

Temple Emanu-El Bulletin



TZEDAKAH BANKS

Change-filled banks should be returned to the Temple during the first week of April. (See page 7.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Thursday, May 27 • 6 PM

This year's annual meeting will be held after the daily sunset service. Congregants should enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. Refreshments will be served afterward.

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY — THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY EVENING

Sanctuary (Fifth Ave. at 65th)

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.

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



Getting a Handle on the Holidays

By Rabbi Amy Ehrlich



THE CALENDAR IS and always has been the organizing feature of our lives. Given that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, we have held this orientation as our guiding principle, no matter where we live or

what we do. However, because the Jewish calendar is lunar based, our holidays often seem “early” or “late” but rarely on time.

This year, because Passover is so early (March 29 through April 5), it seems as if the next seven weeks until Shavuot (May 18 and 19) are undifferentiated by holidays or ceremony. To what do we have to look forward? Fortunately, there's something from both the ancient and the new. The ancient ritual of numbering the days from Passover until Shavuot is the time honored way to link the events of the Exodus to receiving the Torah at Sinai. The “new” is the inclusion of two modern holidays resulting from the most important events that have shaped our people in recent history: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom HaAtzma-ut (Israel Independence Day).

First, to the tradition: In the agricultural society of our ancestors,

they would bring a measure (an omer) of newly harvested grain to the Temple, beginning on the second day of Passover. Each day thereafter, for seven full weeks, a measure of grain was brought as an offering. Shavuot (Hebrew for “weeks”) was celebrated after the completion of the seven weeks, on the 50th day. This period became known as “Counting the Omer,” but it wasn't just a way to check days off a calendar. The esteemed rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs said of these days: “The free man, as he reminds himself of the bondage in Egypt, counts each day towards the even greater freedom enjoyed by those who live by the Torah.” Each day counts as an opportunity to ready ourselves so that we can be ready to respond to what God expects of us.

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WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Special reading for Passover

(Exodus 33:12-34:26)

Read Saturday, April 3

Synopsis: God's presence passes before Moses; Moses carves the new Tablets; God renews the covenant with the Israelites.

Sermon: Rabbi Ehrlich

Parashat Sh'mini

(Leviticus 9:1-11:47)

Read Saturday, April 10

Synopsis: Aaron's priesthood is inaugurated; Nadav and Avihu make an alien offering, and God strikes them down; list of kosher and non-kosher animals.

Sermon: Rabbi Goldsmith

Parashat Tazria-M'tzora

(Leviticus 12:1-13:59;

14:1-15:33)

Read Saturday, April 17

Synopsis: Rituals for a woman's purification after childbirth; description of and treatment for leprosy; purification for lepers and leprous houses; issues of bodily discharge.

Sermon: Rabbi Ehrlich

Parashat Acharei Mot- K'doshim

(Leviticus 16:1-18:30;

19:1-20:27)

Read Saturday, April 24

Synopsis: Priestly responsibilities on the Day of Atonement; scapegoats; sacrificial instructions; prohibition on drinking blood; rules for sexual relations; holiness code concerning ritual and moral behaviors; penalties for violating various laws.

Sermon: Rabbi Posner

Worship & Spirituality



Conclusion of Passover Services

Sunday, April 4 • 5:30 PM • Beth-El Chapel

Monday, April 5 • 10:30 AM • Beth-El Chapel

OUR TRADITION TEACHES US that the **Conclusion of Passover** marks the day when many miracles were performed for our forefathers at the Red Sea. The Torah (Exodus 2:15) states: "And the seventh day shall be declared a holy day for you. No work shall be done on that day." Worship on Monday includes a *Yizkor* service.

YOM HASHOAH

Sabbath Worship Service & Annual Gathering of Remembrance

Friday, April 9 • 5:15 PM and Sunday, April 11 • 3 PM
Sanctuary (Fifth Avenue at 65th Street)

OUR FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP will include a special service for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). Temple members also are invited to join us for the **Annual Gathering of Remembrance** on Sunday, April 11 at 3 PM.

Zachor. Gedenk. Remember.

