

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 80, Number 17

December 21, 2007

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday evening, December 28 Temple 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, December 29 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 A.M.

Temple Sanctuary

Service—10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion—*Sh'mot*

Readings—Exodus 1:1-6:1

Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Sermon: **Rabbi David M. Posner**

SHABBAT SHALOM

Friday, January 11 — 6:30 P.M.

TOT SHABBAT

Friday, January 25 — 6:15 P.M.

SHABBAT KODESH

Friday, January 25 — 6:30 P.M.

Sabbath and holiday services are available for downloading from the Temple Web site (www.emanuelnyc.org) generally within one hour of the conclusion of the live service and for up to one week.

And...Read our weekly Torah Commentary available online. Click "Learning: Adult Education."



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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

**GUIDED TOUR:
Morgan Library
& Museum**
Tuesday, January 8
12:30 P.M.



Photo by John Calabrese

The Women's Auxiliary of Congregation Emanu-El cordially invites its members to a docent-led tour of current exhibitions on display at the **Morgan Library & Museum**, as well as a tour of the newly renovated facility. Afterwards, we will gather for tea. Cost is \$50 per person, and capacity is limited to 30 people per tour. Checks, made payable to the Women's Auxiliary, must be received by January 3. On the day of the event, we will meet at the museum (225 Madison Ave. at 36th Street). Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 or send an e-mail to womaux@emanuelnyc.org.

A full event description can be viewed on the Temple Web site by clicking "Calendar." Note: Temple members must log in to see all events listed.

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen
in loving memory of
my dearest husband and best friend,
Herbert George Cohen, M.D.
December 31, 2004

Mary Louise Fleur
in loving memory of her mother,
Mary Cisterna Schwartz

Dr. Gerald Leinwand
in loving memory of *Selma Leinwand*

TO BE NOTED

Houses of Life

JEWISH CEMETERIES OF EUROPE

**On view now at the Bernard Museum
Sunday — Thursday, 10 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
(212) 744-1400, ext. 259**

If you are planning to be in Florida in mid-January and would like to join us for our next Emanu-El Sabbath Dinner in Palm Beach, please call Director of Development Robyn Cimbol at (212) 744-1400, ext. 324. Invitations will be sent automatically to attendees of our previous dinners. We look forward to hearing from you and to sharing a special evening.

Attention Temple members...65 and 75 are the new 21! If your zip code has changed, we have attempted to rectify it in our records. If your address is not correct on communications you receive from us or if you are not receiving your Temple mailings, please let us know. Circle any wrong information and send it back to the Temple office. Please make sure that we have your apartment number (if applicable) on file. We appreciate your assistance.

ADULT
EDUCATION

Temple Emanu-El's adult education classes are free to Temple members. No registration required; attend whenever it is convenient for you. Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 214.

THE LIFE OF DAVID

Lecturer:
Rabbi Amy Ehrlich



Wednesdays,
January 16, 23, 30
12:30 P.M.
Leventritt Room
(One East 65th St.)

Come and share your insights into the many and complicated facets of our beloved David: the man, the poet, the warrior, the lover, the king and the politician. Discussions will be based on a reading of Robert Pinsky's biography about David as well as biblical text.

For more information about adult education offerings at Emanu-El, explore the "Learning" section of the Temple Web site (www.emanuelnyc.org/ed.php). Click "Adult Education" to find the 2007-2008 course brochure. You also can view programs in our Library-Museum Lecture Series, an upcoming panel discussion and Emanu-El Reads lectures.

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.

FOLKWAYS, LEGEND, LORE: CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE

By Rabbi David M. Posner

THE ARAMAIC TERM “bar mitzvah” is used in the Talmud with reference to any adult Jew who is obligated to observe the positive Jewish commandments. This obligation, according to the Talmud, commences at age 13. Once a boy reaches the age of 13, he becomes (as defined by Jewish law) a bar mitzvah, and he remains so for the rest of his life.

