

TEMPLE EMANUEL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 19

January 13, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 20 6:15 p.m.
**Family Shabbat:
Worship Service and Dinner**

Youngsters through early school age will celebrate Shabbat as part of our **Young Families** group. Youth who can read (through B'nei Mitzvah age) will celebrate with our **Junior Congregation**, led by Rabbinic Intern David Young with a unique, interactive approach to the service. Afterwards, we'll gather for dinner and an art project.



**RSVP to (212) 744-1400,
ext. 242 for Young Families,
ext. 501 for Junior
Congregation.**

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, January 20
Lowenstein 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, January 21
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Lowenstein Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Shemos
Readings—Exodus 1:1-6:1
Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

LECTURE
SERIES

Monday, January 23
6:30 p.m.
**War and Jewish Identity:
A Discussion With
Author Bryan Mark Rigg**

The Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica and the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library welcome Bryan Mark Rigg as the second speaker in their 2005-2006 lecture series, *The Arts and [Jewish] Identity*. Raised as a Protestant in the Texas Bible Belt, Mr. Rigg was surprised to learn of his own Jewish ancestry while researching his family tree in Germany. A decade of research while a student at Yale and Cambridge



universities resulted in his first book, *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military*. His second book, *Rescued From the Reich: How One of Hitler's Soldiers Saved the Lubavitcher Rebbe* (published in 2004), tells the true story of the rescue and of the secret collaboration between American officials and German military intelligence that made it possible. He currently is working on a new book, *Stories of Hitler's Jewish Stories*.

Attendance at this and other lectures in the series is free and open to the public. Enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

BAR MITZVAH

The following student of our Religious School will become a Bar Mitzvah this weekend:

*Robert Wechsler, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley J. Wechsler*

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

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

*Mrs. George Lust
in loving memory of
George Lust*

Openings:
Dinner, Study and
Discussion

SKIRBALL
CORNER

The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El presents "Openings," a new program for 30- and 40-something-year-old Jewish New Yorkers to spark meaningful and stimulating conversation and debate. Sessions, which include dinner, will be held once a month on Wednesday evenings starting January 25. Led by Rabbi Leon A. Morris, director of the Skirball Center, "Openings" will focus on the theme "Who Is a Jew? Identity, Biology and Politics." To register or for more information, call (212) 507-9580 or log on to www.adultjewishlearning.org.

SKIRBALL



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 22 9:15 a.m.
Tuesday, January 24 9:30 a.m.
Young Families: Storytime

Temple librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read stories about Shabbat.

Sunday, January 29 11 a.m.
Young Families: Music With Shira

Shira continues the theme of Shabbat with songs for your weekly celebration.

RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 362 for Storytime,
ext. 242 for Music With Shira.

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

Friday, January 27 6:30 p.m.
**Senior Youth Group:
Night at the Improv**

Senior Youth Groupers are invited to an evening of fun and laughter. We'll meet first for dinner at Patsy's Pizza, 318 West 23rd Street (between Eighth and Ninth avenues). Then we'll attend a performance of *The Luigi Brothers* at Gotham City Improv. Pickup at 10 p.m. will be from the theater, 158 West 23rd Street, second floor. Cost for this evening is \$10, which includes dinner at Patsy's. RSVP to Rabbini Intern David Young at ravpapa@hotmail.com or (212) 744-1400, ext. 501.

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.

ZAKHOR ET YOM HASHABBAT: REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

AT THE CENTER of Jewish living is Shabbat. Since first establishing ourselves as a people, we have affirmed our understanding of the world and of time through the celebration of the Sabbath day. From the first century to the present, how we celebrate Shabbat characterizes who we are as Jews and as people. Central to the Ten Commandments, the observance of Shabbat is understood in the Bible to be the key not only to a positive existence with God but as a key to the healthy, ethical life of community. If we celebrate, we acknowledge God as creator. If we keep it holy, by ceasing to create and to control on the seventh day, we are demonstrating something radical to the world. While the command appears multiple times in different contexts in the Bible, Exodus 20:8-11 identifies our observance of Shabbat with how it should lead to uniform labor laws for all who come in contact with us.

