

# Temple Emanu-El Bulletin



## Important Reminder: PASSOVER DELIVERY & SECOND SEDER

Delivery of Passover meals to homebound seniors will be held on **Sunday, March 21**. Volunteers are needed to pack as well as deliver bags. Our annual community seder for seniors will be held **Tuesday, March 30**. Look for volunteer forms in the mail and in next month's Bulletin.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**SUNDAY — THURSDAY**  
5:30 PM • Marvin & Elisabeth  
Cassell Community House  
(One East 65th Street)

## FRIDAY EVENING

**Sanctuary (Fifth Avenue at  
65th Street)**

Organ Recital—5 PM  
Service Begins—5:15 PM

## SATURDAY MORNING

**Sixth Floor Lounge**  
(One East 65th Street)

Torah Study—9:15 AM  
**Sanctuary (Fifth Ave. at 65th)**  
Organ Recital—10:15 AM  
Service Begins—10:30 AM

Services may be heard  
through the Temple Web site  
at [www.emanuelnyc.org](http://www.emanuelnyc.org).

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



## Reform Judaism: What, Where and Why?

By Rabbi David M. Posner

**M**ORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, Dr. Michael Meyer—a professor of Jewish history at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati—wrote what should be considered the definitive history of



the Reform Movement in Judaism, *Response to Modernity*. The title itself is very illuminating. Dr. Meyer's essential thesis is that Judaism and the Jewish people always have managed to respond to the forces of modernity.

Sociologically speaking, there were times when modernity—the social status quo—was something terrifying by what we *hope* are today's normative standards. The Jews of antiquity lived surrounded by people for whom the practice of human sacrifice was not uncommon, where slavery was brutal and the treatment of women was appalling by today's standards.

On an intellectual level, great changes were starting to be made by the discoveries of Aristotle, Galileo and Newton and the theoretical investigations of Descartes, Kant, Hegel and all of the schools of speculative philosophy. Ancient texts, in modern universities, were becoming the subject of critical analysis. A true cultural clash had begun between the age of faith and the age of

reason. For Judaism, the interplay of these forces was nothing new. For our ancients, polytheism no longer made sense. On the other hand, monotheism did.

But other revolutions were taking place as well. One of them was a mercantile revolution: the development of Capitalism. Another was political: the destruction and disappearance of the ancient regimes. By the end of the 18th century, the Jews of Europe started to find themselves caught in the middle of all these revolutionary upheavals. For some, the conclusion was to fight ever more deeply to retain the status quo. As Rabbi Moses Schreiber (the *Chatam Sofer*) said, "Innovation is forbidden by the Torah." For others,

*continued on page 9*

## WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

### **Parashat Yitro**

(Exodus 18:1-20:23)

*Read Saturday, February 6*

**Synopsis:** Jethro advises Moses to delegate responsibility; Israelites reach Mount Sinai; Israelites purify themselves in preparation for the Ten Commandments; God gives the Ten Commandments.

**Sermon: Rabbi Goldsmith**

### **Parashat Mishpatim**

(Exodus 21:1-24:18)

*Read Saturday, February 13*

**Synopsis:** Laws concerning slaves, violence, property, restitution, society, religion, universal justice, sabbatical years, Sabbath and annual festivals; God promises military victory; Israelites promise to follow covenant; sealing of covenant with sacrifice; Moses ascends Mount Sinai to get the tablets of the law.

**Sermon: Rabbi Posner**

### **Parashat T'rumah**

(Exodus 25:1-27:19)

*Read Saturday, February 20*

**Synopsis:** Israelites bring gifts to build the Tabernacle; God gives directions for building the Ark, table, lamp-stand, the Tabernacle itself, framework, curtain, altar for burnt offerings.

**Sermon: Rabbi Ehrlich**

### **Parashat T'zaveh**

(Exodus 27:20-30:10)

*Read Saturday, February 27*

**Synopsis:** Laws of the eternal light; how to make the priestly vestments, breastplate and ephod; how to ordain the priests; how to make the daily sacrificial offerings; how to build and use the altar of incense.