Every year, Jews mark the anniversary of the death of loved ones, fulfilling a sacred obligation. For most of the 6 million who were murdered during the Holocaust, no one knows when that anniversary falls. To mourn them and to commemorate the loss of all who perished, a special day has been set aside—Yom HaShoah—a day when the entire community gathers to remember and reflect.

Honor the memory of those who perished at the hands of evil. Pay tribute to those who survived to make a better world for us all.



Tickets are required for entrance to the Annual Gathering of Remembrance. To request tickets, Temple members only should call Temple Administrator Mark Heutlinger at (212) 744-1400, ext. 215. All others should call the Museum of Jewish Heritage at (646) 437-4227.

Saviv Shabbat

Friday, April 9 • 7 PM • One East 65th Street

OPEN TO TEMPLE MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS in their 20s and 30s, **Saviv Shabbat** is a unique prayer experience that combines experimental liturgy and incredible music with meaningful ritual and learning. Our goal is to push our understanding of what it means to pray and what can be called worship. Dinner follows.

Attendance is free, but reservations are required. Send an e-mail to info@saviv.org, or call Rabbi Howard Goldsmith at (212) 744-1400, ext. 204.



Wine/Meet and Greet:
7 PM to 7:30 PM
Service:
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Dinner: 8:30 PM

YOM HAATZMA-UT

Israel Independence Day Sabbath

Friday, April 16 • 5:15 PM • Sanctuary (Fifth Avenue at 65th)

CELEBRATED ANNUALLY ON the 5th of Iyar, **Yom HaAtzma-ut** centers around the declaration of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar 5708), and the end of the British Mandate of Palestine. It always is preceded by **Yom Hazikaron**, the Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism Remembrance Day, on the 4th of Iyar. Our Friday evening worship will include a special prayer. All are invited to join us.

Shabbat Kodesh & High School Dinner

Friday, April 16 • 6:30 PM • Beth-El Chapel

JOIN THE CLERGY of Temple Emanu-El, along with Lifelong Learning Director Saul Kaiserman and members of our Religious School faculty for an inspirational and uplifting prayer service. At Shabbat Kodesh, Hebrew prayers are sung with lively melodies, and the weekly Torah reading is made meaningful through creative storytelling. This month's service will honor high school students who have taken on a leadership role within our congregational community. Dinner for teens and their families will follow the service. (See more on page 6.)

Reservations for dinner are required. Cost is \$35 per family by April 12 and \$50 after April 12. RSVP to the Religious School at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226.

BROADCAST OF SERVICES

Both Friday evening and Saturday morning worship services are available for listening live through the Temple Web site as well as for download and use with a personal audio player.

Follow the "Listen to the Broadcast of Services" link from the Temple Home Page (www.emanuelnyc.org). Live services may be heard through the Live365 Radio audio player starting at 5 PM on Fridays and 10:15 AM on Saturdays. At any other time, launch the Emanu-El audio player, or download the MP3 files. (Right click the links and save the files to your computer.) MP3 files and podcasts are available shortly after the completion of the live service and for one week afterwards.

WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

Our Sabbath morning Torah study explores the weekly *parashah* through thoughtful conversation and lively debate. Rabbinic student **Ariana Silverman** will lead our discussions on **Saturday, April 10** and **Saturday, April 24**. Sessions meet from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House.

SACRED MUSIC OF SALAMONE ROSSI

All are invited on **Friday, May 7** at **5:15 PM** as **Maestro Matthew Lazar** conducts the Emanu-El Choir from the bimah at a very special Shabbat evening service highlighting the music of Classical Reform Judaism.

SKIRBALL



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

Skirball Sunday Seminars cost \$60 per person. Register in advance by calling (212) 507-9580. Enter at One East 65th St.

TWO JEWISH CONTROVERSIES

Sunday, April 11

10 AM to 2 PM

Led by Dr. Steven M. Cohen

HEBREW "MARATHON"

Sunday, April 11

12 PM to 4 PM

Led by Michal Nachmany

DOUBLE-FISTED SOCIAL ACTION: OPENING GOD'S HANDS AND OUR OWN

Sunday, April 18

10 AM to 2 PM

Led by Rabbi Joel E. Soffin

THE JEWISH ORAL TRADITION: JEWS AS A STORYTELLING PEOPLE

Sunday, April 25

12 PM to 4 PM

Led by Peninnah Schram

See full lecture descriptions on the Temple Emanu-El Web site. Click  "Learning" → "Skirball Center" → "Sunday Seminars." Or, view Skirball's spring course guide. Call (212) 507-9580 to obtain a print version, or download the PDF.

