

Photo by Renée Del Percio, Rspine Inc.



Architecture and history

**Monday, December 22 • 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM OR
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM • One East 65th Street**

EXPERIENCE A BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR and discussion of the salient features of our Sanctuary and Beth-El Chapel with someone who knows the Temple inside and out! Temple Administrator **Mark Heutlinger** leads this unique opportunity to understand the architectural symbolism, the aesthetic beauty and the historical context of our Fifth Avenue landmark.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Chanukah University & Family Program

**Sunday, December 14
9:30 AM – 12 PM • 10 East 66th**

Religious School families are invited to participate in a day of Chanukah learning and fun. While students are in class, the Religious School will offer a series of adult-education programs for parents. Courses will feature serious study about the history and meaning of the holiday, as well as creative ideas (including a latke-making lesson!) to help your family make the most of the Chanukah experience.

At 11:30 AM, we will gather for a schoolwide family celebration of the upcoming “holiday of light.” (212) 744-1400, ext. 226

For more information about all Emanu-El events, log on to www.emanuelnyc.org. Click “Calendar.”

Stitch’n Time

**Sunday, December 14
11 AM – 2 PM • One East 65th**

Participants must bring their own needles (#8). Yarn and patterns will be provided. We also have a professional knitting instructor to assist us. Light refreshments will be served. People of all ages are welcome to attend. (212) 744-1400, ext. 452

Chinese Art Tour & Reception

**Tuesday, December 16 • 3 PM
724 Fifth Ave., 10th Floor
(between 56th and 57th)**

The Women’s Auxiliary sponsors this outing to the **Ralph M. Chait Galleries** for a private tour of ancient Chinese art. A reception hosted by Allan and Jocelyn Chait will follow the tour. Cost is \$60 for Women’s Auxiliary members, \$70 for nonmembers. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

**DAILY SUNSET SERVICE
SUNDAY – THURSDAY
5:30 PM • One E. 65th St.**

**SABBATH WORSHIP
FRIDAY EVENING
Sanctuary (Fifth Avenue
at 65th Street)**

Organ Recital—5 PM
Service Begins—5:15 PM
WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) and
Internet (www.wqxr.com)
broadcasts—5:30 PM

**SATURDAY MORNING
Sixth Floor Lounge
Torah Study—9:15 AM
Sanctuary (Fifth at 65th)**

Organ Recital—10:15 AM
Service Begins—10:30 AM

**Services also may be heard
at www.emanuelnyc.org.**



Hearing loop in Sanctuary and Beth-El Chapel; switch aid to T-coil. Headsets or neck loops also available.

WEEKLY PARASHAH

Saturday, December 20

Torah Portion—*Vayeishev*
Readings—Genesis 37:1-40:
23; Amos 2:6-3:8

Sermon: Rabbi Posner

Saturday, December 27

Torah Portion—*Mikeitz*
Readings—Genesis 41:1-
44:7; Numbers 7:30-41;
Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Sermon: Rabbi Ehrlich

TORAH COMMENTARY

View our weekly Torah commentary on the Emanu-El Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org. Follow the link from the Home Page. Previous commentaries can be viewed through the archive.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP

Shabbat Shalom

**Friday, December 19
6:30 PM • One East 65th**

This month's service will honor members of the Men's Club.

Congregational Chanukah Service

**Friday, December 26
5:15 PM • Sanctuary
(Fifth Ave. at 65th St.)**

Candles will be lit for the sixth night of Chanukah. A festive *Oneg Shabbat* will follow.

Chanukah begins:

Sunday, December 21
(first candle is lit)

Last Night of Chanukah:

Sunday, December 28
(eighth candle is lit)



Sundays at Skirball...

SUNDAY SEMINARS sponsored by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El are open to the public. Sessions are held in the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House (One East 65th Street). Cost is \$60 per person. Coffee and bagels are served. For more information, call Skirball at (212) 507-9580.

"What's Wrong With Our Children?"

Parents and Children in Jewish Short Stories

Sunday, December 14 • 10 AM – 2 PM • Lecturer: Anne Roiphe

Private problems and cultural skirmishes often are reflected in the Jewish short stories that reflect our experience in America. Whether the stories are old or new, there always seems to be something wrong with the children. What do our writers tell us about the generational ache? Author **Anne Roiphe** will lead our discussion, featuring works by Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, Isaac B. Singer, Grace Paley, Cynthia Ozick and others.



ANNE ROIPHE is the author of 14 books of fiction and nonfiction, including *Lovingkindness* and *1185 Park Ave*. Her latest book is *Epilogue: A Memoir*. Ms. Roiphe also is a journalist and contributing editor to the *Jerusalem Report*.



