

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 37

May 11, 2007

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, May 18
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, May 19
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—B'midbar
Readings—Numbers 1:1-4:20
Hosea 2:1-22

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

SHAVUOS SERVICES

**EVE of SHAVUOS
Tuesday evening, May 22
Beth-El Chapel—5:30 p.m.**

**SHAVUOS
Wednesday morning, May 23
Beth-El Chapel—10:30 a.m.**

Readings—Exodus 19:1-20:23
Numbers 28:26-31
Ezekiel 1:1-28; 3:12

**Sermon: Rabbinic Intern
Adam Rosenwasser
Memorial Service**

*Please join us afterwards for a small
reception featuring traditional
Shavuos dairy refreshments.*

**MEN'S
CLUB**

*All Emanu-El congregants
are invited to participate in
the following event sponsored
by the Men's Club...*

ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER & SAMUEL SACKS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Thursday, May 17

6 p.m.

This year's Sacks recipi-
ents are **Jocelyn Chait**
and **Andrew Chait**.

Jocelyn Chait's affilia-
tion with Temple Emanu-El
began in 1942 when Rabbi
Nathan Perilman enrolled
her in the Religious School.
Today, she serves as presi-
dent of the Women's Auxil-
iary and as a member of the
Board of Trustees. She is a
member of the Readers'
Panel and the Museum Commit-
tee, and she leads one of the Women's Auxil-
iary's English in Action groups.



Andrew Chait's affiliation likewise
began as a Religious School student. He
was an active volunteer throughout his
youth and remained so as an adult. In
1984 he joined the Usher's Committee
and became committee co-chair in
1999. In 1990 he joined the Men's Club
and, in the years to come, served as sec-
retary, vice president and president
(2001-2004).

*The cost for this event is \$65 per person.
Checks should be made payable to the Men's
Club. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth
Cassell Community House, One East 65th
Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250*



Hearing Loop installed in Main Sanctuary and Beth-El;
switch aid to T-coil. Headsets or neck loops also available.

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Lauren D. Feld, daughter of
Lisa and Stuart Feld

Samantha Feld Marrus, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Marrus

Samuel Sugerman, son of
Adrienne Halpern and David Sugerman

Dylan James Embroz, son of
Mr. and Mrs. David Embroz

**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:**

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

**Pulpit Flowers at Shavuot services
are the generous gift of:**

Elisabeth Cassell
in loving memory of
her brothers and sisters,
Emil, Eugene, Alice, Piri, Magda and Viola

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. Weissstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.

Charles S. Salomon

The Universal Funeral Chapel

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE WORLD WAS OURS:
The Jewish Legacy of Vilna**

Tuesday, May 15

6:30 p.m.

Temple Emanu-El and the American Society for Jewish Heritage in Poland are pleased to sponsor a free screening of this documentary, which chronicles the rich and exciting history of the Jews of Vilna with wonderful historical material and poignant first-hand accounts of the vibrancy of Jewish life in this once thriving community. Produced with careful attention to detail and historical accuracy, this visual record of the city known as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania" is a fitting tribute to the 60,000 individuals who were murdered during World War II, destroying the people but not the legacy of their cultural heritage. Following will be a **Q&A** with filmmaker **Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren**. Attendance is free and open to the public. Enter at One East 65th Street.

YOUTH GROUPS:

Six Flags Great Adventure

Saturday, May 19

8 a.m.

A final reminder to youth group members interested in joining us for this end-of-year-tradition...Cost is \$30 per person, which includes a **Six Flags** entrance ticket, bus transportation to and from the park, and a Youth Group T-shirt. Checks (made payable to Temple Emanu-El) and permission slips must be returned to Rabbi Gold. Drop off and pick up are at One East 65th Street. (516) 965-4736

**CLAY COURT CLASSIC
& WHEELCHAIR TENNIS EXHIBITION**

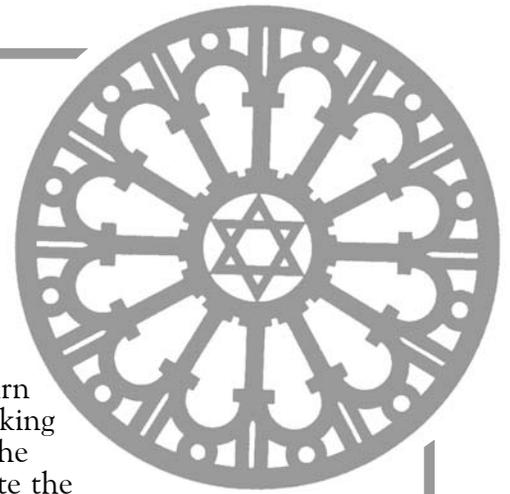
Saturday, May 19

2 p.m.