Can't make it to Skirball? Then enjoy the learning experience another way. Visit the podcast page of the Skirball Web site (www.adultjewishlearning.org).

Lectures • Classes • Tours



Making the Omer Count: A Spiritual Journey

Monday, April 12 • 12 PM • One East 65th Street

RABBI AMY EHRLICH leads a journey of introspection and spiritual growth through the counting of the **Omer**, the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot. These 49 days mirror the movement from the slavery of Egypt and the enslavement of the soul to Sinai, which is the ultimate in spiritual liberation. Our ancestors identified seven qualities whose refinement would elevate our spirits and prepare us for receiving the Torah. Through discussion, exercises and personal journals, each attribute—love, power, glory/pride, triumph, beauty, foundation, kingship/authority—will be examined individually and in “overlapping” combinations to encourage introspection and spiritual growth.

Temple Emanu-El's adult education programs are free but open to Temple members only, unless specified otherwise.

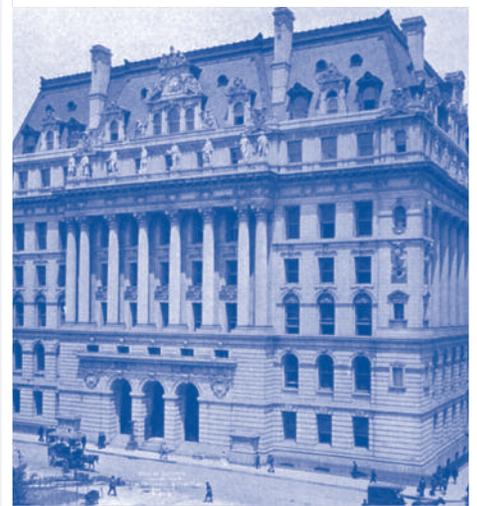
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Preserving New York City's History

Tuesday, April 13 • 10:30 AM • 31 Chambers Street, Room 103

TEMPLE MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS are invited to a specially arranged tour of **New York City's Municipal Archives** and then the **Marriage License Bureau**. Founded in 1950, the Municipal Archives preserves and makes available the historical records of New York City municipal government. Dating from the early 17th century to the present, the Municipal Archives holdings total approximately 160,000 cubic feet. The City Clerk's Marriage License Bureau houses all marriage licenses from 1930 to the present.

The cost for this event, which includes lunch at City Hall Restaurant after the tour, is \$50 for Women's Auxiliary members and \$55 for all others. Participation is limited. Make checks payable to the Women's Auxiliary. RSVP by Monday, April 5. Walk-ins will not be allowed. We will meet at the Surrogate's Courthouse, which houses the archives. Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.



Museums: A New Role in the 21st Century

Sunday, April 18 • 10 AM • One East 65th Street

THE MEN'S CLUB SUNDAY BRUNCH for April will feature guest speaker **Emily Kernan Rafferty**, president of the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, the nation's most comprehensive art museum.

Ms. Rafferty was elected to her post by the Metropolitan's board of trustees in 2005 after a 29-year-long career at the institution, where she rose through the ranks in the areas of development and external affairs. As the Metropolitan's chief administrative officer, Ms. Rafferty is responsible for supervising more than 2,500 museum employees in the areas of finance, technology and information services, legal affairs, development, membership, communications, construction and facilities management, merchandising, government relations, human resources and security. She also serves as an *ex officio* member of the museum's board. In 2007, she was named one of 100 most influential women by *Crain's New York Business*.



The cost for this event is \$25 for Men's Club members, \$30 for other Temple members and \$10 for students. RSVP by Thursday, April 15: (212) 744-1400, ext. 250 or mensclub@emanuelnyc.org. Make checks payable to Men's Club.

