

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 7

October 21, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

A final reminder for these programs:

- Sunday, October 23 @ 10 a.m. — Men's Club breakfast with Dan Burstein
- Thursday, October 27 @ 11 a.m. — Women's Auxiliary brunch with Carolyn Kunin

SHEMINI ATZERES

Monday evening, October 24
Main Sanctuary—5:30 p.m.

Tuesday morning, October 25
Main Sanctuary—10:30 a.m.
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner
Memorial Service

*Many thanks to the Women's Auxiliary
for their gift of our beautiful succah.*

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, October 28
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.

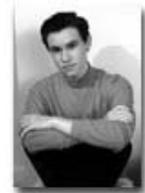
Saturday morning, October 29
Women's Auxiliary Lounge
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Bereshis
Readings—Genesis 1:1-6:8
Isaiah 42:5-43:11
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

YOUNG
ARTISTS

All are welcome to attend this special series of performances by winners of The Second New York Piano Competition, founded and presented by The Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. Mark your calendars for the following dates:



Sunday, November 6
3 p.m.
Natalia Kazaryan



Sunday, February 12, 2006
3 p.m.
Matthew Graybil



Sunday, April 30, 2006
3 p.m.
Brandon Lee

Concerts will be held in Greenwald Hall and are free and open to the public. Please enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. For additional information, call (212) 581-8380.

The New York Piano Competition is open to 22 young pianists, ages 14-18, from across the country. Each artist competes for cash prizes and concert appearances. All return home as winners, either as prize- or scholarship-award recipients.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 30

11:30 a.m.
Bowling for Relief

Senior Youth Group members are invited to participate in a bowl-a-thon raising money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Buses to Chelsea Piers will depart from One East 65th Street and return at 3 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring money for food. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 244.

Tuesday, November 1

1 p.m.
Metropolitan Opera Tour

Members of the Women's Auxiliary are invited to this unique New York experience! We'll meet first for lunch at Café des Artistes (One West 67th Street, off Central Park West), followed by a backstage tour of the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center (including production areas not usually seen by the general public). The cost is \$65 per person. Space is limited, so respond soon. Checks—made payable to Women's Auxiliary of Congregation Emanu-El—must be received by Friday, October 28. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 with questions.

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

In loving memory of
Saul Bernstein

Ann and Robert Freedman
in loving memory of *Hilda Fertig*

Honey Gold in memory of
my beloved husband, *Abe Gold*

Eleanor Ressler in memory of
her beloved husband, *Dr. Charles Ressler*

Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel
1076 Madison Avenue (212) 753-5300
Our service is available in the Temple, home, or our Chapel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR SENIOR RABBI EMERITUS!

All of us in the congregation join together in joyful celebration of the 70th birthday of our Senior Rabbi Emeritus, Dr. Ronald B. Sobel. The date was October 18. Along with our Mazal Tov wishes go our prayers that God continue to bless him, Joanne and their family with long life, good health and much fulfillment.

Saturday, November 5

7 p.m.
Club 56: Night at the Improv

Fifth and sixth grade Youth Group members are invited to an evening of fun and laughs at National Comedy Theatre New York (located at 347 West 36th Street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues). For details, contact Youth Group Advisor Lori Jacobson at Templeclub5678@yahoo.com or call (516) 965-4736.

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Douglas Franklyn Gleicher,
son of
Lisa Sharkey and Paul S. Gleicher

Rebecca Johnson Rubenstein,
daughter of
Joshua S. Rubenstein and Marta Johnson

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

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.

KEDOSHIM TEHIYU — BE HOLY

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

ON YOM KIPPUR, in the afternoon, when we have reached the height of our spiritual purification—and the depths of exhaustion—we read from the Torah about holiness. It is one of the most important foundational texts of Judaism.

The passage in Leviticus is known as the “holiness code” because it contains lists of the various moral, ethical and ritual principles by which we should live and through which we are for God what we are meant to be—a “holy people.” Interestingly, it is what God tells Moses to tell the Israelite people about how to behave now that they are no longer slaves.

