

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 30

March 23, 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY:

VAN GOGH and EXPRESSIONISM

Thursday, March 29 1 p.m. & 2 p.m.

A final reminder for those attending the docent-led tour of this new exhibit at the Neue Galerie, 1048 Fifth Avenue. Cost is \$40 for Women's Auxiliary members (\$50 for nonmembers), which includes coffee/tea and dessert at Café Fledermaus after the tour. Attendees must arrive 15 minutes prior to their tour start time.

Absolutely no walk-ins allowed.

(212) 744-1400, ext. 235
womaux@emanuelnyc.org

MEN'S CLUB: BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, April 10 8:30 a.m.

We will discuss *Matters of Honor* by Louis Begley. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Thursday, May 31 5:30 p.m.

The annual meeting will be held in **Greenwald Hall**. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. Refreshments will be served afterwards. (212) 744-1400, ext. 215

SABBATH SERVICES

SHABBAT HAGADOL

The GREAT DAY of the LORD

Friday evening, March 30

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, March 31

Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Tzav

Readings—Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Malachi 3:4-24; 3:23

Sermon: Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

PASSOVER SERVICES

EVE of PASSOVER

Monday evening, April 2

Beth-El Chapel—5:30 p.m.

FIRST DAY of PASSOVER

Tuesday morning, April 3

Beth-El Chapel—10:30 a.m.

Readings—Exodus 12:21-51

Numbers 28:16-25

Joshua 3:5-7; 5:2-6:1, 6:27

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

SEDER BROADCASTS

WQXR Radio (96.3 FM)—

Monday, April 2 (7 p.m. – 8 p.m.)

EMANU-EL CYBER SEDER

(www.emanuelnyc.org)—

April 2, 12 p.m. — April 3, 12 p.m.

PULPIT FLOWERS

Pulpit flowers at Passover services are the generous donation of our congregants:

Dr. Barbara L. and Saundra M. Claster
in memory of *Della F. and Philip A. Leiner*
and *Miriam H. and Aaron H. Claster*,
loving parents and grandparents

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAIMONIDES:
The MAN and HIS WORKS**
Thursday, April 19 6:30 pm



In addition to writing our *Maimonides* text, **Dr. Sherwin B. Nuland** is the author of nine previous works. His books include *Lost in America: A Journey With My Father*, *How We Die: Reflections on Life's*

Final Chapter and *Doctors: The Biography of Medicine*. His writings have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Time* and *The American Scholar*. He is a clinical professor of surgery at Yale, where he also teaches bioethics and medical history.

**The CONGREGATION
STUDIES and DISCUSSES**

Wednesday, April 25 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss our program culmination, where we'll gather for small-group discussions and address our impressions of the text and various lectures. Light refreshments to be served.

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.

TZEDAKAH FOR PASSOVER

On Mitzvah Day 2006, Temple families were given "Tzedakah Banks" to encourage them to collect the loose change that accumulates so easily throughout the week. This project was developed to complement our "Emanu-El Reads" program, which focuses this year on the life and work of Moses Maimonides—physician, philosopher and one of the greatest commentators in Jewish tradition.

Among Maimonides' many notable concepts is that of the "Tzedakah Ladder," so named for encouraging multiple levels of being responsive to the needs of others—including such a simple gesture as collecting loose change.

To honor Maimonides as physician and philosopher, our collection will be used to purchase much needed medical equipment for Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel. Banks should be returned to the lobby of One East 65th Street between April 4 and April 15. (Religious School families may return banks to the lobby of 10 East 66th Street.) If you need an empty bank to start your collection, pick one up in the 65th Street lobby.



PRAYERS OF THE HAGGADAH

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

SOON, ON THE SAME NIGHT, we all will be looking into the same book of prayers, but we won't be at a prayer service. We will be at the Passover Seder. The Haggadah is the prayer book of service at the Seder table and one of the most important examples of the development of Jewish prayer.

From the familiar repeated blessing over the wine—*borei pri hagafen* (blessing “the creator of the fruit of the vine”)—to the well-known song *Mah nishtanah ha-lilah ha-zeh* (“Why is this night different from all other nights?”), the Haggadah was the subject of many debates from the early Rabbinic period (first century CE) through that of the Geonic period (eighth–11th centuries CE) and even until today. Scholars estimate the existence of more than 500 different published Haggadot, many of which include alternative versions of prayers and songs. Consequently, what is one of the most traditional and most observed rituals of the Jewish people also sets the context for the greatest experimentation.

