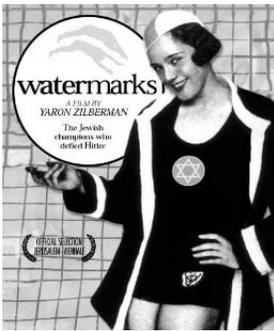


TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 10

November 3, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS



WATERMARKS

Thursday, November 9
Reception: 6 p.m.
Screening: 6:30 p.m.

The Women's Auxiliary cordially invites all congregants to a special viewing of the film *Watermarks*—an award-winning documentary

about the female swim team that was part of Hakoah Vienna (Austria's legendary Jewish sports club), told through interviews with seven surviving members who fled the country prior to World War II. A reception will precede the film. Afterwards will be a discussion with **Yaron Zilberman**, the film's director, producer and writer. Cost: \$15 for Women's Auxiliary members, \$20 for nonmembers. Make checks payable to Women's Auxiliary. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCY:

An Exclusive Discussion
With Commissioner
Joseph F. Bruno

Sunday, November 19 10 a.m.



Is New York City prepared for natural disasters and man-made crises? What should you do in case of an emergency? Get the answers and ask the questions of the person in charge: **Joseph Bruno, Commissioner of the NYC Office of Emergency Management.** The Men's Club is pleased to sponsor this critical, not-to-be missed program for Emanu-El congregants and their guests **ONLY.** Cost: \$25 for Men's Club members in advance; \$35 for nonmembers and those paying at the door. Make checks payable to Men's Club. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250



FINDING THE HIDDEN MAIMONIDES:
Exploring the
Cairo Genizah
Monday, November 6
6:30 p.m.

David Wachtel will lead the second lecture of our "EMANU-EL READS" series. Mr. Wachtel is the research librarian for special collections at The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a member of the core faculty at the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. (212) 744-1400, ext. 361



SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, November 10 Main Sanctuary

Organ Recital—5 p.m.
Sabbath Eve Service—5:15 p.m.
WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) and Internet
(www.wqxr.com) broadcasts—5:30 p.m.

Saturday morning, November 11 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Vayera
Readings—Genesis 18:1-22:24
II Kings 4:1-37

Sermon: Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

**"Remember
the Sabbath Day."**

OPERATION: GOOD SHABBOS

**Every Friday...
Wish a good one
to a friend!**

BAT MITZVAH

**The following student of
our Religious School will become
a Bat Mitzvah this weekend:**

*Charlotte Pauline Kassimir,
daughter of
Robin and Joel Kassimir*

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

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

*Stuart and Rhonda Jakub
in celebration of our marriage,
the Jakub and Schneider families,
and Rabbi Posner*

*Mary L. Fleur
in loving memory of her brother,
Robert Thomas Schwartz*

*Judie and Howard Ganek
in loving memory of their father,
Reuben Goldstein*

*Richard H. M. and Gail Lowe Maidman
in loving memory of
Shirley Cohen*

**SUNDAY
SEMINARS**

*All seminars are held
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Coffee and bagels are served.
Enter at One East 65th Street.
To register, call (212) 507-9580
or log on to our Web site at
www.adultjewishlearning.org.
Cost is \$50 per session.*

NOVEMBER 12

**The Natural History of the Bible:
An Environmental Exploration
of the Hebrew Scriptures**

Learn how the experiences of the Israelites led to an overarching perception of the unity of nature and hence of nature's Creator. Study how the Israelites' peculiar situation at the juncture of disparate continents and ecological domains led to the evolution of their own culture, as reflected in the Bible. Dr. Daniel Hillel is professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Massachusetts and senior research scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research.



*Dr. Daniel
Hillel*

SKIRBALL



The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El

**Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel**

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

**The Cemeteries of Congregation Emanu-El
Salem Fields and Beth-El**

A limited number of above-ground crypts are available in our community mausoleum. For information, please call Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.

REFINING THE SOUL: CHARITY

By Rabbi Leon A. Morris

A MAJOR DISTINCTION generally is made between the term “charity” and its Hebrew parallel “*tzedakah*.” It is correctly pointed out that while “charity” is derived from the Latin word “*caritas*” (meaning “love founded on mutual esteem”), “*tzedakah*” derives from the Hebrew word “*tzedek*,” meaning “righteousness.”

