YEAR 5782



ISRAEL'S CHANGING COLLECTIVE **IDENTITY AND CULTURE** 



HISTORY AND MEMORY: KEY THEMES IN THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE: PART II



INTERMEDIATE HEBREW



**BEGINNERS' HEBREW** 



PAUL: RADICAL CONVERT OR LIFELONG JEW?

# Young Families 2022

#### **Bedtime Stories**

6:00 PM | Third Wednesday of the month | February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18

Settle in with your child to hear a Bedtime Story read by a parent in our Young Families group. What a great way to see friends and say goodbye to the day. RSVP to youngfamilies@emanuelnyc.org for the Zoom link.

## Grandparents Group, with Jackie Fisher and Rabbi Ehrlich

Four weeks | Thursdays at 9:15 AM February 3, 10, and 17 on Zoom \$100 to register for all sessions This program is open to temple members only Be the grandparents you want to be! Grandparents will explore the many ways to support and provide structure for grandchildren (and adult children). Please register in advance at www.emanuelnyc.org/youngfamilies.

Jackie Fisher has had a long career in early childhood education. For more than 30 years, Jackie has been a dedicated teacher at Temple Emanu-El Nursery School, where she taught four- and five-year-olds, counseled parents, Friday, April 1 at 4:00 PM and interviewed prospective students. Prior to teaching at Temple Emanu-El, she taught elementary school in New York Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 AM and California, nursery school at Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York, and was a math specialist for the early grades at Trevor Day School.

Jackie holds a BA in Education and an MA in Administration of Early Childhood Programs. Her most important credential is as a grandparent to two delightful grandchildren.





## **Bop With Us!**

Tuesdays at 4:00 PM | March 1 - June 21 No sessions March 15, March 22, and April 19 Members: \$30 per session | Nonmembers: \$40 per session All sessions: \$400 for members, \$560 for non-members

Join us for 35 minutes of music and educational fun. followed by 10 minutes of free play. Register at www.emanuelnyc.org/spring-bop

#### **Young Families Shabbat**

Fridays at 4:00 PM | Saturday mornings from 9:00 - 9:30 AM Saturday, March 5 at 9:00 AM Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 AM Friday, June 3 at 4:00 PM

Share the magic of Shabbat with your little ones: 30-minute service of stories, singing, and dancing. Register at www.emanuelnyc.org/yfs-2022

As the Temple continues to monitor COVID-19 in New York City, attendance conditions are subject to change. Check **emanuelnyc.org/covid** for up-to-date guidelines and information about services and programs..



# Emanu-El Cares

## **DOROT**

Jane Blumenstein, LMSW, our DOROT social worker, is available to meet with members who are 60+ or caring for a loved one 60+. She will connect you with resources in NYC, as well as within DOROT, such as onsite classes (on Zoom or over the phone), travel companions for medical appointments and errands, tech coaching and volunteer visits. Jane can be reached via phone at 917-441-3740 or jblumenstein@dorotusa.org.

Support group for the DOROT Generation (60+) meets Thursdays at 11:00 AM. Join this weekly gathering with Jane Blumenstein to address the challenges and concerns associated with being 60+ in NYC. Members share their thoughts and feelings and come away with the strength and support of their Emanu-El peers. Bring your coffee or tea and an open heart and mind to your computer screen for this weekly Zoom meeting. Each session is limited to 15 members so every voice can be heard.

# DOROT Tech Coaching

Have you ever wished you had better computer or phone skills? Trained Volunteer Tech Coaches will teach you to use your computer, smartphone, or tablet to connect with family or friends. Coaching is one-on-one via phone or video and tailored to meet your specific interests. For more information, call 212-769-2850 or email technologyhelp@dorotusa.org

## **Tech Guides: Step-by-Step Instructions**

Tech Guides offer simple instructions on how to use your smartphone, iPad, or computer to email, Zoom, FaceTime, text, and more. Perfect for you to use on your own or with the help of friends and family. You can download guides free at https://www.dorotusa.org/tech-guides.

If you would like to receive DOROT's weekly Onsite Program listing, write to DOROTPrograms@dorotusa.org and indicate that you would like to be added to the mailing list. Visit https://www.dorotusa.org/onsite-at-home-calendar to see the most up-to-date programs in calendar form.