**Sermon: Rabbi Goldsmith**

## Worship & Spirituality



### SPECIAL EVENTS

## Torah Study Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, February 5 • 6:30 PM • One East 65th Street**

TEMPLE MEMBERS are invited to a special session of our weekly Torah Study group. Join us for Friday evening services at 5:15 PM in the Sanctuary, followed by a pot-luck dinner and lively discussion (subject: the Ten Commandments) led by **Rabbinic Student Ariana Silverman**. Dinner will be held in the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House. Attendees may leave their covered dishes, desserts, wine or other dinner items in the sixth-floor kitchen before services.

Please let us know by Monday, February 1 if you can attend and what you would like to bring. RSVP to [torahstudy@emanuelnyc.org](mailto:torahstudy@emanuelnyc.org), or call (212) 744-1400, ext. 453 and leave a message. When sending an e-mail, include "RSVP Shabbat Torah Study Dinner" in the subject line.

**Note:** The Torah Study Dinner replaces our regular morning study session on Saturday, February 6. In addition to leading the Friday night session, Ariana will lead our discussion again on Saturday, February 20.

### **Shabbat Kodesh Service**

**Friday, February 5 • 6:30 PM  
Beth-El Chapel**

Join us for an inspirational and uplifting prayer service that builds upon the curriculum of the Religious School. Hebrew prayers are sung with lively melodies, and the weekly Torah reading is made meaningful through creative storytelling. Please invite your friends to join with you; the service will be followed by a festive *Oneg Shabbat*.

**Young Families: Tot Shabbat  
Saturday, February 6 • 10 AM  
One East 65th Street**

For our preschool through second grade families we offer a creative and age-appropriate service that incorporates singing, movement and storytelling. Guests are welcome; reservations are required. RSVP to Young Families by Friday, February 5; call (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

**Congregational Megillah Reading  
Saturday, February 27 • 5:30 PM  
One East 65th Street**

All are invited to our annual reading of the Megillah of Esther. Hamantaschen will be served afterwards.



View "Celebrate Purim!" on the Temple Web site for ideas on how to make your own Purim celebration more special. Find hamantaschen recipes, holiday songs, suggested reading and much more!  
Click "Worship" → "Holy Days & Festivals" → "Purim."

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## COSTUMES WELCOME!

# Family Purim Celebration

**Sunday, February 28**

**Megillah Reading • Lowenstein Sanctuary • 11 AM**

**Purim Carnival • I.M. Wise Hall • 12 PM**



*Our Department of Lifelong Learning staff get in the spirit of the Purim holiday!*

**T**HERE ARE FOUR THINGS we're supposed to do to celebrate the holiday of Purim: hear the story, give *tzedakah*, give gifts of food and have a festive meal. Join us for the Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival, and you will get to do it all and more in the name of Purim at this annual community event celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

First, come hear Mr. Hamantaschen retell the story of Purim at the Family Megillah Reading. Then, join us for the carnival, a fun-filled event complete with games, carnival booths and plenty to eat that also provides fun and meaning for the whole family. This year's event will feature booths developed and run by our teens in Teen Alley; activities led by Temple staff, faculty, committees and auxiliaries; as well as the carnival attractions that have become a part of this annual tradition. New this year will be a Kiddie Carnival for our Young Families! There will be no shortage of activities for kids of all ages: obstacle challenges, sports and trivia, *tikkun olam* projects and crafts galore.

Too old for games? Then help us plan the event! Everyone from the smallest to the tallest members of your family are welcome. Sign up by calling Rachel Brumberg at (212) 744-1400, ext. 326.

### BROADCAST OF SERVICES

After nearly 65 years, the WQXR radio broadcast of Temple Emanu-El's Friday evening service ceased at the end of December. Both Friday and Saturday's worship services, however, continue to be available for listening through the Temple Web site as well as for download and use with a personal audio player. We're also pleased now to offer live audio streaming of Temple services.

Access is quick and easy:

1. Follow the "Listen to the Broadcast of Services" link from the Temple Home Page ([www.emanuelnyc.org](http://www.emanuelnyc.org)). Live services may be heard by clicking the "Listen Live" button starting at 5:15 PM on Fridays and 10:30 AM on Saturdays. At any other time, launch the Emanu-El Audio Player, or download the MP3 files by right-clicking the links and saving the files to your computer.
2. Subscribe to the RSS feed. "Temple Emanu-El Services" will be added to your Web browser as a bookmark. Services are updated automatically each week.
3. Subscribe to "Temple Emanu-El Services" through iTunes. Search for "Temple Emanu-El Services" in the iTunes Store, and click the "Subscribe" button from Emanu-El's podcast listing. Subscription is free; use of an iPod is not required.