Book Discussion Groups



MEN'S CLUB

Wednesday, April 14 • 9 AM

Why Are Jews Liberals? by Norman Podhoretz

Wednesday, May 12 • 9 AM

Khirbet Khizeh by S. Yizhar

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Tuesday, April 20 • 12:30 PM

A Seat at the Table: A Novel of Forbidden Choices by Joshua Halberstam

STETTENHEIM LITERARY CIRCLE

Wednesday, April 21 • 6:30 PM

Olive Kitteridge: Fiction by Elizabeth Strout

Wednesday, May 26 • 6:30 PM

The One Facing Us by Ronit Matalon



Read summaries, reviews and excerpts through the Temple Web site.
Click "Calendar" → "Choose Category: Book."



**HERBERT &
EILEEN BERNARD
MUSEUM OF JUDAICA**

Object of the Month



**SEDER PLATE
Jerusalem, 1920s
Maker: Bezalel School of
Arts and Crafts**

This beautifully crafted silver plate has labeled oval indentations to hold the various components of the seder: the shank bone, bitter herbs, *charoset*, parsley, horseradish and egg. The raised center is inscribed with a passage from the *Magid* (retelling of the Passover story) portion of the Haggadah: *This year here, next year in the Land of Israel; This year slaves, next year free people.*

*Bequest of Judge
Irving Lehman, 1945*
On view at the Herbert &
Eileen Bernard Museum
(CEE 45-32)

**Museum Hours:
Sunday — Thursday
10:30 AM to 4 PM
(Admission is free.)**



**HIGH SCHOOL
CONFIRMATION**
Sunday, April 11 •
3:30 PM to 6:30 PM
One East 65th Street

Students will begin writing their reflections for the confirmation service and planning the social-action project.

**SHABBAT KODESH &
HIGH SCHOOL DINNER**
Friday, April 16 • 6:30 PM
Beth-El Chapel

This month's service will honor high school students who have taken on a leadership role within our congregational community. Dinner for teens and their families will follow. Students who participated in our Martin Luther King Jr. volunteer weekend will make a presentation to express all that they learned by participating and to teach others about ways to confront poverty in New York City.

The cost for dinner is:

- \$35 per family (including two adults) for reservations made by Monday, April 12
- \$50 after April 12
- \$10 for each additional adult

Charges will be billed to your Emanu-El account. Fees will appear on your next Emanu-El statement. After April 12, cancellations cannot be refunded.

RSVP to the Religious School: (212) 744-1400, ext. 226 or school@emanuelnyc.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Stay-cation



HONORING THE LEGACY of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** and the Jewish community, which supported the Civil Rights Movement, 15 of Temple Emanu-El's high school students acted on behalf of social justice over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Students volunteered at homeless shelters and soup kitchens in an effort to help those in need and to learn about poverty in New York City. The goal of the weekend was to treat each person we encountered with the respect and honor of being created in God's image.

We partnered with Youth Service Opportunities Project to build a memorable and effective volunteer program. Our efforts included:

- Hosting dinner (prepared by our students) and games for individuals staying at a gay, lesbian and transgendered homeless shelter in Brooklyn; most of the guests were about the same age as our students.
- Serving food at several soup kitchens in New York City.
- Organizing food at food pantries.
- Washing linens for a homeless shelter for adults suffering from addiction and mental illness.

*"When I march
in Selma, my feet
are praying."*

— Rabbi Abraham
Joshua Heschel, describing
his experience when
marching with Dr. King

The trip exposed us to the reality of poverty in New York. Many of our stereotypes were discredited, and we learned about the cycle that makes it nearly impossible for impoverished persons to become self-sufficient.



Read more on the Web and view photos. Click "Learning" → "Youth & Young Adults" → "MLK Volunteer Weekend" → "New York City 2010."

Teen Benefit for Haiti

Saturday, April 24 • 9 PM • 230 Fifth Rooftop Lounge

MEMBERS OF OUR Emanu-El youth group teen community have created a wonderful event for an urgent cause. From when the doors open until midnight, our teen guests will enjoy great food catered by the 230 Fifth Rooftop Lounge and dance with their friends while looking out on spectacular views of the Empire State Building and all of Manhattan. Guests will have the opportunity to win terrific prizes through our raffle. Every ticket and extra donation will help us reach our goal to support **American Jewish World Service** and their efforts in Haiti.