Come witness the growing sport of **BaseLine professional wheelchair tennis** (www.baselinewheelchairtennis.org) through an exhibition on center court, followed by the **USTA's \$50,000 Men's Clay Court Finals**. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes a buffet lunch on the clubhouse terrace of the historic West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills. Make checks payable to the Men's Club. With enough interest, we will organize roundtrip van transportation for approximately \$15 from Emanu-El after morning services. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250

SHAVUOS: A FEAST FOR THE SOUL

By Rabbi Irving Greenberg (From *The Jewish Way*)



As always, feasting is a key feature of Jewish celebration. In the case of Shavuos, the tradition of eating dairy meals is strong. Blintzes and cheesecakes are often the special fare. Some attribute this custom to the verse that likens Torah to milk and honey. A folk tradition explains that upon receiving the Torah, the Jews were required to eat kosher meat (that is, meat specially slaughtered and prepared). [Because] it takes time to prepare meat in this manner, they initially ate dairy after Sinai. The insistence on dairy food may well be a messianic reference. Just as Passover evokes the future universal redemption, so Shavuos evokes the hope of the universal covenant. The prophet predicts that even the carnivorous animals will turn vegetarian (“and the lion, like the ox, shall eat straw”); hence follows the anticipatory dairy meal of Shavuos.

Another custom is to bake two extra-long challahs in remembrance of the two special loaves offered in the Temple on the day of the first fruits. A still later custom is to prepare triangular-shaped latkes or kreplach. The three-sided shapes evoke the old witticism that God gave a three-part Torah (Torah, Prophets and Writings) to a three-part people (Kohen, Levite and Israelite) through a third-born son (Moses, youngest sibling to Miriam and Aaron) in the third month (Sivan).

Given the strong association of Shavuos and Talmud Torah, it was customary in traditional French and German Jewish society for young children to begin studying the Torah on this day. To sweeten the experience, parents would coat the first

letters that the child was to learn with honey. Licking off the honey, the child would taste the fulfillment of the psalmist’s words that the commandments are “more desired than gold ...and sweeter than honey” (Psalms 19:11). Still another custom is to bake “Mount Sinai cakes”—honey cakes filled with almonds and raisins—to fulfill the dictum: “Taste and see that God is good” (Psalms 34:9).

All in all, Shavuos is the festival most limited in specific rituals and shortest in duration—one day in Israel, two days in Diaspora in traditional Jewish practice. Samson Raphael Hirsch suggested that the Torah deliberately avoided creating one dominant holiday ritual in connection with the giving of the Torah lest people think that a specific ritual was the way to celebrate the Torah. In fact, the Torah should be with all the people at all times and should permeate all actions.

Hirsch’s own favorite symbol of the holiday was the two loaves of bread and the *shlamim*—the peace offering—that was brought on Shavuos to the Temple. These represented food and human independence and the state of complete human happiness that was expressed in the *shlamim* sacrifice, a celebration of inner peace and harmony:

*For those who have achieved this inner harmony...In the presence of God, together with wife and children, they can enjoy eternal values which transform every moment of our fleeting existence on earth into a taste of eternity.**



*Samson Raphael Hirsch, *Judaism Eternal*, Volume I, p. 109

BEYOND THE TEMPLE

**TEAM EMANU-EL:
AIDS Walk New York**
Sunday, May 20 9:15 a.m.

Team Emanu-El will be gathering again—this time for New York City's annual walkathon supporting the fight to stop the spread of AIDS and HIV. Our **Tikkun Olam** group will organize the team and provide T-shirts; raising funds remains the responsibility of each walker. Donations should be made payable to

TEAM AIDS Walk New York
(or **AWNY**).

EMANU-EL



For more information
or to register for these events,
call (212) 744-1400, ext. 452 or e-mail tetikunolam@yahoo.com.

STITCH'N TIME
Sunday, May 20 11 a.m.

Our knitting group will meet again in Room 602 of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House (One E. 65th Street) to work on projects benefitting **Beth Israel Hospital** and the **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services**.



Also, beginning mid-May, congregants may pick up a take-home "knitting kit" with yarn and a pattern to make a scarf. All scarves will be donated to **Ronald McDonald House** in the fall.

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