MP3 files and podcasts are available shortly after the completion of the live service and for one week afterwards.

# SKIRBALL



The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El

## THE (HI)STORY OF THE SIDDIR Sunday, February 21 12 PM to 4 PM One East 65th Street

Where did the major sections of Jewish worship (e.g., the *Amidah*, *Birkat ha-Mazon*) come from? And did you know that one major theme connects the entire Jewish liturgy? This theme is coincidentally directly related to the historical origins of the siddur—and if you haven't noticed this theme's prominence, that's because it's rather sneakily concealed. Join us as we explore history, theme and more. Whether you do or do not know the siddur well, you will learn some surprising things!

Skirball Sunday Seminars cost \$60 per person. Register in advance by calling (212) 507-9580.

This session will be led by **Dr. Debra Reed Blank**, the Rabbi Philip Alstat Assistant Professor of Liturgy at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Her scholarly interests focus on the development of Jewish liturgy, from the Rabbinic through the Medieval periods, as well as the Modern period, and she is writing about liturgical change. She holds a doctorate in Rabbinics and liturgy from JTS, where she also was ordained.

## Lectures • Classes • Tours



## What's Cookin'?

**Purim Class: Tuesday, February 9 • 12 PM**  
**One East 65th Street**  
**Led by Rabbi Amy Ehrlich and Rachel Brumberg**

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Always have been focused around the table. Food nourishes, comforts and inspires. Think of Grandma's kugel or Aunt Sara's matzah ball soup, and you'll agree that food may create memories that transcend time. Because every dish is a reflection of culture, join us as we prepare for the next popular holiday—Purim—with sweet recipes from Jewish communities worldwide. In addition to making and tasting, we'll explore how these foods have become part of the holiday tradition.



**Class size is limited because of the participatory nature of these sessions; register by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 215.**

## Where There Is a Will... The Jewish Way

**Tuesday, February 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 • 12:30 PM**  
**One East 65th Street • Led by Rabbi Howard Goldsmith**

EVERYONE KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE of preparing a last will and testament, a document outlining how one's assets are to be divided upon death. But what about nonmaterial assets? How can the next generation inherit values, beliefs, life lessons, hopes, dreams, love and forgiveness? For more than 3,000 years Jews have written ethical wills, documents that convey the nonmaterial to the next generation. Join Rabbi Howard Goldsmith as we learn about this fascinating literary genre and work to create our own ethical wills. There may be no greater gift you can give to your children than your written legacy of values, hopes and dreams.



**Advanced registration is required for this class; call (212) 744-1400, ext. 215. Cost: \$5 for workbook.**



**View the full selection of adult education programs on the Emanu-El Web site. Click "Learning" → "Adult Education."**

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**State of the Art:  
Restitution and Resolution  
Tuesday, February 9  
10:30 AM • One East 65th St.**

Guest speaker **Karen S. Franklin** will discuss genealogical research techniques used to unite Nazi-era art with its rightful owners. Attendance is free and open to all Temple members and their guests; coffee and cookies will be served. This event is co-sponsored by the **Women's Auxiliary** and the **Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica**. RSVP by Friday, February 5: (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 or womaux@emanuelnyc.org.

**Men's Club Sunday Brunch  
Sunday, February 14 • 10 AM  
One East 65th Street**

Our February event will feature guest speaker **Ilana Kloss**, CEO and commissioner of World Team Tennis, a coed professional tennis league; member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame; 2007 Sports Business Woman of the Year; and winner of six doubles titles, including the U.S. Open and French Open. Cost is \$30 for Men's Club members, \$40 for all others. RSVP by Thursday, February 11: (212) 744-1400, ext. 250 or mensclub@emanuelnyc.org. Make checks payable to Men's Club.

## Community • Volunteering



### TIKKUN OLAM

The following projects require preregistration with the Tikkun Olam Committee at [tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org](mailto:tikkunolam@emanuelnyc.org) or (212) 744-1400, ext. 452. Participation is limited to Temple members and their families. Community-service certificates may be obtained by calling Rabbi Ehrlich's study at (212) 744-1400, ext. 206.