Tickets may be purchased on the **AJWS Teen Benefit NYC Web site** (www.ajwsteenbenefitnyc.myevent.com). For more information, contact **Danny Mishkin** at (212) 744-1400, ext. 329 or dmishkin@emanuelnyc.org.

TIKKUN OLAM

The following projects require preregistration with the **Tikkun Olam Committee** at 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

Saturday, April 24 • 10:15 AM • 1339 York Ave. (at 72nd Street)

BRIGHTEN THE DAY of a senior living at the **Mary Manning Walsh Home** with a brief visit and a gift of fresh flowers. Rabbi Posner has been the volunteer Jewish chaplain of the Mary Manning Walsh Home since 1977, the first rabbi to hold that position.

This event is suitable for adult Temple members only.

Bagel and Bingo Brunch

Sunday, April 25 • 9:30 AM • One East 65th Street

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to host seniors from the **Carter Burden Center for the Aging** at this popular semi-annual event. Seniors will enjoy brunch, bingo with prizes for the winners and a performance by the Temple Emanu-El Junior Choir.

Stitch'n Time
Sunday, April 18 • 11 AM to 2 PM
One East 65th Street

Yarn, patterns and refreshments are provided. Please bring your own needles (#8). Come when you can; stay as long as you like.

Habitat for Humanity
Sunday, April 25 • 9 AM

No prior building experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Contact Tikkun Olam for location details.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

During December 2009 and January 2010, our **Religious School students** raised \$963.70 in support of **Ronald McDonald House**.

Within these weeks, students also raised an unbelievable \$750.75 to support Haiti earthquake relief efforts. (Learn more on the Temple Web site.



Click "Learning" →
"Religious School" →
"Tzedakah."

Once a month, under the sponsorship of the **Women's Auxiliary**, Emanu-El congregants serve dinner and organize art projects for the families residing at New York City's Ronald McDonald House. Temple members who are interested in participating must contact the Women's Auxiliary: (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 or womaux@emanuelnyc.org. Our next dinner will be held **Thursday, April 22**. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and in good health. No walk-ins, please!

TZEDAKAH BANKS

Persons participating in our "Tzedakah Bank" program are reminded to return their change-filled banks to the Temple during the first week of April. Banks may be dropped off to the lobby of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. The recipient of this year's collection is **Neve Michael**, a safe haven for Israeli children whose biological parents no longer can care for them. Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration forms for the 2010-2011 school year will be mailed to returning families during the last week of April. In order to ensure that your child is placed in the class that you request, registration forms must be returned to the Religious School office by **July 15, 2010**. After this date, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to place your child with the students you are requesting.

Interested in sending your child to Religious School for the first time? Call the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226 to ensure that you will be sent registration materials. Registration forms also may be downloaded from the Temple Web site starting in May. Click "Learning" → "Religious School."



SHABBAT KODESH PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

The Shabbat Kodesh service is similar to the worship conducted in our Religious School and enables our students to build a prayer community with their families and other Emanu-El members. Prayers and blessings have been posted to the Temple Web site as a resource for preparing for the service. (Click "Learning" → "Religious School" → "Shabbat Kodesh" → "Prayers & Blessings.") Audio recordings are MP3 files; PDFs feature Hebrew text, transliteration and English translation.



Religious School



Holocaust Remembrance

Sunday, April 18 • 9:30 AM to 12 PM • 10 East 66th Street

Wednesday, April 21 • 4 PM to 6 PM • 10 East 66th Street

IN REMEMBRANCE OF the Holocaust, **Zvi Bielski**, the son of Alexander "Zus" Bielski, will tell the true story of the Jewish partisans portrayed in the 2008 film *Defiance*, which starred Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber. During the darkest hours of World War II, three brothers



achieved the impossible: They transformed persecution and violence into an incredible tale of affirmation and survival. Living in the Soviet Republic of Belarus, Tuvia, Asseul and Zus Bielski fled to the woods to escape from the Nazis and built an elaborate village for rescued Jews.

The forest haven included a bakery, communal bath, synagogue and even a theater. The Bielskis saved 1,250 men, women and children, whose offspring today number close to 20,000 souls—making it the largest rescue of Jews by Jews during World War II.