Winter semester classes at the Skirball Center begin January 26, 2009. New course catalogs are being sent in the mail, but online registration is available now. Log on to the Skirball Web site at www.adultjewishlearning.org. To ensure you receive a catalog, call (212) 507-9580. Early registration deadline is January 5, 2009. Temple Emanu-El congregants receive 25 percent off each class.

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.

PULPIT FLOWERS at Sabbath services have been donated generously by our congregants:

For the Sabbath of December 19 and 20

Sally F. Broido in memory of her beloved sister
Ellin F. Ente

Louis, Tony and Alexa Gardner in loving memory of wife and mother
Madeline Capp Gardner, December 13, 2002

Mrs. A. Coleman Poll in loving memory of her parents, *Mildred and Jacques G. Coleman*, and her grandmother *Sophie Brock*

Denny and Alex Rein and Nicki Rein Shalette in loving memory of *Mark Alan Rein*

Barbara Slifka in loving memory of her mother,
Sylvia Slifka

For the Sabbath of December 26 and 27

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 sponsor pulpit flowers or an *Oneg Shabbat*, call Sherry Nehmer at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312.



An invitation for Temple members...

Rabbi and Mrs. David M. Posner

cordially invite you to join them

for

Shabbos Dinner

at

*The Colony Hotel
155 Hammon Avenue
Palm Beach, Florida*

*Friday Evening
January 16, 2009*

*Couvert: \$75 per person
RSVP to Robyn Cimbol required*

Our Palm Beach Shabbos Dinner has become a lovely tradition for Temple members and their families. If you are planning to be in Florida in mid-January and would like to join us, please contact Robyn Cimbol at (212) 744-1400, ext. 324 or robyncimbol@emanuelnyc.org for more information. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you.

BROADCAST OF SERVICES

Worship services can be downloaded from the Emanu-El Web site or listened to through the Emanu-El Audio Player. Click "Worship" → "Broadcast of Services."

WEEKLY MUSIC

Music programs for Sabbath and holiday services, complete with song titles and composer names, are posted on the Emanu-El Web site. Click "Worship" → "Music at Emanu-El."

EMANU-EL eNEWS

Keep up-to-date on all of your Temple news. Sign up for our new electronic newsletter, which gets delivered directly to your e-mail in-box every Friday. Click "About Us" → "Publications" → "Electronic Mailing Lists."

Individuals who wish to stop receiving the print version of the Bulletin should send an e-mail to bulletin@emanuelnyc.org.

EMANU-EL READS

This year's "Emanu-El Reads" program will be devoted to exploring a contemporary novel over the course of one month. Our selected work is *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss, who has been called one of the "wunderkind" generation of Jewish authors. During the month of our community reading, we will offer four opportunities (facilitated by Temple Librarian Elizabeth Stabler) at which you can meet with your fellow congregants to share your thoughts about the novel's themes.

Christmas irony (continued)

In his lyrics we read:

*I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten
And children listen
to hear sleigh bells in the snow.*

*I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
with every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
and may all your Christmases
be white.*

Berlin has created an image of Christmas devoid of religious content, one that is absent any mention of Jesus, Mary or a singing angelic host. Moreover, substitute "Christmas" with "Chanukah," and while, admittedly, the metaphor doesn't immediately ring true, neither is it illogical. Berlin's impressionistic imagery replaces religiosity with meteorology, Fra Angelico with Currier and Ives. With the introjection of Happy Chanukah cards into the mix, the substitution becomes even more plausible.

Berlin did not stop with Christmas. In "Easter Parade," another of his enormously popular works that celebrates the other major Christian holiday, Berlin demonstrates a similarly ideological sleight of hand. Only now, he imagines a celebration of Easter without Jesus. If we strike the same editorial pose and

substitute "Pesach" for "Easter," we have a potentially Jewish song:

*For in your Easter bonnet,
with all the frills upon it
You'll be the grandest lady
in the Easter parade.*

*I'll be all in clover and when
they look you over
I'll be the proudest fellow
in the Easter parade.*

*On the Avenue
Fifth Avenue
The photographers will snap us
And you'll find that you're
In the rotogravure.*

While Berlin's rapid Americanization increasingly estranged him from his religious roots, he obviously was unwilling to abandon his Jewish identity completely. Living uptown among the glitterati of Fifth Avenue and sending his children to a posh Episcopalian academy, Berlin used his lyrics to portray his vision of an America where he imagined Christian holidays without Christ and still could refer to himself as "Izzy."

His body of work reflects a man at home in his new land. But, it is reflected most characteristically in the opening bars of his most celebrated paean to this new world: "God bless America."



LISA KOGEN is an occasional faculty member of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. She is a doctoral candidate in Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has lectured extensively in both formal and informal educational venues. She also serves as the national education director at the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, which recently published her book *With Strength and Splendor: Jewish Women as Agents of Change*.