Unfortunately, an uncritical assimilationist tendency in this country has transformed the meaning of bar mitzvah from that of a legal term to the position of a religious sacrament, as one might find in other faith communities. Under this newer and fundamentally erroneous concept, a 13-year-old no longer becomes a bar mitzvah automatically. He is, rather, “bar mitzvahed” or “has a bar mitzvah,” and the fear is that without such a ceremony, a Jew loses his status as a member of the community. But, if we realize that according to Jewish law a Jewish male automatically becomes a bar mitzvah — a commandment-obligated Jew — at age 13, then these corruptions will cease to distort our Jewish lives.

The custom of calling a bar mitzvah to the Torah for the first time began in Europe, perhaps in the late 16th century. Its purpose was to be a public manifestation that the youngster had just become a bar mitzvah. But, in no way does this ceremony affect the religious status of the youngster, who becomes a bar mitzvah whether the ceremony takes place or not.

As in most other congregations, the ceremony of calling a bar mitzvah to the Torah was part of our congregation’s ritual when it was founded. It continued to play a part in the life of the Temple until the early 1870s, when the practice was discontinued, a consequence of the fact

that our members at that time ceased requesting the ceremony.

The recognition of a young girl as a bat mitzvah occurred for the first time in 1922, here in the United States. Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist Movement in Judaism, was called to the Torah in her father’s synagogue. This custom has spread to all branches of Judaism, with the exception of ultra-orthodoxy.

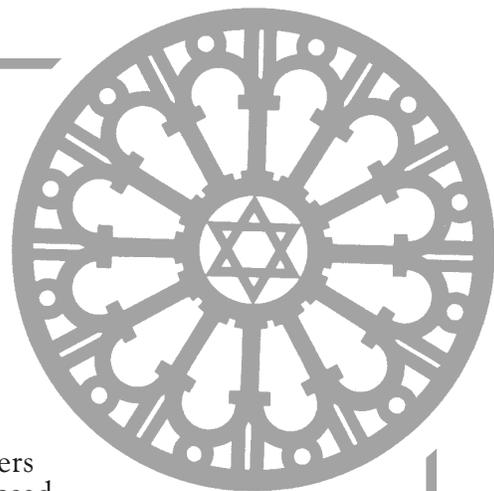
BAR/BAT MITZVAH INFORMATION MEETING FOR FAMILIES OF SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 6 P.M.
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISMISSAL)
GREENWALD HALL, ONE EAST 65TH

Topics of discussion will include:

- Your child’s upcoming bar or bat mitzvah worship service
- Liturgy, participation, practices
- Arranging tutoring
- Online learning programs
- Rehearsals and practice time with the rabbis and cantor
- Mitzvah projects
- Friday evening *Oneg Shabbat*
- Choice of sanctuaries
- Flowers, photos, transportation
- Catering and private receptions at the Temple
- Q&A (a chance to discuss concerns)

Please confirm that you and your child will be attending by calling Rabbi Ehrlich’s study at (212) 744-1400, ext. 206.



AROUND THE TEMPLE

MEN'S CLUB BRUNCH & LECTURE:
Calling Things by Their Real Name
and Fighting to Win (With Edward Turzanski)
Sunday, January 6 10 A.M.



Edward A. Turzanski is a senior fellow with the Center for Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. He also serves as a national security analyst at La Salle University (Philadelphia), where he teaches in the department of political science. Prior to his university appointment, Mr. Turzanski served with the U.S. government in the field of intelligence throughout the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. He is a life member of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. Mr. Turzanski received bachelor's degrees in Russian and political science from La Salle University and a master's degree in political science from Villanova University. He also has completed courses of study with the U.S. Army War College and the Joint Military Intelligence College.

The cost for this event is \$30 for Men's Club members (\$40 for nonmembers), which includes brunch. Make checks payable to the Men's Club. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 250 or send an e-mail to mensclub@emanuelnyc.org.

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