Charity is contrasted with *tzedakah* on the basis that the latter carries a sense of duty and obligation, whereas the former is performed only as a result of the heart being moved by the relationship between the giver and the recipient. To be sure, this distinction between charity and *tzedakah* is warranted. *Tzedakah* is obligatory on every Jew, without regard to inner feeling. It is incumbent whether one’s heart is moved or not, and it is meritorious especially when the giver and the receiver do not know one another.

Shulcan Aruch, the 16th century code of Jewish Law states:

Everyone is required to give tzedakah. Even the indigent person sustained by charity must give from what has been given to him. The court may coerce anyone who has contributed less than what he or she should appropriately give. The court may even seize his assets and use them as his required obligation of tzedakah. (Yoreh Deah 248: 1)

However, it would be oversimplifying the concept of *tzedakah* to suggest that Jew-

ish teachings are not concerned with the inner motivations of the giver or the particular way in which this obligation is carried out.

Love and compassion do in fact play major roles in the Rabbinic discussions of *tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* is not simply a matter of the law. It also is a matter of the heart, and we are urged to do *tzedakah* with a sense of lovingkindness. The

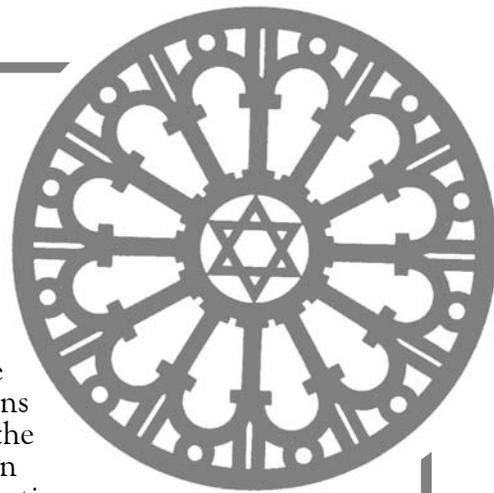
ancient commentary *Avot d’Rabbi Natan* states:

If a person gives his neighbor all the best gifts in the world but did so with a downcast face, Scripture regards it as though he gave nothing. If he receives his neighbor cheerfully, even if he gives him nothing, Scripture regards it as though he gave him all the good gifts in the world.

Jewish Law also developed numerous guidelines for the giving of *tzedakah*. Maimonides

established a hierarchy of giving that encourages the donor to maintain the dignity of the recipient. We are instructed that we should buy with our money something that a poor person needs in order to spare him the burden of buying it himself. The truly magnanimous person gives generously and always before being asked.

Rabbi Leon A. Morris is director of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El.



MITZVAH DAY 2006! SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**9 AM — ARRIVE AT
10 E. 66TH ST. FOR CHECK-IN,
COFFEE, BAGELS AND YOUR FREE
MITZVAH DAY HAT.**

**9:30 AM — ATTEND THE KICK-OFF
SESSION WITH OUR RABBIS AND
CANTOR IN THE LOWENSTEIN
AUDITORIUM.**



**10 AM — ACTIVITIES
BEGIN.**

**QUESTIONS? (212) 744-
1400, EXT. 452**

AROUND THE TEMPLE

Reclaiming American Judaism's Lost Legacy: THE ART OF SYNAGOGUE MUSIC

TEMPLE EMANU-EL is a proud sponsor of two very special events that are free and open to the public. On **Sunday, November 12 at 8 p.m.**, a model service—with **Rabbi David M. Posner** as one of the officiating rabbis—will be held at Park Avenue Synagogue, 50 East 87th St. And, on **Monday, November 13 at 8 p.m.**, a choral concert will be held in Temple Emanu-El's newly restored Main Sanctuary. Performers include **Cantor Lori Corrsin**, Temple organist **Pedro d'Aquino** and the Grammy-winning Amor Artis Choir, under the direction



of Johannes Somary. **Tovah Feldshuh**, accomplished actress of the stage, screen and television, will serve as Monday's host.

These events are just two of many sessions planned as part of a three-day conference sponsored by the **American Society for Jewish Music**. The goal is to highlight music by composers who have written for the synagogue over the last 50 years and to restore this music to its rightful and honorable place in synagogue worship. For a full description of conference activities, call (212) 294-8328 or log on to www.jewishmusic-asjm.org.

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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Administrator Emeritus

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