# To Everything There Is a Season

## **Bereavement Group**

As the year ebbs and flows and holidays come and go, our thoughts may turn to the friends and loved ones we have lost. Jane Blumenstein guides this seasonal series of bereavement groups. Groups are limited to 15 members.

The group meetings will be on two Mondays at 6:15 PM on Zoom. They are independent programs so you may attend as many as you wish.

Monday, April 4: Toward Passover Monday, June 13: Between Mother's and Father's Day

Zoom links are given upon registration.

# 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 212-744-1400 or emailing emanuelcares@emanuelnyc.org.

# Registration and More Information

To register or get more information about these and other programs Emanu-El Cares offers, please contact the temple at 212-744-1400 or email emanuelcares@emanuelnyc.org.

For a complete listing of upcoming Emanu-El Cares events, visit emanuelnyc.org/emanuelcares.

Additional information can be found on our website: emanuelnyc.org/cares.

As the Temple continues to monitor COVID-19 in New York City, attendance conditions are subject to change. Check **emanuelnyc.org/covid** for up-to-date guidelines and information about services and programs.

# A Member From Afar

# Meet Dr. Suzanne Gronemeyer of Memphis, Tennessee

Erica Slutsky |: Communications Manager

Dr. Suzanne Gronemeyer lives just over 1000 miles away from Temple Emanu-El, but thanks to our invigorated virtual programming, she has been making the most of her temple membership. Dr. Gronemeyer is the Director of the Pediatric Oncology Program at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital



in Memphis, Tennessee, and a Fellow with the American Association for Cancer Education (AACE). She currently serves on the Boards of the AACE, Intercultural Cancer Council, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and the Memphis Chamber Music Society. When Dr. Gronemeyer was looking for Reform congregations before the 2020 High Holy Days, "Temple Emanu-El stood out, with its outstanding clergy, wonderful music, majestic sanctuary, and masterful presentation," she said.

By October 2020, Dr. Gronemeyer had joined the temple as a full member. Though she participates virtually, Dr. Gronemeyer regularly attends Shabbat services, virtual Oneg, Torah study, Daily Sunset Services (as time permits), Rabbi Davidson's Muslim-Jewish dialogue group, and two Gather groups. Last May, she started a weekly "Zoom Schmooze" with several other members. "I've found the Temple clergy, staff, and members to be very warm and welcoming," she said. "It's felt like home and family from the beginning, even though I have yet to meet anyone in person!"

She notes the connections that a strong community fosters, even in a virtual space. "I highly recommend membership to everyone so that they can participate in the many members-only activities available online. It's a great way to make friends and feel like part of a wonderful community!"

# LifeLong Learning

# Important Dates

#### **Shabbat Kodesh**

March 4 - 6:00 PM - Fifth Avenue Sanctuary

## Shabbat Kodesh/Teen Leadership Shabbat

April 29 –6:00 PM – Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
Be inspired by the words and actions of our teens
as they lead the congregation in prayer and share
reflections on Judaism and their experiences in
our community.

## Shabbat Kodesh/Service honoring Saul Kaiserman

May 20 – 6:00 PM – Fifth Avenue Sanctuary
A very special service where we will be honoring and saying farewell to Saul Kaiserman after 15 years at Emanu-El. We will also be honoring all students who have earned Religious School with Honors during this service.



# EXPLOYETS

Designed for Pre-K to 2nd Grade students, Temple Emanu-El Explorers offers children and families the opportunity to "explore" Religious School by participating in a vibrant learning experience centered around rich traditions and holiday celebrations. For complete details and registration, visit emanuelnyc.org/explorers or call 212-507-9546.



# Empowering our Emanu-El Teens

# Inspiring Passionate and Creative Leaders

Emma Kate Lindsay |: Social Media/Communications Associate

Our Teen Programs at Temple Emanu-El are focused on empowering our students to become passionate and creative leaders. While our Teen Programs have a long history of focusing on *tikkun olam* or social justice, this past year the Temple Emanu-El teens have worked to meet the current needs of our time. The COVID-19 pandemic not only highlighted existing issues of inequity and inequality but also brought to light such new issues as connection and isolation. Our teens found new and inspiring ways to try to repair the world around them with empathy and compassion.