The Biblical text of Exodus 20:8-11 reads: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work; But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates; For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore God blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy."

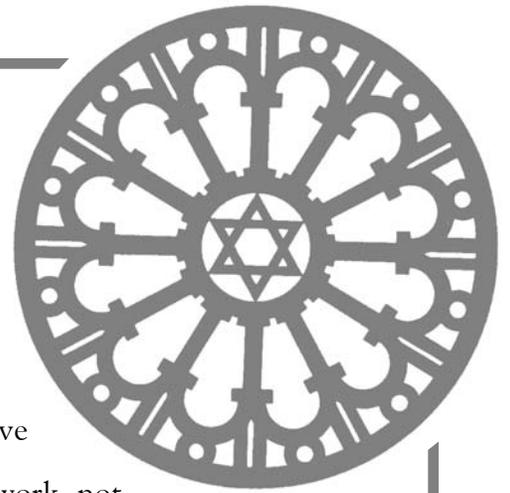
Foundational to who we are as a people is the way in which our laws lead to a better existence for all, within our family and within our community, even for those who

are "strangers." We cannot, according to this text, observe Shabbat, rest ourselves, not work, not produce and yet pressure others around us to work on our behalf. Rather the laws of Shabbat demand that all who come in contact with us not work on our behalf. Our rest is a rest for all.

If Shabbat confirms the kind of ethical labor laws our people ought to model, it also confirms how we understand God, the world and time. According to Deuteronomy 5:15—another central Biblical text about Shabbat—observance of Shabbat is linked not only to current standards of living for all, but it has everything to do with the past. Following the command to observe the day, the text adds: "And remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and that *Adonai* your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm; therefore the Lord your

God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day." Here the message is even clearer: Our own experience and our ethical enactment of how we interpret Shabbat are what make our Shabbat holy.

In other words, however you do or do not observe Shabbat according to later Jewish law, the Bible has one clear message: Let your Shabbat be something that honors all creatures; let your Shabbat be something that eases the oppression of others; let your Shabbat enhance memory and increase freedom.



**REMEMBER THE SABBATH
DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY.
SIX DAYS SHALL YOU
LABOR, AND DO ALL
YOUR WORK; BUT THE
SEVENTH DAY IS
THE SABBATH OF THE
LORD YOUR GOD.**

— EXODUS 20:8-10

FACES OF EMANU-EL

“You never know what life has in store for you,” says Dionne (Oliva) Gorbea. “Growing up as the only girl in a family with four brothers made me somewhat ‘boyish.’ I was a tomboy for many years...loved to play basketball. That I ended up working for a women’s organization at times surprises me.”

For nearly six years now, Dionne has worked as the assistant to Temple Emanu-El’s Women’s Auxiliary—a self-proclaimed “behind-the-scenes” person handling everything from membership applications to coordination of the group’s monthly activities. This is not, however,

Dionne’s first or only job at Emanu-El.

She began as a weekend receptionist during the summer of 1998. The following spring, the Women’s Auxiliary approached her about helping them, which she did part time—making sure to be home when daughters Nicole and Stephanie returned from school. In 2004, she also began working with the Men’s Club.

Life continues to bring Dionne surprising...and wonderful...changes.

In August 2005, at a ceremony performed by Rabbi Posner, Dionne married Joe Gorbea.

“We actually met 17 years ago, swimming at a public pool. We had our first date the day after but parted ways. I got married, he got married. Seven years ago we reconnected.” Together, Dionne and Joe are dealing with raising four teenagers in one house. “We have a little bit of a ‘Brady Bunch’ thing going on,” Dionne says. “I got the boys I never had, and he has the girls he never had. But, it’s all good, and we take it one day at a time.”

“Faces of Emanu-El” is a periodic feature highlighting the people who help make our Temple such a special place.



**DIONNE
GORBEA**

*Assistant to the
Women’s Auxiliary
and Men’s Club*

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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