This event is for Religious School families in grades 5 through 8. A snack and coffee will be served during the first 15 minutes of each program; *Tefilah* will be held on Sunday. Mr. Bielski's presentation (with Q&A) will be followed by breakout group discussions (parents and children separately) for the last half hour of each program.

Sixth Grade Mitzvah Project

Sunday, April 25 • 11:30 AM • 10 East 66th Street

ALL SIXTH GRADE FAMILIES are invited to join us for study and service on a Sunday afternoon. We'll start by learning about the important mitzvah of feeding the poor and finish the day by working together to make bagged lunches for those in need.

The Jewish tradition always has stressed the importance of putting our learning into direct action. We're going to do it all in the same day!

Questions? Contact David Wolkin, our coordinator of elementary and family learning, at (212) 744-1400, ext. 334 or family@emanuelnyc.org.

Handle on the Holidays (continued)

Although the Temple no longer stands in Jerusalem and we are no longer an agrarian culture, we still count down to Sinai, with the hope that this year we will be better prepared than last year. In part, that is a personal reflection, but it is also an attitude that is rooted in our tradition. The Midrash tells us that even the Israelites were a bit reluctant to get up so early in the morning to accept God's gift of Torah. They just weren't ready.

While the daily calendar we keep directs us to meet our external obligations successfully, too often there is little time left for personal reflection, for quiet moments, for sufficient preparation to allow us to say that this year will be different. You don't have to look farther than your purse or pocket or "palm" to feel the demands of the day calling to you and to anticipate a welcome day of rest.

Our ancestors not only counted the Omer, but they used each day of this period as a time for self-assessment. Consequently, they identified seven qualities—love, power, glory/pride, triumph, beauty, foundation, kingship/authority—that motivate the human spirit. Day by day, each trait is held up and measured against the rest. For example, love is examined through the lens of power, pride, triumph and beauty as a source of grounding and as a means of authority, until each aspect of the self has been considered. Like the restorative work of the Ten Days of Repentance, the self-examination of the Omer becomes what our ancestors called "Gates of Understanding," which prepare us for Sinai.

Overlaid on this period of counting and self-examination are the historical holidays of our own time. Yom HaShoah corresponds to the an-

niversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in April 1943. It is observed a week after Passover concludes, on the 27th of Nisan.

In my generation, the first one after the Holocaust, everything we learned was taught as an act of redemption. We were the *nechemta*, the answer to tragic events beyond understanding. Our generation represented the comfort of a commu-

Our ancestors not only counted the Omer, but they used each day as a time for self-assessment

nity restored, thriving and free. We heard the stories of our elders; saw the undeniable evidence written in flesh; and felt their passion for family, for our faith, for embracing whatever good came their way.

More than 60 years have passed since Yom HaShoah was placed on the calendar. As the number of survivors diminishes, our proximity to the living witnesses places a special responsibility on us to consider how to perpetuate their memory and what they experienced.

At the seder table, we read that each of us should regard himself or herself as if he or she personally had experienced the Exodus from Egypt. Given the thousands of years that separate our seder from the Exodus,

it is remarkable that the memory of the event is so strong.

But we also know that our seder isn't the quick meal, eaten with "loins girded and sandals on your feet and a staff in your hand," as recorded in Exodus 12:11. The event became ritualized through traditions to help contextualize the memory. We use cues, given through food (the seder plate) and stories compiled over a thousand years to help retell the original story.

How the seder is conducted tells us more about the importance of Roman influence on our community than it does about the original event. (But, that is a story, too.) Had the generation just after the Exodus said, "All that is in the past; it happened to our parents but not to us," then Judaism would have lost one of the key motifs or elements that informs our relationship with God.

So, how can we, as Rabbi Reuven Hammer teaches, "all view ourselves as if we had personally experienced the Shoah?"

There is no easy way to answer that. The last six decades have incorporated every manner of commemoration, including first-hand accounts, testimonials, music and poetry, *yahrzeit* candles and the honoring of Righteous Gentiles who protected Jews during the War. Emanu-El continues to open its doors to WAGRO, the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, at which survivors are joined by their families for a memorial commemoration, along with younger members of the community who will one day be the teachers of this terrible event. (See "Annual Gathering of Remembrance," page 2.)