The student-led **Teen Philanthropic Committee** works together to award a grant to an organization serving the New York community. For the 2021-2022 school year, the Teen Philanthropic Committee has chosen to focus on access to quality education for kids who face home insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic brought into sharp relief the extra hurdles to education access for these children and their families. Led by co-chairs Julia Decker, Brady Propper, and Miranda Selin, the 30 students on the committee find consensus throughout the grant-making process, from deciding on a topic to creating a Request For Proposals, and deciding which factors should be considered while reading through the grant applications. After reviewing all the proposals and interviewing the finalists, the Teen Philanthropic Committee will present its first choice to the Philanthropic Committee. The winning organization will receive a \$10,000 grant.

Calling Generations is an intergenerational program that focuses on building community and finding connection even in the toughest of times. As the full weight of the early 2020 COVID-19 lockdown began to sink in, Calling Generations was created to connect older congregants with Temple Emanu-El teens for a weekly phone conversation. As Calling Generations enters its second full school year, it continues to grow. Over 70 congregants have participated. Most recently, the group celebrated Chanukah together over Zoom with candle lighting and trivia. While some adults seemed to be surprised that teens want to talk to them, there are currently more teens wanting to participate than adults! (If you are interested in getting involved, contact Rachel Brumberg at rbrumberg@emanuelnyc.org.) It has been a meaningful experience for many. Student co-chairs Ryan Jarvis and Olivia Mandel both wrote about Calling Generations in their college essays. Barbara Stoller, a new adult participant during the fall of 2021, said, "I have truly enjoyed getting to know my teen calling partner and hope she agrees that our conversations have been fun, and a value-added exchange of thoughts and ideas. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing her point of view on various topics...and sharing our opinions and feelings on different issues."

Founded initially as a forum for the Teen Community to talk and explore issues of racial justice in response to the murder of George Floyd, the **Social Justice Discussion Group** this year has shifted its focus from allyship to being an upstander. Co-chairs Mena Solomon and Blythe Breitman lead the group of eight students virtually in discussions on such topics as abortion, gun rights, and LGBTQIA-issues. In addition to exploring the current events surrounding each topic, the group also delves into related Jewish thoughts and opinions. They talk not only about Judaism's traditional understanding of a topic, but also about the Reform Jewish movement's particular stance. This has been an integral part of each discussion: many people assume how religion will respond to a subject and wind up surprised.

# Current & Upcoming Teen Programs

#### **Social Justice Discussion Group**

Mondays: February 7, March 7, April 11, May 9, 2022 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM

This peer-led group offers a space for honest and safe conversations while developing opinions on current human rights issues and learning Judaism's position on these difficult subjects. Different topics relating to social justice will be covered each month, using multiple types of media as starting points for conversations.

SJDG takes place via Zoom, so teens can participate from anywhere!

## **Teen Leadership Shabbat**

Friday, April 29, 2022 6:00 - 7:00 PM Be inspired by the words and actions

of our teens as they lead the congregation in prayer and share reflections on Judaism and their experiences in our community.

## **Calling Generations**

This intergenerational program pairs Temple teens with adult congregants to form a mutually beneficial ongoing relationship via short weekly phone conversations. Calling Generations is an opportunity to learn more about the Emanu-El community and share your excitement about your involvement in it while making a new friend from a different generation which results in learning a new perspective on daily life and the world we live in. Teens also participate in monthly Zoom meetings to reflect on their experiences with their peers. Full program events for all participants to come together to meet and share stories take place throughout the year.

#### **Teen Community Events**

Monthly events planned by the Teen Leadership Council bring together Temple Teens for programs to celebrate holidays, participate in Tikkun Olam, and form relationships between our teens as well as strengthen their connection to the Temple. All 8th-12th graders are welcome to participate whether it's their first time back since becoming a b'nai mitzvah or if they regularly participate in Temple programs!

For more information on Teen Community programs, please contact Rachel Brumberg, Associate Director of Lifelong Learning: Teen Community and Leadership, rbrumberg@ emanuelnyc.org. To make sure that teens receive information about this programming, please email Rachel with contact information.

Please follow us on Instagram: /emanuelnycteens.



# Elsie Adler Memorial Holocaust Program

Join Temple Emanu-El's Religious School community in honoring and commemorating Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). The Elsie Adler Memorial Holocaust Program, created by caring family and friends to honor the memory of Emanu-El's longtime, generous member Elsie Adler, reflects her passion for preserving the memory of the Holocaust and educating each generation about this dark period in Jewish history.