**Mary Manning Walsh Home  
Sunday, February 7 • 10:30 AM  
1339 York Ave. (at 72nd St.)**

Brighten the day of a senior citizen living at the Mary Manning Walsh Home with a brief visit and a gift of fresh flowers. This event is suitable for adults only.

**Stitch'n Time: Emanu-El's  
Knitting Program  
Sunday, February 14  
11 AM to 2 PM  
One East 65th Street**

Yarn, patterns and refreshments are provided. Please bring your own needles (#8). Projects include baby items for low-income

mothers; hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless; and squares for comfort blankets. (Preregistration is not required for Stitch'n Time. Come when you can, and stay as long as you like.)

**Helping Feed the Hungry  
Sunday, March 7 • 12 PM  
10 East 66th Street**

Volunteers are needed to make sandwiches, bake cookies and assemble meal bags to help feed more than 300 New Yorkers. This is the final "Helping Feed the Hungry" session of the season.

### WINTER WISHES

On Mitzvah Day 2009, the wishes of 77 low-income children and teens affiliated with the **Association to Benefit Children (ABC)** were selected by Emanu-El congregants who committed to an anonymous donation of a holiday gift.

Blair Payne of ABC reported, "The kids [were] SO excited about the presents. Sometimes I feel like I have to hide from them because they won't stop asking me about the wishes!"

Gifts were purchased and delivered to Emanu-El on Sunday, December 13. Volunteers gathered for the wrapping party, and delivery was made to ABC in time for its holiday celebration, where the children received their gifts to take home.

Many thanks to those who fulfilled wishes or helped wrap. Your kindness and generosity brought much happiness to a group of children in our community.

### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DINNER

Once a month, Emanu-El congregants serve dinner and organize art projects for families at New York City's Ronald McDonald House on the Upper East Side. This month's dinner will be held **Thursday, February 18**. Volunteers (adults over 18 only) must sign up with the Women's Auxiliary, which sponsors this program. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235, or send an e-mail to [womaux@emanuelnyc.org](mailto:womaux@emanuelnyc.org).

## Religious School



### MITZVAH CORPS

Unit 5 learning sessions will be held **Sunday, February 7** at **9:30 AM** and **Wednesday, February 10** at **4 PM**. We will discuss *Lechem L'reyvim* (Providing Food for the Hungry).

Our Unit 5 action session will be held on **Wednesday, February 24**. We will be working at Yorkville Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street. Students should be dropped off at YCP at **4:15 PM** and picked up there at **6:30 PM**.

### HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

Step 6 will be held on **Sunday, February 7** at **4:30 PM**. Students will learn how to handle problems through a Jewish lens.

Step 7 will meet on **Sunday, February 28** from **9:30 AM** to **2 PM**. Students will run booths for the Religious School Purim Carnival.

### ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA ONLINE

As a benefit of Temple membership, Religious School students have free online access through the Temple Web site to all 22 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (2007 edition). Take advantage of this great resource by clicking "Learning" → "Religious School" → "Encyclopaedia Judaica." (Note: You must have a Web ID/user name and password to access this feature. If you don't have them, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 318.)

## Fourth Grade Family Program: Why Do We Give?

**Monday, February 8 • 4:30 PM • 10 East 66th Street**  
**Sunday, February 21 • 10:30 AM • 10 East 66th Street**

**W**HAT IS SO SPECIAL about *tzedakah*? What makes it different from other forms of charity? How do we teach *tzedakah* in our Religious School?

Families of students in the fourth grade are invited to join us to explore these questions together at this exciting new program. You'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow parents and engage in thoughtful learning with your child on the Jewish value of *tzedakah*. Come and discover one of our most important mitzvot, learn about the dynamic Religious School *tzedakah* initiative and create your own "Family *Tzedakah* Motto."



Parents will meet alone for the first half hour of each session; students will join with parents for an hour after that.

RSVP to the Office of Lifelong Learning by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 334, or send an e-mail to [family@emanuelnyc.org](mailto:family@emanuelnyc.org).

### Shabbat Kodesh Service Friday, February 5 • 6:30 PM Beth-El Chapel

All are welcome at this service, which builds upon the curriculum and community of the Religious School. A festive *Oneg Shabbat* follows. (See full description on page 2.)

