



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 28

March 9, 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

“WHERE is our GOD?” The BIBLE’S RESPONSE

Tuesday, March 13 10:30 a.m.

The Women’s Auxiliary invites all Temple members to this special lecture by our Senior Rabbi Emeritus, Dr. Ronald B. Sobel. Light refreshments will be served.
(212) 744-1400, ext. 235

FAMILY SHABBAT: Worship & Dinner
Friday, March 16 6:15 p.m.

Families with children through early school age will celebrate at a **Young Families Tot Shabbat**. Those with children who can read will celebrate with our **Junior Congregation**. After, we’ll gather for dinner and an art project.
RSVP to ext. 242 for YF, ext. 501 for JC.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, March 16 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 17 Women’s Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Vayakhel-Pekudei
Readings—Exodus 35:1-40:38
Exodus 12:1-20; Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

FOR
PASSOVER

**YOUNG FAMILIES:
Music With Shira**
Sunday, March 18 10 a.m.

Kiddie rocker Shira Kline will teach us songs for Passover.
RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:
Model Seder**
Sunday, March 18 10:30 a.m.

All Religious School students and their extended families are invited to join us for a Passover Model Seder, which will include a performance by the Temple Emanu-El Junior Choir. There is no cost for this event. RSVP to the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226. Please include in your message the number of children and number of adults who will be attending. On the day of the event, enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.



**HOMEBOUND
PACKAGES &
HAGGADAH ART**
Sunday, March 18 12 p.m.

Lend a helping hand as Emanu-El brings Passover to elderly and homebound Jews in New York City. Volunteers are needed to fill bags with assorted Passover foods. Children also are needed to create and color the cover of a Haggadah to be included in the packages. Meet in Blumenthal Hall, 10 East 66th Street. Register by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 452.

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Dr. Sandra Gluck
in loving memory of her mother,
Harriet Prusock

Carol L. Klapper
in loving memory of her mother,
Frances Klapper

UPCOMING EVENTS

SANDWICHES on SUNDAY & COOKIES and MILK

Sunday, March 18 12 p.m.

Help feed the hungry by preparing sandwiches and baking cookies for distribution by City Harvest to community food programs throughout the five boroughs.

Participants are asked to bring two loaves of sliced bread and one pound of deli turkey.

NOTE: Peanut butter will not be used at this session. Volunteers should enter at 10 East 66th Street and meet in Blumenthal Hall. (212) 744-1400, ext 452 tetikunolam@yahoo.com



YOUNG FAMILIES: Storytime

Sunday, March 25 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday, March 28 12:30 p.m.

Temple librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read stories about Passover from our wonderful collection of children's books.

Storytime is for preschoolers from 2½ years, accompanied by a parent. Please note our new start time on Wednesdays! Parents and kids are invited to gather first for a brown-bag lunch (Bring your own!) in Room 403 (One East 65th Street) at noon. *RSVP for Storytime to (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.*

VAN GOGH and EXPRESSIONISM

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

The Women's Auxiliary is organizing two private, docent-led tours for Temple members to view the new exhibit "Van Gogh and Expressionism," opening in March at the Neue Galerie, 1048 Fifth Avenue. The exhibit explores the crucial influence of Vincent van Gogh on German and Austrian Expressionism and is to feature more than 80 major paintings from public and private collections, including works by Van Gogh, Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Max Beckmann. Tours will be given at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; *attendees must arrive 15 minutes prior to their start time.* The cost for this event is \$40 for Women's Auxiliary members, \$50 for nonmembers—which includes coffee/tea and dessert at Café Fledermaus in the museum, after each tour. (Make checks payable to the Women's Auxiliary.) Reservations **must** be received by Thursday, March 22. *Absolutely no walk-ins will be allowed.* When making your reservation, please indicate your tour preference (1 p.m. or 2 p.m.); openings are available on a first-come, first-served basis. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 womaux@emanuelnyc.org



Self-Portrait, 1889 • Oil on canvas

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.

EXAMINING MAIMONIDES: UNDERSTANDING JEWISH PHILOSOPHY



As part of our Emanu-El Reads! program focusing on the life and labors of Moses Maimonides, Rabbi David M. Posner delivered an opening lecture concentrating on the Aristotelian background of Maimonides' time and what was the essential "Maimonidean" problem. Following is our third excerpt from his lecture.

PUTTING ASIDE Maimonides' reference in *The Guide of the Perplexed* to a legend ascribing the study of science and the truths of metaphysics originally to the Jews, we may ask justifiably just how did our people really fall heir to the philosophical tradition of the Greeks? To begin with, we must mark the year 529 C.E. very carefully. This was the year in which the Greek schools of philosophy in Athens were closed on the order of the Emperor Justinian—an event akin to the Ivy League closing all at once.

But all was not lost because of this, as there were other schools already established further east. Even centuries before 529 C.E., Alexandria and Egypt and Anti-

och (in Syria) were major centers of Greek culture...and even more. With the rise and spread of Christianity, the Christians in Syria had to study Greek in order to understand the Bible in the Greek Septuagint translation. And once the Syrian Christians learned Greek, they became attracted to the liberal arts and to the sciences—that is, Aristotle and the Greeks.

Schools eventually were established in the ecclesiastical centers—schools in which philosophy, mathematics and medicine were studied. Consequently, these branches of knowledge and their texts in Greek were all translated into Syriac—a dialect of eastern Aramaic—for the benefit of those who did not know Greek.

How sad it is that we now are focusing upon a geography that, in our time, has become such a center and source for the most challenging current events of our time. But 2,000 years ago, this was a territory that proved fertile ground for Greek culture and Greek education. The oldest of the schools was founded in Edessa in 363 C.E. It was closed in 489 C.E., and the teachers migrated east, where two other schools became famous—one at Nisibis and the other at Gandisapora. A third school that became famous as a seat of Greek learning was established in the seventh century at Kinneret, on the left bank of the Euphrates River.

As Jews, it is important for us to keep in mind that these schools all were contemporaneous with our own great talmudic academies during the same period—in Sura, Pumbedita and Nahardea—all in the same Syro-Babylonian region. May our sages, of blessed memory, all rest in peace.

UPCOMING LECTURES

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 13 & 20
6:30 PM**

The Three Books of Moses: Maimonides' Attempts to Revolutionize Judaism — Commentary on the Mishnah, Mishneh Torah and The Guide of the Perplexed



RABBI DAVID GREENSTEIN is rabbinic dean of the Academy for Jewish Religion, where he teaches rabbinics, kabbalah and Jewish thought.

(NOTE: These lectures are the second and third parts of a three-part series.)

AROUND THE TEMPLE

It is a prized Temple tradition that, for more than 60 years, the Readers Panel—a group of 30 to 35 dedicated men and women operating under the auspices of the Men's Club—has led Temple Emanu-El's

Daily Evening Service at 5:30 p.m., every Sunday through Thursday. Currently, Readers Panel

Chairman Carl Bornstein is seeking several volunteers to join the group of committed readers who make this service possible.



Members of the Readers Panel celebrate at a dinner in honor of their 60th anniversary.

All congregants are invited to become members of the Readers Panel. Persons who are interested should call the Temple office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 215. Assistance from the Rabbis is available by request for

those who may need to brush up on their Hebrew.

The Daily Evening Service is

open to the public. Attendees should enter at the Marvin and Elizabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

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