Please note: All Religious School parents and Temple members are welcome to attend. Students in grades 5 through 8 will attend as part of their regular school day. For more information, contact the Religious School office at (212) 507-9546 or school@emanuelnyc.org.

Sunday, April 24: 9:30 AM (Tefilah) 10 AM to 12 PM (Program) Lowenstein Sanctuary Monday, April 25: 4:00-6:00 PM Lowenstein Sanctuary



As the temple continues to monitor COVID-19 in New York City, attendance conditions are subject to change. Check **emanuelnyc.org/covid** for up-to-date guidelines and information about services and programs.

# Women's Auxiliary

## Women's Auxiliary Book Group

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 11:00 AM | On Zoom
Join Rabbi Andrue Kahn for a discussion of *The Art of Leaving* by Ayelet Tsabari. A few copies of the book are available from the temple library. Pickup is available at the 1 East 65th Street Lobby Security Desk Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Two e-book links may be available upon request. Please email

mshuster@emanuelnyc.org for the link. The book club discussion is open to temple members only. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are required to receive the Zoom link. Register at emanuelnyc.org/wa-book. Please make sure to add womaux@emanuelnyc.org to your contacts so that you will receive the email in your inbox; if you do not receive an email, please check your junk/ spam folders.

# Men's Club

## Trump and the Capitol Attack – One Year Later with Serge Kovaleski

Sunday, February 13 | 11:00 AM

Serge Kovaleski is a veteran award-winning investigative reporter currently working on the National Desk at the New York Times. His talk will focus on the Capitol Riot on January 6, 2021, and where the investigation stands one year later. Please register at emanuelnyc.org/mc-kovaleski. Registration closes at 4:00 PM on Friday, February 11.

## The Way Madness Lies - with Sandra Luckow

Sunday, March 6 | 11:00 AM

Award-winning filmmaker Sandra Luckow unflinchingly turns her camera on her own family as they attempt to navigate the broken mental health system in an effort to save her brother, whose iPhone video diary ultimately becomes an unfiltered look at the mind of a man with untreated schizophrenia, as well as an indictment of how the system failed. Please register at emanuelnyc.org/mcluckow. Registration closes at 4:00 PM on Friday, March 4.

# Club 65

## Warren Klein, Bernard Museum Curator

Tuesday, February 8 | 11:00 AM

Club 65 welcomes Warren Klein, Bernard Museum Curator, for a discussion titled "Art Made by and for Women in the Collection of the Bernard Museum." This event will be virtual. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register at emanuelnyc.org/65-klein.

## "Laugh Lines" Book Discussion with Author Alan Zweibel

Tuesday, March 8 | 11:00 AM

Club 65 welcomes Alan Zweibel to discuss his book *Laugh Lines*. This event will be virtual. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register at emanuelnyc.org/65-zweibel.

Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club events are open to all temple members and their guests. Registration is required. Club 65 events are also open to all temple members and their guests. They are free to attend and registration is requested (unless otherwise specified).

#### Please note:

As the temple continues to monitor COVID-19 in New York City, attendance conditions are subject to change. Check **emanuelnyc.org/covid** for up-to-date guidelines and information about services and programs.

# **Museum Donation**

In honor of Temple Emanu-El's 175th anniversary, the Men's Club purchased a 19th century Yom Kippur Belt Buckle on behalf of the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum. We hope this beautifully crafted silver piece will be enjoyed by all who visit our magnificent museum. The object will be on view when the museum reopens at the end of January.



Inscription: "For in this day shall atonement be made for you, to cleanse you from all your sins that are before you, before you shall be cleansed" (Leviticus 16:30)

# Interfaith Dialogue

Building an interreligious community together, one conversation at a time.

As the New Year begins, our interfaith dialogue with the **Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church** will be renewed once more in 2022.

Join Rabbi Sara Sapadin and the Reverend Sarah A. Speed for this enriching series of discussions. We ask that those who sign up please commit to attending all four meetings. If you are interested in participating in this unique opportunity to share in learning about religious traditions, please RSVP to Johnny Maldonado at jmaldonado@emanuelnyc.org or (212) 507-9603.