God, according to the ancient text, needs to clarify and affirm a new relationship, as well as develop standards of behavior for a recently redeemed people. Many of the laws emphasize how differently from the Egyptians the Israelites must behave: We must be monotheistic and loyal to the God who took us out of Egypt, and we must follow a completely different set of rules about who we are permitted to be intimate with, when and how. Engaging in abhorrent things can warrant exile from the land. With freedom comes moral responsibility.

Yet, in the midst of the ongoing set of instructions, more clarification exists of what it can mean to be free and in relationship with the God who set us free: It means we can be holy. For example, in Leviticus 19:2, “God spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to the whole Israelite community and say to them: You shall be holy for I, Adonai, your God, am holy.’” We have to strive for more than the lowest human conduct because of our rela-

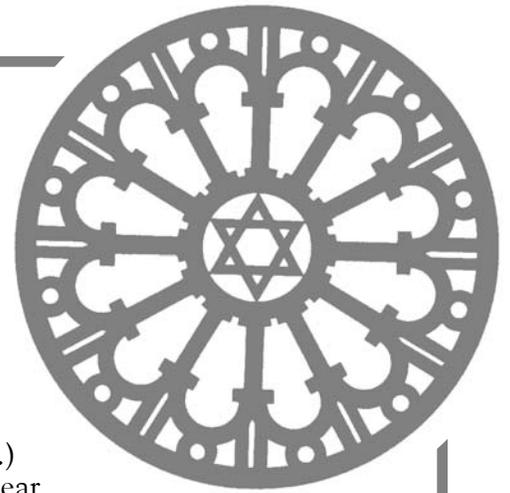
tionship with God. (It’s a kind of sacred co-dependence.) And yet, it is clear that being holy is what a person who is free is capable of becoming.

Being holy, according to the text, means honoring one’s mother and father and observing the Sabbath. It means maintaining a constant stance of gratitude for what we have and sustaining a constant sense of responsibility for those who are in need. According to Leviticus 19:10, “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest...You shall leave them for the poor and the stranger....”

Being holy, now that Yom Kippur has passed, is not about prayer or about confession. It’s not about fasting or repentance.

Being holy means living in a conscious, grateful relationship with the God that heard us when we were in the darkest, most narrow place of enslavement and helped us get out. Being holy is about ensuring freedom for others, protecting the vulnerable and taking care of the needy. Being holy is about being ethically aware and responsive...accountable to all, deaf to none.

GOD SPOKE TO MOSES
SAYING, “SPEAK TO THE
WHOLE ISRAELITE
COMMUNITY AND SAY TO
THEM: YOU SHALL BE
HOLY FOR I, ADONAI,
YOUR GOD, AM HOLY.”
— LEVITICUS 19:2



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.

AROUND THE TEMPLE

ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH

Taught by our rabbis and our cantor, this year-long study program meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. from **November 2** through **May 31, 2006**. Learn the basic aspects of our tradition, such as the tenets of Reform Judaism, liturgy and prayer, life-cycle events, and the meaning and rituals of the Sabbath and holidays. Study the essential texts of our faith. Our course also includes intensive Hebrew instruction for beginners who have no prior Hebrew knowledge. This year's study will conclude with the sacred ritual of becoming a Bar or Bas Mitzvah at a recognition ceremony held during Shavuot services on June 1, 2006.

Don't delay...enrollment is limited. For more information, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 210.

DOTING DADS

Young Families of Emanu-El  is seeking to form a group of fathers who would like to plan after-dinner children's activities at our Tot Shabbats, as well as to coordinate other events for dads and kids. *Interested members should call Richard Plehn at (212) 716-3802.*

MITZVAH DAY

Congregation Emanu-El is gearing up for its first-ever Mitzvah Day at which adults and children can participate in their choice of nearly 30 activities to benefit the greater New York community. Mitzvah Day will be held **Sunday, November 13**. Watch your mail for a full registration booklet. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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Assistant Rabbi
Lori Corrsin
Cantor

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Published weekly September 9 through June 9 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