### Family Megillah Reading and Purim Carnival Sunday, February 28 (Reading: 11 AM • Lowenstein Sanctuary, 10 East 66th St.) (Carnival: 12 PM • I.M. Wise Hall, One East 65th Street)

Come in costume and be ready to celebrate at our annual fun-filled family event! (See full description on page 3.)



View "Celebrate Purim!" on the Temple Web site for ideas on how to make your own Purim celebration more special. Find hamantaschen recipes, holiday songs, suggested reading and much more! Click "Worship" → "Holy Days & Festivals" → "Purim."

## Film Screenings

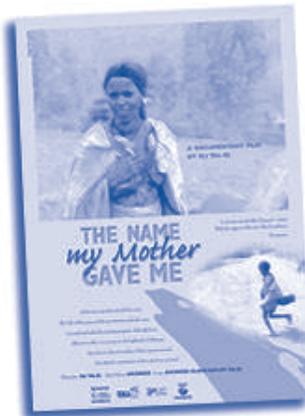


### SKIRBALL MOVIE NIGHT

## The Name My Mother Gave Me

Tuesday, February 23 • 7:30 PM • JCC in Manhattan  
(334 Amsterdam at 76th Street)

**E**THIOPIAN AND RUSSIAN ISRAELIS meet at a leadership training program in Israel. Their year of learning culminates in a journey to Ethiopia where the Ethiopian-born participants return to their native villages and confront their roots. Though, back home in Israel, all the participants would consider themselves members of the fringes of Israeli society, in the highlands of the Ethiopian landscape they discover the universality of their experiences and their shared commitment to their new home in Israel. How will this journey transform them?



"Movie Night" is held in conjunction with the JCC in Manhattan and is made possible in part by a generous contribution from the Schwarzhaupt-Levite Video Fund of Emanu-El. Cost is \$10 per person. Call Skirball at (212) 507-9580 for tickets. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Beejhy Barhany.

## Book Discussions



**Emanu-El Reads: Good Book**  
**Sunday, February 7**  
**10:30 AM • One East 65th St.**

Our final session is sponsored by the Religious School Parents Association and will be led by Rabbi Howard Goldsmith.

**Men's Club Book Group**  
**Wednesday, February 10**  
**9 AM • One East 65th St.**

We will discuss *The Jewish War* by Josephus. Our March selection will be *A Woman in Jerusalem* by A.B. Yehoshua.

**Stettenheim Literary Circle**  
**Wednesday, February 24**  
**6:30 PM • One East 65th St.**

We will discuss *Friendly Fire* by A.B. Yehoshua. Our March selection will be *Atmospheric Disturbances* by Rivka Galchen.

**Women's Auxiliary Book Group**  
**Wednesday, March 10**  
**12:30 PM • One East 65th St.**

Rabbi Amy Ehrlich will lead our discussion of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.



**HERBERT &  
EILEEN BERNARD  
MUSEUM OF JUDAICA**

### Object of the Month



On October 6, 1944, at 5:30 PM, WQXR for the first time broadcast Temple Emanu-El's Friday evening service. It was a relationship that lasted 65 years. The music performed that evening was *V'shamru* ("Keep the Sabbath Holy") and "Out of the Deep." Rabbi Nathan Perilman preached a sermon titled "The Earth Teaches." As Roger W. Straus, the congregation's vice president said at Emanu-El's 100th anniversary dinner in April 1945, "We should feel highly gratified that we help bring the comforts of religion into the homes of thousands of listeners." On December 1985, WQXR presented Temple Emanu-El with this vintage microphone to commemorate 40 years of broadcasting the Friday night service. (See page 3 for alternate ways to listen to our services.)

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION

Children must be enrolled in Religious School in order to become a bar or bat mitzvah at Emanu-El. A date can be scheduled when a child is in fourth grade or is 10 years old. To register your child for Religious School, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 226. To schedule a date, call Sherry Nehmer at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312.

Families are encouraged to make use of bar/bat mitzvah resources available on the Temple Web site. Click "Learning" → "Religious School" → "Bar & Bat Mitzvah Program."