Meeting 1: Wednesday, February 9 –12:30 PM
Meeting 2: Wednesday, March 9 – 12:30 PM
Meeting 3: Wednesday, April 13 – 12:30 PM
Meeting 4: Wednesday, May 11 – 12:30 PM

# Muslim-Jewish Dialogue

First Monday of each month: October to June

Join Rabbi Davidson and author/interfaith speaker Sabeeha Rehman to explore parallel texts in the Torah and the Koran and learn how much we share. Online, 8:30 to 9:45 AM. To register, please contact Rabbi Davidson's assistant Lauren Pemberton, at lpemberton@emanuelnyc.org or 212-507-9609.





# Host Your Outdoor Event at Temple Emanu-El

Looking for a safe, outdoor space to celebrate your upcoming lifecycle event? We anticipate that our beautiful rooftop will be available once the weather allows for outdoor celebrations. We will follow all relevant Covid guidelines.

For availability and more information about hosting events at Temple Emanu-El's outdoor spaces, please contact membership@ emanuelnyc.org, or call 212-507-9514.





As we renew the publication of this Bulletin, we mark with great pride the Bar, Bat, and B'nei Mitzvah celebrations of our Temple families.

1/22/2022

**Caroline Bleichmar**, daughter of Marci and Javier Bleichmar

1/29/2022

**Alexis Craner**, child of Katharine Craner and Matthew Craner

2/5/2022

**Daniel Silverman**, child of Ivy Silverman and Marc Silverman

**Gem Gross**, child of Jacqueline Gross and Frederick Gross

2/12/2022

**Lauren Helf**, child of Jill Helf and Eric Helf

**Milo Burger**, child of Jessica Malkin-Burger and Alfred Burger

2/19/2022

**Jayne Weiss** 

3/5/2022

**Jake Kwon**, child of Irina Kwon and Young Kwon 4/2/2022

**Zachary Lilien**, child of Noelle and Jason Lilien

**Alexandra Snyder**, child of Carly and Brian Snyder

4/9/2022

**Chase Blumenfeld**, child of Frances and Brad Blumenfeld

**David Gold**, child of Sharon and Jason Gold

**Tamsen Stafford**, child of Sarah and Jeffrey Stafford

4/23/2022

**Saul Silver**, child of Lisa Hofer and Brian Silver

4/30/2022

**Claudia Lynn**, child of Jennifer and Jesse Lynn

**Asher Kentsis**, child of Nina and Alex Kentsis

For information about Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El, visit **emanuelnyc.org/bneimitzvah** or contact the temple's B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator—Lauren Pemberton: 212-507-9609 | lpemberton@emanuelnyc.org



## 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 Cara Glickman at the Temple Office, 212-744-1400



# THE UNIVERSAL FUNERAL CHAPEL

Charles S. Salomon *Director*1076 Madison Avenue
212-754-5300

Our service is available in the temple, home, or our chapel.

## **LIFE-CYCLE EVENTS**

At Temple Emanu-El, we understand the role that times of joy, sorrow, and transition play in your personal and spiritual development and your desire to make the expression uniquely yours. We stand ready to offer you guidance and an environment that is both warm and magnificent. For complete information about all lifecycle events at Temple Emanu-El, visit emanuelnyc.org/lifecycles.

# Improvements to the Emanu-El Online Experience

# Livestream Update

Evan Brown |: Communications Director

n late September 2016, just before the High Holy Days, Temple Emanu-El transitioned from audio-only live broadcasts to video streaming. In just five years, our virtual services have expanded from a handful of listeners to a growing audience of online viewers experiencing the warmth and majesty from wherever they happen to be—within our city, across the country, or around the world.

This past summer, our synagogue implemented the first technology update of our video-streaming system since its original installation. Among the new wiring and connections placed between our sanctuaries, two new cameras were added to the main sanctuary—allowing for additional angles during broadcasts—and a new switcher was installed in the video control room. This switcher allows us to better utilize the cameras in all of our sanctuaries and to add such enhancements as layering graphics and adding split screens to the service broadcast.