Essay text courtesy of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El.



The ultimate Christmas irony...

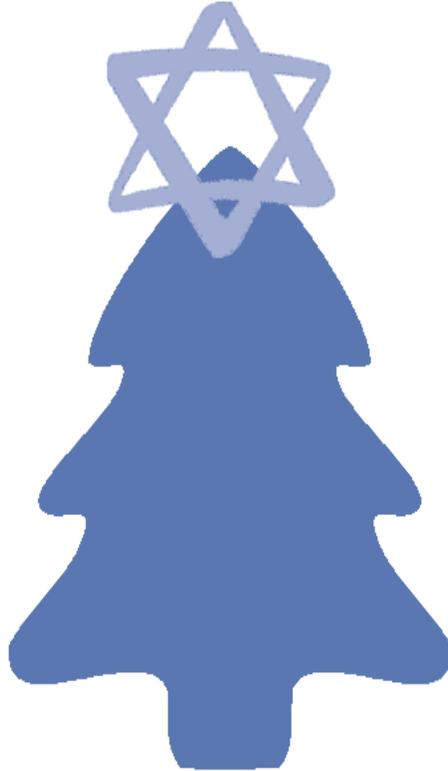
By Lisa Kogen

THIS IS THE TIME of year when American Jews feel the most culturally disenfranchised, whether in department stores or while “on hold” on the telephone. Yuletide songs penetrate our ethnic consciousness. As certain as death and taxes, Christmas and all of its visual and aural trappings are an inescapable part of the contemporary cultural terrain.

Much of present-day Christmas music harks back to the Europe of an earlier, less secular age when songs, more widely known as “carols,” contained unabashedly religious themes and images. They include such imagery as “herald angels singing” and beatific nativity scenes, all created to fortify and inspire the believer.

This being said, it remains a fact of indisputable irony that the most popular and widely known Christmas song ever written was by a Russian-born Jewish immigrant: Israel Baline, otherwise known as Irving Berlin. “White Christmas” is not only the most popular song of the musical genre, but it has sold more sheet music than any other American work and boasts more than 300 versions, including one in Yiddish by Mandy Patinkin.

Israel Baline’s family immigrated to the United States from Russia in 1893 when Israel was just 5 years old. They settled on the Lower East Side of New York, where his father, Moses, served as a cantor. Young Izzy’s main exposure to music during his early years was through that of the synagogue. This changed, however, following his father’s death when Izzy was 8 years old. As was typical of immigrant children, Izzy helped support the family, first by selling newspapers and later by working as a singing waiter. Soon



accustomed to this new life of the streets, he was drawn to its eclectic musical forms—from Tin Pan Alley to Harlem—including honky-tonk, ragtime, jazz and blues.

As deeply committed as he was to New York’s musical vibrancy, Berlin was enamored equally of his status as citizen and American. America was a land of the every-man; Berlin expressed these emotions and desires in popular song.

Berlin’s “White Christmas” was introduced by Bing Crosby in the 1942 film “Holiday Inn.” Berlin wrote it, ironically, when he was sitting beside a pool in the hot Arizona sun. It subsequently received an Oscar for Best Original Song. Even more compelling, however, than the song’s history is its ideological subtext: Berlin’s Christmas is desecralized.

(continued inside)



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Amy B. Ehrlich

Associate Rabbi

Howard J. Goldsmith

Assistant Rabbi

Lori A. Corrsin

Cantor

Dr. Ronald B. Sobel

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First-ever High Holy Day e-Card contest!

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, Jewish people have been wishing each other *Lshannah Tovah*, a “Happy New Year,” for Rosh Hashanah by sending each other greeting cards. As the Internet becomes one of the most popular ways to communicate, it has become increasingly common to send holiday wishes with electronic “e-Cards.” Temple Emanu-El students now have the chance to design their own High Holy Day cards through our first-ever High Holy Day e-Card contest. Winning designs will be turned into e-Cards and uploaded to the Temple Emanu-El Web site so that our community then can send them to their loved ones when the Jewish New Year comes in 2009. **The deadline for entries is January 30, 2009.** View the full contest rules on the Emanu-El Web site. Click “Learning” → “Youth & Young Adults” → “Family Holiday Activities.”

לשנה טובה רנכתבו
A happy New Year



Be inspired! View a variety of New Year's cards on display at the Bernard Museum as part of the current exhibit, *Past Perfect: The Jewish Experience in Early 20th Century Postcards.*

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OPERA NIGHT, sponsored with the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, has been changed from **March 18, 2009,** to **April 22, 2009.** The program start time remains at **6 PM.**



**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW YORK, NY**