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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. 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 students of our Religious School will become *B'NEI MITZVAH* in April:

Saturday, April 10

Cayla Rene Plotch, daughter of Suzanne and William Plotch

Saturday, April 17

Valia and Matthew Leifer, children of Anne and Dana Leifer

Sydney Ann Caputo, daughter of Michael Caputo and Sandra Stahl-Caputo

Saturday, April 24

Lucy and Jonathan Golub, children of Karen and Lawrence Golub

Friday, April 30

William D. Buckfire, son of Kenneth and Noreen Buckfire

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

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

For the Sabbath of April 2 and 3

In loving memory of Clara Fisch

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H.M. Maidman and Mr. and Mrs. Burton Manning
*in celebration of the birth of their grandson, Ezra Wood Maidman,
in San Francisco to "Molly" (Margaret) Wood and Dagny Maidman*

(continued on next page)

Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel

1076 Madison Avenue • (212) 753-5300

Our service is available in the Temple, home or our Chapel.

For the Conclusion of Passover (April 4 and 5)

Elisabeth Cassell *in loving memory of her parents,
Berta Rosenblum Gruenfeld and Morris Gruenfeld*

For the Sabbath of April 9 and 10

Suzanne and William Plotch *in honor of their daughter
Cayla Rene becoming a bat mitzvah*

Judie and Howard Ganek *in loving memory
of our dear mother, Elizabeth Goldstein*

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

For the Sabbath of April 16 and 17

Sivia Brodsky *in loving memory of her husband, Andrew Brodsky*

Robert, Ann and Jessica Freedman *in loving memory of Felix C. Fertig*

Robin M. Laden *in loving memory of my father, Leonard Laden*

Suzanne Sloan *in loving memory of Peter Moore*

For the Sabbath of April 23 and 24

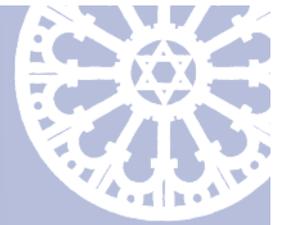
Ellen J. Weiss *in Celebration of Life*

Herbert C. Bernard *in loving memory
of my parents, Essie and Louis Bernard*

John, Laurie, Matthew, Spencer and Amanda Rudey;
Liz, Kirk and Kate Rudey Ruebenson
in loving memory of Samuel Richard Rudey

For the Sabbath of April 30 and May 1

Stephanie and Ron Kramer *in honor of their daughter
Danielle Elizabeth becoming a bat mitzvah*



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Howard J. Goldsmith,
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Lori A. Corrsin, *Cantor*
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For information, please call Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.



TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN

Vol. 82, No. 8
April 2010

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Handle on the Holidays (continued)

An ongoing discussion in the larger Jewish world questions whether Yom HaShoah should continue to have its own place on the calendar or be incorporated into Tishah B'Av (9 Av), a date that records the tragic destruction of the First and Second Temples. This date was well known in history and used by both England and Spain as the official date by which Jews were to be expelled from the country—from England in 1290 and from Spain in 1492. Because Tishah B'Av already is associated with mourning and remembrance, some wonder if it is inevitable that after the living memory of the Shoah fades, the commemoration will move from its current date and be added to the list of tragedies remembered on the 9th of Av.

Moving from sorrow to celebration, Yom HaAtzma-ut (5 Iyar) shares the distinction of being the other holiday derived from modern history. Often regarded as a response to the devastation of the Shoah, the birth of Israel is “the realization of the age-old dream—the redemption of Israel,” as written in Israel’s Declaration of Independence.

Whether we regard Israel’s formation as a political event or a religious one, the ties that bind us together emerge from both faith and history. It is a land that connects us with past and future, as the stage upon which so much of our history has been acted, as the modern country that embraces the ancient concept of

peoplehood and translates it into a political entity.

As the days between Passover and Shavuot progress, let us consider the opportunities for reflection, for commemoration and for celebration that are marked clearly on the calendar because leaving Egypt behind is not enough. We have to mark the journey to Sinai, the memory of the lost generations and the redemption of a land for which we have yearned throughout time.

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