While one might assume that the tendency to change prayers is a modern phenomenon, it should be noted that the sages of the Geonic period (the Geonim who were the singular, powerful legal decision makers of the age) debated changes in the prayers. Hai Gaon (998–1038 CE), for example, allowed for a practice by certain groups that changed the simple blessing over the wine to “who creates new wine which makes God and humanity happy.” Thus, a change to a blessing that alters its very structure is in some circumstances permissible, even by the strictest of legal thinkers. Today, changes to the prayers in some communities are significantly more far reaching.

While the main Reform Haggadah of North America abbreviates some passages, it retains the classical order, structure and form of all the blessings. Other Haggadot, however, replace the opening of the traditional blessing form (“Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe...”) with “Let us bless the source of all life...” or “Blessed is the Shekhinah...” (the feminine aspect of God).

In addition to these more universal and feminist liturgical possibilities, many contemporary Haggadot include and emphasize the story of the Hebrew midwives in Egypt who helped the Israelite women give birth. Some mention the role of Miriam in saving Moses, who would then help save the Israelite people from enslavement. Many people today, in addition to Elijah's cup, have a *Kos Miriam* (Miriam's cup) filled with water to symbolize the well of water that accompanied the Israelites through their desert journey while Miriam was alive.

As we prepare for Passover, we are not unlike the sages of old, making choices about what to include in our Haggadah, what prayers to add and in which rituals to engage. We, too, decide what is “in” and what is “out”—challenging ourselves and the communities gathered around our tables to determine the future of Passover prayers.

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, a founding faculty member of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, is a member of the faculty at the Shalom Hartman Institute and HUC-JIR in Jerusalem.

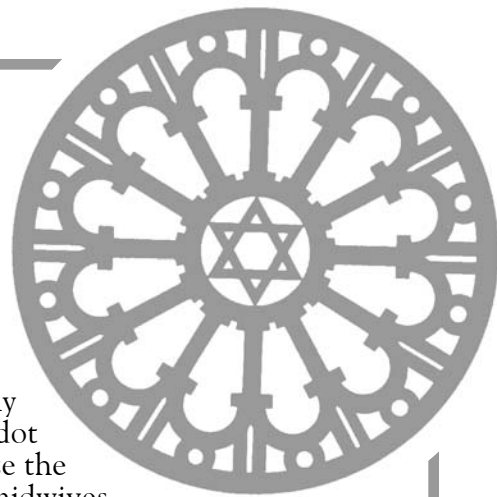
CONCLUSION OF PASSOVER SERVICES

SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 8
BETH-EL CHAPEL—5:30 P.M.

MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 9
BETH-EL CHAPEL—10:30 A.M.
READINGS—EXODUS 13:17-15:26
NUMBERS 28:19-25
II SAMUEL 22:1-51

SERMON: RABBI AMY B. EHRLICH
MEMORIAL SERVICE

**(NOTE: THE DAILY EVENING SERVICE
WILL NOT BE HELD ON APRIL 2, 3, 8 OR 9.)**



MUSIC AT EMANU-EL

YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT

Sunday, April 22

3 p.m.

Larry Weng, 19, will be the featured performer at our final piano recital for the year presented by the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation. Admission to Greenwald Hall



is free and open to the public. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

Born in Nanning, China, Larry immigrated to the United States at age 5 and began his piano studies at age 7. At the 2006 New York Piano Competition, he was awarded first prize in the ensemble category and second prize in the solo category.

For more information about this program, call Stecher & Horowitz at (212) 581-8380.

OPERA GALA 2007

Tuesday, April 24

6 p.m.

Temple Emanu-El, in conjunction with the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, is proud to present a wonderful evening of



music featuring six of the Metropolitan Opera's brightest stars performing in our newly restored Main Sanctuary. The program will include popular arias by Verdi, Puccini and Rossi.

Admission is free and open to the public. Temple members who wish to obtain tickets for priority seating should call (212) 744-1400, ext. 215.

Hearing Loop installed in Main Sanctuary; switch hearing aid to T-coil. Headsets or neck loops also are available for use in the Main Sanctuary and Greenwald Hall.



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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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Published weekly September 1 through
May 25 by Congregation Emanu-El of the
City of New York, formed by the
consolidation of Emanu-El Congregation
(founded 1845) and Temple Beth-El.

Postmaster, send address changes to:
Temple Emanu-El Bulletin, One East 65th Street
New York, NY 10021 (212) 744-1400
Periodicals Postage Paid at New York, NY
USPS 891-160.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW YORK, NY