## A REMINDER ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS

Because the Emanu-El *Bulletin* is now a monthly publication, please be advised that we need one month's notice for Pulpit Flower dedications and *Oneg Shabbat* sponsorships. For more information, call Sherry Nehmer at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TRIBUTE FUND

Commemorate significant life-cycle events in a meaningful way and support the activities of the Women's Auxiliary at the same time. All contributions are listed in *Window on Emanu-El*, the quarterly publication prepared by Temple Emanu-El's Department of Development. Contact the Women's Auxiliary at (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 or womaux@emanuelnyc.org.

# Life-Cycle Events



**The following student of our Religious School will become a BAR MITZVAH in February:**

### Saturday, February 27

*Zach Kotin*, son of Allison and Alan Kotin

***We are grateful for their sponsorship of the Friday evening Oneg Shabbat.***

**PULPIT FLOWERS at worship services have been donated by the following congregants:**

### For the Sabbath of February 5 and 6

Barry, Patricia and Elizabeth Berkule in loving memory of *Lloyd I. Berkule*

Mrs. B. E. Brandes in loving memory of *Bernard E. Brandes*

Mr. Sanford P. Brass in loving memory of his mother, *Rose D. Brass*

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Brownstein in loving memory of *Sol Brownstein* and *Benjamin Silverman*

Edward Fleur in loving memory of his sister, *Joette Stephanie Fleur*

Mrs. A. Coleman Poll in loving memory of her brother, *Jacques G. Coleman Jr.*

Lee Robbins in loving memory of my mother, *Peggy Catalane*

### For the Sabbath of February 12 and 13

Mary K. and Rabbi Howard I. Bogot in loving memory of *Maxine Livingston Elbaum*

Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen in loving memory of her parents, *Dr. Samuel Weiskopf* and *Esther Altman Weiskopf*

### For the Sabbath of February 19 and 20

Bettijane and Steven Eisenpreis in loving memory of *Alfred Eisenpreis*, and *Carol Hess Long* and *Clinton Mayer Long*

### For the Sabbath of February 26 and 27

Rosalind Pretzfelder in loving memory of *George Pretzfelder*

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## Reform Judaism (continued)

there was no choice but to travel in new paths.

Conventionally speaking, the beginning of the Reform Movement in Judaism is dated back either to the founding of a private synagogue held first in the home of and then in a school organized by Israel Jacobson in Seesen, Germany, in 1808 or to the establishment of the Hamburg Reform Temple in 1817. It was not uncommon then... or even now...for synagogues to be housed in a home. The father of Henry Toch, one of our illustrious Temple members and a member of our board in the 1920s, who laid the foundation for our Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica here at the Temple, lived on the Lower East Side and made of his house a “shtiebel” (Yiddish for “little house”), a small synagogue.

Israel Jacobson did the same thing in 1808. However, Jacobson’s school admitted both Jews (a majority) and non-Jews—perhaps to curry favor with the local authorities. Interestingly, one of the non-Jews who attended the Jacobson school was Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg, who came to America in 1853 and who established the piano manufacturing company known as Steinway & Sons. It may have been for this reason that the Nazis suspected the Steinways of being Jews!

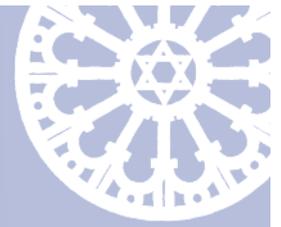
Most historians attribute the beginnings of a reform process in Judaism

to Jacobson’s school. However, Columbia University historian and professor of Jewish history Michael Stanislawski has brought to light that, unbeknown to most, a private congregation similar to the one established by Jacobson had been founded in Warsaw, Poland, in 1802. This was the initiative of one Isaac Flatau, a former resident of Danzig. Flatau’s synagogue was at first meant only for him and his extended family, but after Flatau’s death, the school also attracted Jews from Warsaw who desired a more “modern” service.

Stanislawski tells us even more. In 1840, in the northwest of the Russian Empire, a modernized synagogue was founded where the Bavarian-born Rabbi Max Lienthal preached in German. Let the record books show that it was Lienthal who, in 1846, conducted the first confirmation service here at Temple Emanu-El—with both young men and women participating! Even in Vilna—the unofficial home base of Eastern European Orthodoxy—a modern synagogue, with organ and all, was built in 1847.