In addition to these physical improvements, Temple Emanu-El added a new virtual property specifically designed for online visitors wishing to view our livestreamed services and programs. Created in response to our rise in online viewership in March 2020, when in-person attendance was paused as a result of the pandemic, "Experience Emanu-El – Live and On-Demand," features our upcoming livestreamed events and is also programmed to notify viewers or switch over to broadcasts on its homepage when we go live. The Experience Emanu-El microsite was launched just before the 5782 High Holy Days and registered over 260,000 page views for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This unique microsite continues to broadcast all temple and Streicker Center events and offers an ondemand archive of our programming.



# Watching our Livestream

Temple Emanu-El and the Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center offer three distinct online platforms to view our services and programs: our Experience Emanu-El website, Facebook, and YouTube.

Broadcasts on Experience Emanu-El offer additional information and resources, a full calendar of upcoming programming, and an on-demand archive. Go to experienceemanuel.org or click on "View Live" from the top menu of our main website, emanuelnyc.org. Facebook offers an engaging global online interactive community: facebook.com/emanuelnyc. And YouTube provides additional integration with larger screens via internet TV platforms such as Apple TV, Amazon Fire, or Roku: youtube.com/emanuelnyc.

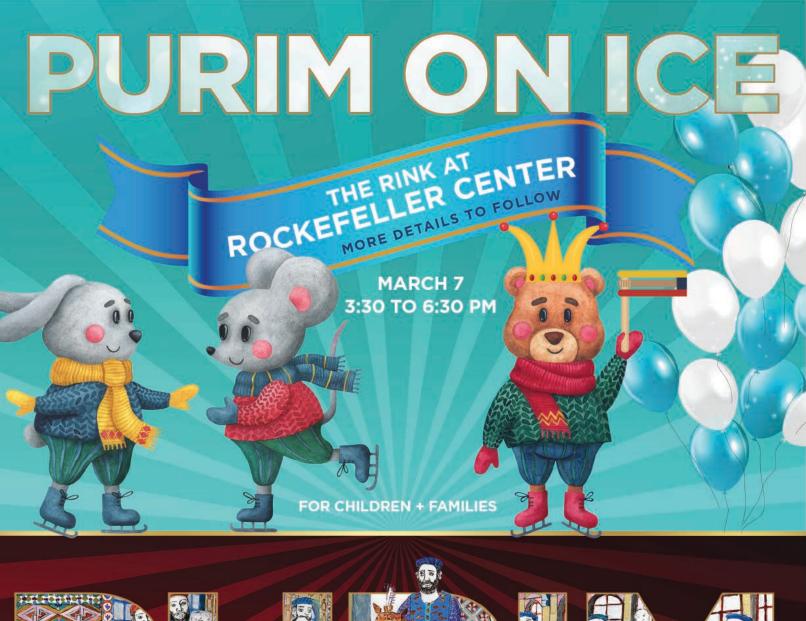
Temple Emanu-El and The Streicker Center combined now offer more than 350 broadcasts per year. We offer a partial on-demand archive on Experience Emanu-El, as this website has limited space for storage. We have a complete archive of free ondemand programs on our YouTube channel, including our Daily Sunset Services, Streicker programs, a playlist of sermons, and Religious School content for younger audiences.

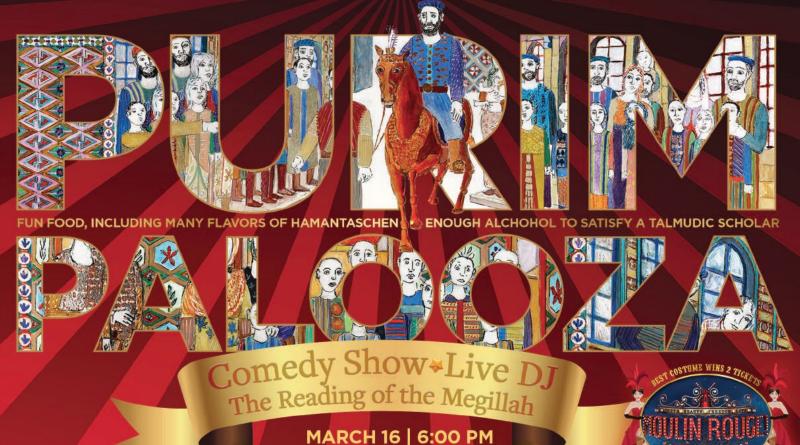


facebook.com/emanuelnyc youtube.com/emanuelnyc



experienceemanuel.org





FOR ADULTS



