

# TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 34

April 20, 2007

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EMANU-EL READS: Study and Discussion

Wednesday, April 25 6:30 p.m.



Our year-long study culminates with small-group discussions, where we'll address our impressions of Maimonides' works, the group text and various lectures. Light refreshments will be served. (212) 744-1400, ext. 362

### YOUNG FAMILIES: Library Storytime

Sunday, April 29 9:15 a.m.

Temple librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read stories about Israel Independence Day. (212) 744-1400, ext. 362

## SABBATH SERVICES

### Friday evening, April 27 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, April 28 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.  
Main Sanctuary  
Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Ahare Mot-Kedoshim  
Readings—Leviticus 16:1-20:27  
Amos 9:7-15  
Sermon: Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

MEN'S CLUB

### CONSERVATIVE, ORTHODOX and REFORM: Understanding Three Branches of Judaism

Sunday, April 29 10 a.m.

The Men's Club invites all Temple members to a not-to-be-missed discussion about Jewish interdenominational relations, featuring our own senior rabbi, **David Posner**; **Arthur Schneier**, senior rabbi of Park East Synagogue; and **David H. Lincoln**, senior rabbi of Park Avenue Synagogue.

Rabbi Posner has been a member of the Emanu-El rabbinate since 1973—after completing an eight-year combined program at the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Schneier lived under Nazi occupation in Budapest and arrived in the U.S. in 1947; he has been the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Park East Synagogue since 1962. Rabbi Lincoln was born in London and studied law before undertaking his rabbinic study; he came to the U.S. in 1968 and served at congregations in Missouri and Illinois before Park Avenue in New York. The panel will be moderated by Men's Club president **Ross Brady**.

Cost for this event is \$15 per person, which includes a continental breakfast. (Make checks payable to the Men's Club.) (212) 744-1400, ext. 250



## B'NEI MITZVAH

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

*Brooke Taylor Lutsky,*  
daughter of  
Lisa Stone and Jeffrey Lutsky

*Justin Samuel Minskoff,*  
son of  
Julie and Edward J. Minskoff

*Gabriel Rosen,*  
son of Aby Rosen

*Arielle Nicole Schacter,*  
daughter of  
Janice and Ira Schacter

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

## TO BE NOTED

**T**he **annual meeting** of the congregation will be held **Thursday, May 31** at **5:30 p.m.** in **Greenwald Hall**. Congregants should enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street. Refreshments will be served afterwards. (212) 744-1400, ext. 215

**C**ollection of **Tzedakah Banks** and **summer clothing** for attendees of **Camp Kiwago** will continue through **April 30**. Donations may be brought to the lobby at either 65<sup>th</sup> Street or 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Questions? Contact **Tikkun Olam**. (212) 744-1400, ext. 452

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

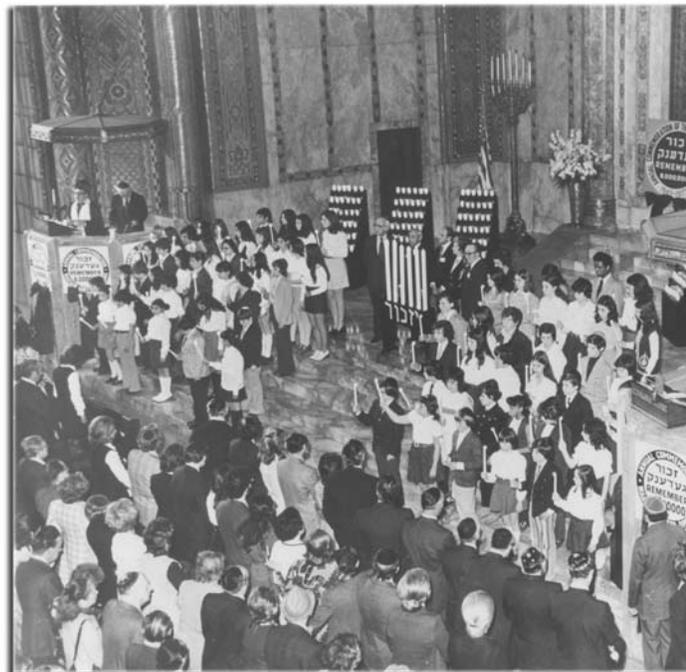
A limited number of above-ground crypts are available in our community mausoleum. For information, please call Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.