With this history of innovation as our premise, we have no doubt that we at Temple Emanu-El have enhanced and augmented the ambiances and the aesthetics of our worship service. Virtually all American synagogues have done the same thing, more or less. Some services are referred to as “folk”; others

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### CLERGY

Dr. David M. Posner, *Senior Rabbi*  
Amy B. Ehrlich, *Associate Rabbi*  
Howard J. Goldsmith,  
*Assistant Rabbi*  
Lori A. Corrsin, *Cantor*  
Dr. Ronald B. Sobel,  
*Senior Rabbi Emeritus*

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Neil B. Cooper, *Vice President*  
Karel L. Greenberg, *Vice President*  
Robert A. Calinoff, *Secretary*  
Stephen T. Shapiro, *Treasurer*

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*Administrative Vice President*  
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Robyn W. Cimbol, *Senior Director,*  
*Development and Philanthropy*  
Sherry Nehmer, *Asst. Administrator*  
Christine Manomat, *Membership*  
Saul Kaiserman, *Director,*  
*Lifelong Learning*  
Rachel Brumberg, *Asst. Director,*  
*Lifelong Learning*  
Rabbi Leon A. Morris,  
*Executive Director, Skirball Center*  
*for Adult Jewish Learning*  
*at Temple Emanu-El*  
Darone Ruskay, *Skirball*  
*Managing Director*  
Ellen Davis, *Director,*  
*Nursery School*  
Elizabeth F. Stabler,  
*Temple Librarian, Ivan M.*  
*Stettenheim Library*  
Elka Deitsch, *Senior Curator,*  
*Herbert & Eileen Bernard*  
*Museum of Judaica*  
Charles S. Salomon,  
*Funeral Director*  
Henry Fruhauf,  
*Hon. Administrative VP*

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.

◆  
Kathryn M. Roberts,  
*Bulletin Editor/Webmaster*



### **BULLETIN BLOG**

What do you think? Share your thoughts on our blog. Click "About Us" → "Publications."

### **EMANU-EL: PAST TO PRESENT**

Learn about Emanu-El's roots in American Reform Judaism through our interactive timeline. Click "About Us" → "History."

### **JUDAICA COLLECTION**

The idea of a Temple museum collection was begun in 1928 when Henry M. Toch, trustee and treasurer of Temple Emanu-El, and his wife, Dora, offered a group of 30 ceremonial objects to be conserved in a "Musee Judicae" (*sic*) for the new synagogue then under construction. Read more about the early history of our Judaica collection in an essay by Reva Godlove Kirschberg, of blessed memory. Click "Museum" → "Early History."

View collection highlights online ("Museum" → "Collection Highlights"), or visit the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum in person. Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday, 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Admission is free and open to the public.

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## *Reform Judaism (continued)*

are termed "rock." Even the synagogues of the Conservative and Orthodox American movements have services that are more formal or less formal—some with separate prayer services for women, others no.

But, the architects of American Reform Judaism in no way termed their aesthetic as "Classical Reform Judaism." For them it was contemporary! It was not classical. I can assure you that Bach, Mozart and

Rite"—a tradition started by the great cantor (and friend of Franz Schubert) Solomon Sulzer of Vienna. Sulzer's synagogue was the first of the great "choral synagogues." Later, the main choral synagogues of St. Petersburg and Moscow were built essentially according to the Vienna Rite, and others followed. This is the chain of tradition that forms the root and core of the "Classical Reform" style of Temple Emanu-El. It is NOT whether one either wears or doesn't wear a *kippah* or *tallit*. Each and every one of the Reform synagogues of Europe, before the war, saw men wearing both!

"Classical" Reform only can be called "Classical" because the music employed in these synagogues was under the influence of Europe's greatest composers and their students, so many of whom were Jews. The defining characteristic of the Classical Reform service is its music—the spirit of which was translated and transformed from the concert hall to the sanctuary. True, the real appreciation for such an aesthetic has diminished over time. There was a time when many more Jewish children were studying music seriously, when more Jewish students filled the great conservatories, and when their faculties were, in the main, Jewish artists. It's an era that has come, at least temporarily, to an end. And yet we should not despair. Everything has a time, a place and a purse. Let us conclude with the words of Ben Azzai in *Pirkei Avot*:

*Despise no man, and consider nothing as too far-removed to come to pass; for there is no man but has his day, and no thing but has its place.*

The tent of Temple Emanu-El is very large. I'm happy to say that there is a place here for everyone.

