

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 24

February 17, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 21 8:30 a.m.
Men's Club: Book Group

The selection for our February meeting is the international bestseller *A Man and a Woman and a Man* by Savyon Liebrecht.

Friday, February 24 5:15 p.m.
Religious School: Family Worship and Sabbath Dinner

Don't miss our last Sabbath dinner of the school year! All Religious School students and their families are invited to join us first for worship services in the Lowenstein Sanctuary (10 East 66th Street), followed by a traditional Sabbath dinner. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 226. (Please state the number of children and number of adults attending.)

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, February 24
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, February 25
Women's Auxiliary Lounge
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Lowenstein Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1-24:18; 30:11-16
II Kings 12:1-17
Sermon: Rabbi Aaron D. Panken

GUEST
SERMON

Saturday, February 25
10:30 a.m.
**Rabbi Nathan A.
Perilman Memorial
Sermon-Lecture**

Temple Emanu-El is pleased to welcome Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Ph.D., dean at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), who will be this year's guest preacher at the annual Rabbi Nathan A. Perilman Memorial Sermon-Lecture.

An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Rabbi Panken earned his doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University, where his research focused on legal change in Talmudic and Midrashic literature. In addition to teaching Rabbinic and Second Temple literature at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Panken is active in several major Jewish organizations, including the Wexner Foundation, Taglit-birthright israel and the New Israel Fund.



This annual event is named for Dr. Nathan Perilman, who served Congregation Emanu-El from 1932 until his retirement in 1973. In 1982, the congregation established this lectureship in honor of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Perilman's ordination. The lecture is presented each year in the form of a Sabbath morning sermon. Dr. Perilman passed away in 1991.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1 6 p.m.
**Protecting Yourself
Against Identity Theft**

The Women's Auxiliary sponsors this event featuring Andrea J. Dunn of Citibank, who will discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and what to do if it should happen to you. Cost is \$15 for Women's Auxiliary members, \$20 for nonmembers. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

Monday, March 6 6 p.m.
Young Jewish Authors Discussion Group

We will discuss "Leah" by Ehud Havazelet, found in *Lost Tribe: Jewish Fiction From the Edge* (edited by Paul Zakrezewski). For more information, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.

Sunday, March 19 7:30 p.m.
Night Out With the Knicks!

Join the Men's Club for an evening of basketball at Madison Square Garden, where the New York Knicks will play the Miami Heat. Cost is \$50 per person. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis to all Temple members. Call the Men's Club at (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

BAR MITZVAH

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

Maxwell Brandon DeLott,
son of
Lynda and Steven DeLott

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

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

LECTURE
SERIES

Wednesday, February 22
6:30 p.m.
**Hebrew Printing in Poland:
A Brief History**

Brad Sabin Hill,
Dean of the library
and senior research
librarian of the YIVO
Institute in New York,
is our next speaker in
the 2005-2006 lecture
series The Arts and
[Jewish] Identity,



co-sponsored by the Herbert & Eileen
Bernard Museum of Judaica and the
Ivan M. Stettenheim Library at
Temple Emanu-El. This illustrated
lecture by Mr. Hill will trace the
history of the art of Hebrew printing
in the Polish lands from its
introduction in Cracow in the 16th
century through the period between
World War I and World War II.

Attendance is free and open to the
public. Enter through the Marvin
and Elisabeth Cassell Community
House, One East 65th Street.



PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Gloria and Stuart DeLott
and Jean and Bruce Gould in honor of
their grandson Max DeLott
becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Rosalind Pretzfelder in loving memory of
her parents, Tillie and George Pretzfelder

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.

LO TIGNOV: YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS are among Judaism's most important gifts to humanity. Repeated in two different places in the Torah—Exodus and Deuteronomy—the 10 utterances communicate succinctly what it means to be a Jew and a human being. Each commandment contains in it a world of moral and religious meaning. Each one is a foundation of the Judeo-Christian civilizations that later gave birth to all that is good and moral about our cultures.