Charles S. Salomon

### The Universal Funeral Chapel

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

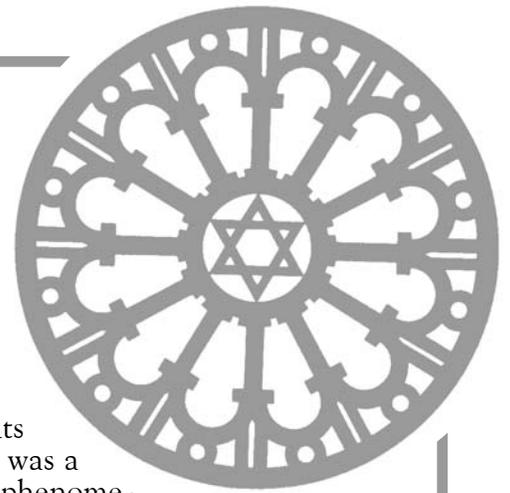
The traditional Jewish calendar includes four days that commemorate historic tragedies in the saga of our people, the most widely known being Tisha B'Av—the ninth day of the month of Av—to commemorate the destruction of the ancient Jerusalem Temples. Added to these traditional four in recent years has been the designation of the 27th day of the month of Nisan as “Holocaust Remembrance Day.” In honor of this solemn day—which this year fell on April 15—we offer the following remarks from the late Hadassah Rosensaft, who saved the lives of hundreds of children in Bergen-Belsen. A dear friend of the Emanu-El rabbinate and of many Temple members, Mrs. Rosensaft was among the first members of the U.S. Holocaust Commission, which oversees the activities of the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. In planning for the museum, one of the issues facing the commission was whether the memorial would focus on the annihilation of European Jewry or would be more universal in nature. Mrs. Rosensaft spoke on this issue at a meeting of the commission on June 7, 1979. Her words had great meaning then and now.



## 30 YEARS AFTER THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

A memorial service is held at Emanu-El in  
1973 to remember the 6 million Jews  
who died in the Holocaust.

# YOM HASHOAH: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY



**A** MOST DISTURBING phenomenon has taken place in recent years. On the one hand, there are claims that the figure of 6 million is too high. Pseudo-historians intent on minimizing the impact of the Holocaust assert that the true number of Jews exterminated...was far smaller—4 million or 2 million. Some deny that any Holocaust occurred. At the same time, others have attempted to enlarge the figure in order to weaken if not eliminate entirely the Jewish element of the catastrophe. These others argue that the true figure is 11 million or more.

It is true, of course, that the 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust were not the only casualties of World War II. However, they were the only victims of the Holocaust. And it is the purpose of this commission to commemorate the Holocaust.

As human beings, we must remember—and mourn—all deaths, especially those that are the result of brutality or war, those due to man's inhumanity to man. However, it is absolutely impermissible to dilute the Holocaust by categorizing it as merely another aspect of that inhumanity. The "Final Solution" was directed against Jews, and only the Jews. No other nation was encompassed by the German genocide. Only the Gypsies were in an analogous position. And when we speak of the Holocaust, we address ourselves exclusively to the extermination of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its active and passive international accomplices.

Allow me, as a survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, to emphasize again that while there were over 11 million victims of World War II, there were only 6 million victims of the Holocaust. It is distressing to me that many presumably well-intentioned academics and other commentators have failed to recognize this central dichotomy.

We have said over and over since 1945 that the Holocaust was unique. Part of its uniqueness is that it was a completely separate phenomenon from the world war that took place at the same time in the same geographic locations.

The Holocaust occurred in a dimension of its own. Thus, the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto lived an existence that was unrelated to the lives of the Poles in the city outside the ghetto walls. The Jewish inmates of Auschwitz may have been in the same physical place as the Russian non-Jews who were also imprisoned there. However, they did not share the same experience. Jews were gassed as Jews, because they were Jews. The others were not. If a Russian prisoner of war was executed, he knew that it was because his nation was fighting a war with another nation. The Jews were not a part of that war. If anything, the war served as a smoke screen for the Germans to enable them to carry out their extermination of the Jews.

This commission is a commission on the Holocaust. Our duty is to commemorate the annihilation of the 6 million European Jews. Let us not lose site of that objective. Of course, the Holocaust had and has major universal implications. It was not an exclusively Jewish tragedy. After all, the exterminated Jews were human beings who were murdered by other human beings. However, this universality must be distinguished from the attempt to deprive the Holocaust of its uniqueness. All other examples of mass murder must be seen in the light and shadows of the Holocaust. They may not be merged into the Holocaust.

Let us, the President's Commission on the Holocaust, therefore concentrate on our task. We are to arrive at a lasting memorial to the 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust in order to ensure that no such cataclysm ever occur again on this earth. That assignment, which we were given by President Carter, is monumental enough. Let us do justice to it.



## UPCOMING AT SKIRBALL

### SPECIAL LECTURE with AVIVAH ZORNBERG...

**“Mere Anarchy is Loosed  
Upon the World”  
— Esther’s Prayer**

Thursday, April 26

8 p.m.



**Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg,** an internationally renowned Bible interpreter and teacher, draws extensively on classical commentaries, Midrash, and modern insights from literature and philosophy. Her widely read and studied books, *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire* and *The Particulars of Rapture*, have become classics among readers of all religions. Dr. Zornberg is considered one of today’s most original and compelling interpreters of biblical and rabbinic traditions. **Cost is \$10 per person. Enter at 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street.**

*This program is made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor.*

### AND, DON'T MISS our new LATE SPRING SEMESTER!

**C**lasses run **May 8** through **June 14**. This shortened, five-session semester presents seven engaging courses on a variety of themes creatively inspired by the season of the year and presented by our celebrated faculty.

*To register, or for more information, log on to [www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org) or call (212) 507-9580.*

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*Assistant Rabbi*

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