*The architects of  
American Reform  
Judaism in no  
way termed their  
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For them it was  
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Beethoven were not under the impression that they were writing "classical" music. They were writing music, period. They just happened to be great (and that is why they have endured), while many others were just ordinary.

So, in essence, what are the roots of what we call today "Classical Reform" synagogues? Professor Stanislawski points out, and as a musician I believe he is most justified, that "Classical Reform" synagogues are those that follow the musical tradition of what is called the "Vienna

# At a Glance: February 2009



**February 3**  
**Wednesday, 6:30 PM**  
*Good Talk: Good Book*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 5**  
**Friday, 6:30 PM**  
*Shabbat Kodesh*  
 Beth-El Chapel



**February 5**  
**Friday, 6:30 PM**  
*Torah Study*  
*Shabbat Dinner*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 6**  
**Saturday, 10 AM**  
*Young Families:*  
*Tot Shabbat*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 7 and 10**  
**Sunday, 9:30 AM**  
**Wednesday, 4 PM**  
*Mitzvah Corps:*  
*Unit 5 Learning Sessions*  
 10 East 66th Street



**February 7**  
**Sunday, 10:30 AM**  
*Emanu-El Reads*  
*Book Discussion*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 7**  
**Sunday, 10:30 AM**  
*Mary Manning Walsh*  
 1339 York (at 72nd Street)



**February 7**  
**Sunday, 4:30 PM**  
*Confirmation: Step 6*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 8 and 21**  
**Monday, 4:30 PM**  
**Sunday, 10:30 AM**  
*4th Grade*  
*Family Program*  
 10 East 66th Street



**February 9**  
**Tuesday, 10:30 AM**  
*State of the Art:*  
*Restitution and*  
*Resolution*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 9**  
**Tuesday, 12 PM**  
*What's Cookin'?*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 10**  
**Wednesday, 9 AM**  
*Men's Club Book Group*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 14**  
**Sunday, 10 AM**  
*Men's Club Brunch*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 14**  
**Sunday, 11 AM**  
*Stitch'n Time*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 18**  
**Thursday, 5 PM**  
*Ronald McDonald House*  
 405 East 73rd Street



**February 21**  
**Sunday, 12 PM**  
*(Hi)Story of the Siddur*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 23**  
**Tuesday, 12:30 PM**  
*Where There Is a Will...*  
*The Jewish Way*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 23**  
**Tuesday, 7:30 PM**  
*The Name My*  
*Mother Gave Me*  
 JCC in Manhattan  
 (334 Amsterdam at 76th Street)



**February 24**  
**Wednesday, 4:15 PM**  
*Mitzvah Corps:*  
*Unit 5 Action Session*  
 Yorkville Common Pantry  
 (8 East 109th Street)



**February 24**  
**Wednesday, 6:30 PM**  
*Stettenheim*  
*Literary Circle*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 27**  
**Saturday, 5:30 PM**  
*Congregational*  
*Megillah Reading*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 28**  
**Sunday, 9:30 AM**  
*Confirmation: Step 7*  
 One East 65th Street



**February 28**  
**Sunday, 11 AM**  
*Family Megillah Reading*  
*and Purim Carnival*  
 10 East 66th Street



**Book Discussion**



**Community • Volunteering**



**Film Screening**



**Lecture • Class • Tour**



**Meeting**



**Religious School Event**



**Worship & Spirituality**



**Young People's Program**



## TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN

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## Good Talk: Good Book

Wednesday, February 3 • 6:30 PM • Marvin and Elisabeth  
Cassell Community House (One East 65th Street)

**A**UTHOR **David Plotz** discusses *Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I Read Every Single Word of the Bible*, this year's **Emanu-El Reads** selection. *Good Book* is based on "Blogging the Bible," a series Plotz wrote for *Slate* magazine. When Plotz' wife gave him a copy of the Bible for a present, he decided to explore it to see what it was about. Not having read the Bible since attending Hebrew school and his Episcopalian high school, Plotz was astounded by what he found. This event is not to be missed!