

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 33

April 21, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 24 6:30 p.m.
Ninth Grade Leadership Academy

Students should note, this session is in place of the April 10 session. Dinner will be served.

Tuesday, April 25 10:30 a.m.
**Heirless Art and
The Mauerbach Benefit Auction**

All Temple members are invited to a special program hosted by the Women's Auxiliary. The program will be led by Mrs. Beverly Siegel, a member of the Temple Emanu-El congregation and a former senior public relations consultant for Christie's, New York. Afterwards, attendees are invited to enjoy a "Viennese Table" of desserts. *RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.*

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, April 28
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, April 29
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Lowenstein Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Tazria-Metzora

Readings—Leviticus 12:1-15:33

Numbers 28:9-15;

Isaiah 66:1-24

Sermon: Rabbi Nadia E. Gold



PIANO
RECITAL

Sunday, April 30 3 p.m.
Young Artists Concert

Our final performer in this series of piano recitals will be Brandon Lee, 18, of Logan, Utah—second place winner of the 2004 New York Piano Competition sponsored by the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. The concert will be held in Greenwald Hall and is free and open to the public. Enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

The New York Piano Competition is open to young artists, ages 14 through 18, from across the country. Each artist competes for cash prizes and concert appearances. All return home winners, either as prize or scholarship recipients.

For more information, call (212) 581-8380.

B'NEI MITZVAH

The following students of our Religious School will become
B'nei Mitzvah this weekend:

Alexander Baudoin,
son of Ellen A. Breslow and Jean Yves Baudoin

Alexa Gellman,
daughter of Wendy and Stephen Gellman

Samantha Brooke Swarzman,
daughter of Michelle and Howard Swarzman

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 28

6:15 p.m.
**Family Shabbat:
Worship and Dinner**

Youngsters through early school age will celebrate with 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. Afterwards, we'll gather for dinner and an art project. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242 for **Young Families** or ext. 501 for **Junior Congregation**.

Sunday, April 30

10 a.m.
Coffee Talk With Rabbi Posner

Senior Rabbi David Posner will discuss "Making Judaism a Great Part of Your Family's Everyday Life." This discussion is a continuation of a previous session. Enter at One East 65th Street. This event is sponsored by the Religious School Parents Organization.

RSVP to the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226 by Thursday, April 27.



Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel

1076 Madison Avenue (212) 753-5300
Our service is available in the Temple, home, or our Chapel.

Wednesday, May 3

6 p.m.
**Culture and Costume:
Depictions of Jewish Dress
Across Five Centuries**

The Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica at Temple Emanu-El proudly announces the opening of its spring exhibition. This opening reception for Temple members will feature a keynote lecture at 7 p.m. by Jenna Weissman Joselit, author of *A Perfect Fit: Clothes, Character and the Promise of America*. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 259.



Tuesday, May 9

12:30 p.m.
**Women's Auxiliary:
Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

Christine C. Quinn, speaker of the New York City Council, will be this year's featured guest. The Annual Meeting, which includes the election of officers and board members, is for Women's Auxiliary members in good standing and their invited guests. Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

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 B'SHAMAYIM HIII: IT IS NOT IN HEAVEN...

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

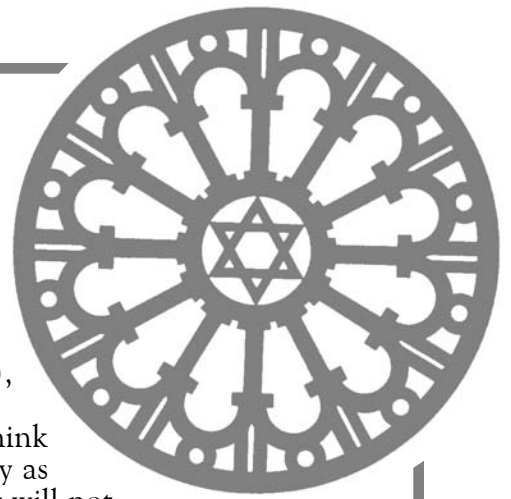
Among the most powerful ideas of Judaism is the nearness of what might otherwise seem very distant. Neither God nor the Bible is meant to be inaccessible to human beings. We all are created in God's image, and we all are meant to have immediate access to God; we need no intermediary. God does not command from far away but, rather, from immediacy that all can see and feel.

Toward the end of the Book of Deuteronomy (30: 12-14) we read:

It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who shall go up for us to heaven and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" Nor is it beyond the sea that you should say, "Who shall go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" But the word is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Similarly, the ideas of the Torah—although interpreted by only a select group of people—were given to all of us. Torah is meant to be in the hands of people, not protected from real life in some far off place. Nor, according to the Torah itself, should the Torah be placed where only the extreme arrogant or vulgar think they can reach it. According to the fourth century Talmudic

sage Rava (BT Eruvin 55a), one who is so arrogant as to think that he is as lofty as the sky certainly will not really understand (or possess) Torah.



Furthermore, Rabbi Yohanan (circa third century CE) says one who is rude or of an unpleasant spirit also will not be able to grasp Torah.

Beyond the accessibility issue, Torah should be something that is kept near to one's heart. It should be recited and should flow from our mouths, for this is how we are most likely to maintain it and perform its precepts. One is more likely to engage in the sacred acts of *mitzvot* the more one is close to the text itself. All of us can have it, all of us can love it, all of us can uphold it, and all of us can enjoy the beauty and goodness of its message.

IT IS NOT IN HEAVEN, THAT YOU SHOULD SAY, "WHO SHALL GO UP FOR US TO HEAVEN AND BRING IT TO US, THAT WE MAY HEAR IT AND DO IT?" NOR IS IT BEYOND THE SEA THAT YOU SHOULD SAY, "WHO SHALL GO OVER THE SEA FOR US AND BRING IT TO US, THAT WE MAY HEAR IT AND DO IT?" BUT THE WORD IS VERY NEAR TO YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART, THAT YOU MAY DO IT.

— DEUTERONOMY 30:12-14

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, a founding faculty member of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, is a member of the faculty at the Shalom Hartman Institute and HUC-JIR in Jerusalem.

For previous articles in this series by Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, as well as other scholarly articles appearing in the Temple Emanu-El Bulletin, log on to the Temple Emanu-El Web site at www.emanuelnyc.org and click on Bulletin (Newsletter) from the Home Page. To view the Bulletin, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer.

TEMPLE YOUTH PROGRAMS

Rabbi Nadia Gold invites Temple Emanu-El youth to get ready for three stimulating programs geared specifically for them:

- **Eighth Grade Leadership Academy**
- **Ninth Grade Confirmation Academy**
- **10th-12th Grade High School Academy**

Each program will meet one evening per month (Sundays from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. for eighth graders, Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for ninth and 10th through 12th graders) for discussion about various topics relating to a teen's Jewish identity. Dinner will be served. Youth interested in participating should have their parents complete and return this form by **Thursday, June 1** to:
Temple Emanu-El, One East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021 Attn: Rabbi Nadia Gold

YES! My child is interested in participating in a Temple Emanu-El Youth Academy Program.

(Check the appropriate box based on which grade your child will be entering in the fall.)

Eighth Grade Academy Ninth Grade Academy 10th-12th Grade Academy

Student's Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



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