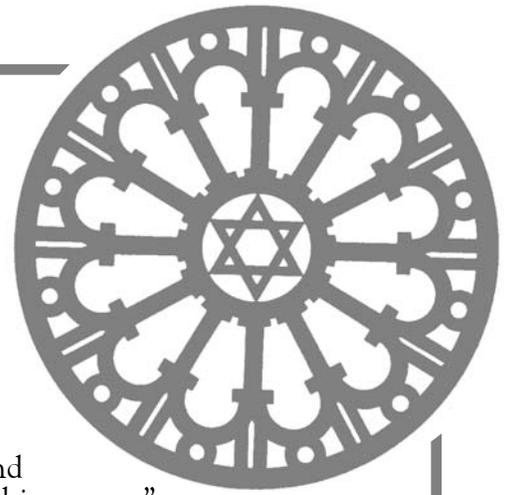
The first five commandments, as many Sages have noted, focus on the duties of a Jew vis-à-vis God, while the second five focus on one's responsibilities to other human beings—including the commandment not to murder, nor to bear false witness against one's neighbor. The eighth commandment, "You Shall Not Steal," falls precisely between the prohibition against committing adultery and that of bearing false witness. Society, the Bible teaches, cannot function without these basic principles of human decency. And yet, somehow, everyday, it does.

Not stealing—taking property that belongs to another—is central to a socio-religious code of ethics because of what it teaches, like much of Western law, about the importance of respecting ownership. The idea of possession in Judaism, however, is not simply a socially necessary construct; it has sacred significance.

Our tradition teaches that when we receive something new, we bless it. When we acquire a new article of clothing or build a new house, the Talmud (TB *Berachot* 59b) instructs us to recite the *Sh'hechyanu* blessing now familiar to many: "Blessed are you,

Adonai
Our God,
Sovereign of
the Universe,
who has kept
us alive and
sustained us and
brought us to this season."

When we possess something new—gain new property—it is a symbol of God's goodness. Therefore, to take something that belongs to someone else is to steal from them God's blessing. To steal God's blessing is an affront to God.



**AND MOSES CALLED
UNTO ALL ISRAEL,
AND SAID UNTO THEM:
HEAR, O ISRAEL,
THE STATUTES AND
THE ORDINANCES WHICH
I SPEAK IN YOUR EARS
THIS DAY, THAT YE MAY
LEARN THEM, AND
OBSERVE TO DO THEM.**

— DEUTERONOMY 5:1

Interestingly, the Talmud specifies that when one shares ownership, one doesn't say the *Sh'hechyanu* blessing but rather: "Blessed is He who is good and does good." In other words, what we have is not solely because of what we have earned or done, or deserved, but rather because God is good and God does good. God's goodness is what brings property and establishes ownership. Therefore, to steal another's property is to attempt to redistribute God's goodness and to change what God has established. In other words, stealing is a kind of overblown hubris, or

even an attempt to be God because it is an attempt to compete with God's goodness and to dislodge what God has distributed.

Thus, we are commanded: "You Shall Not Steal," which reminds us that just as we human beings are not like God—who determines the beginning and end of life—neither are we like God, who determines the blessings that each of us receive. None but God can give us blessing, and no human being may take it from us.

FACES OF EMANU-EL



KWAI MAN MA
*Production
and Distribution
Coordinator*

Walking past the door of Kwai Man Ma's office on the seventh floor, it's not uncommon to hear the strains of classical violin or piano airing from a small radio that sits in a corner. "I'm a recent convert to classical music," Ma says. "Beethoven and Brahms are my favorites." A native of Hong Kong, Ma, 45, came to the United States in 1985 to attend college. While studying for an accounting degree at New York City's Baruch College, Ma in 1987 began working a weekend shift at the front desk of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House—a secondary job he held until last year. Then, in July 2005, Ma was asked to become a full-time member of the Temple's administrative staff to oversee coordination of all congregation mailings. In addition, because of his excellent computer skills—he's a true whiz!—he also works on membership database issues.

"From the weekly bulletin to auxiliary mailings, its not unusual for 5,000 to 7,000 printed items to pass through here in a given week," says Temple Administrator Mark Heutlinger. "No matter how many projects we give Mr. Ma, he handles them with proficiency and grace."

The switch to employment in the nonprofit sector was something Ma accepted readily. "It's very different from a business organization ...It's much more people friendly," he says. "And, if your business is not doing well, you don't have peace of mind. At my age, peace of mind and job security are very important."

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

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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Associate Rabbi
Nadia E. Gold
Assistant Rabbi
Lori Corrsin
Cantor

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