

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 38

May 26, 2006

SHAVUOS SERVICES

EREV SHAVUOS

Thursday evening, June 1
Beth-El Chapel—5:30 p.m.

Our service will include a ceremony for those members of our Adult B'nei Mitzvah Program who have completed their year-long course of study. A reception with traditional Shavuos dairy refreshments will follow.

SHAVUOS

Friday morning, June 2
Lowenstein Sanctuary—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Exodus 19:1-20:23

Readings—Numbers 28:26-31

Ezekiel 1:1-28, 3:12

Sermon: **Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich**
Memorial Service

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, June 2
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, June 3
Lowenstein Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Deuteronomy

14:22-16:17

Readings—Numbers 28:26-31

Habakkuk 2:20-3:19

Sermon: **Rabbi David M. Posner**

SPRING
EXHIBITION



Culture & Costume: Depictions of Jewish Dress Across Five Centuries

On view at Temple Emanu-El's Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica through August 3, *Culture & Costume* documents the perceptions and imaginings of travelers and artists who illustrated Jewish modes of dress and ways of life in various parts of the world from the 15th through the 19th centuries. The clothes and customs of Jews living in North Africa, the Ottoman Empire and Europe were recorded in books and prints that purported to describe the manners, laws, religions and dress of people in these places.
(Sundays – Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Ryan Andrew Chernin, son of Lauren and Samuel Chernin

Courtney Paige Cohen, daughter of Diana and Neal Cohen

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

PULPIT FLOWERS

Pulpit flowers at Shavuot worship services are the generous donation of:

Elisabeth Cassell in loving memory of her brothers and sisters,
Emil, Eugene, Alice, Piri, Magda and Viola

**Pulpit flowers for this week's Sabbath services
are the generous donation of our congregants:**

Edythe, William and John Heyman in loving memory of *George H. Heyman*

Daniel S. Kampel in loving memory
of his wife, *Clarisse B. Kampel*

Dr. Gerald Leinwand in loving memory
of *Brenda Rediker Leinwand*

TO BE NOTED

Mitzvah Day 2006

Do you have a project idea for Mitzvah Day 2006? Are you interested in participating but were unable to attend the first planning meeting?

Don't worry... There's still plenty of time to join the Mitzvah Day team/committee. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 425 and leave a message on the Mitzvah Day voice mail.

Or, send an e-mail message to MitzvahDay2006@yahoo.com. Someone will get back to you.

(And, mark your calendars for the big day on Sunday, November 12, 2006!)

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

Sunday Lunch Program

The Sunday Lunch Program is compiling a list of volunteers who can be called on short notice to help out in the kitchen during July and August. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 210 to have your name included on the list.

English in Action

The Women's Auxiliary is seeking volunteer tutors for the English in Action session that meets Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To sign up, or for more information, interested persons should 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.

SHAVUOS: A FEAST FOR THE SOUL

By Rabbi Irving Greenberg (From *The Jewish Way*)

AS ALWAYS, feasting is a key feature of Jewish celebration. In the case of Shavuos, the tradition of eating dairy meals is strong. Blintzes and cheesecakes are often the special fare. Some attribute this custom to the verse that likens Torah to milk and honey. A folk tradition explains that upon receiving the Torah, the Jews were required to eat kosher meat (that is, meat specially slaughtered and prepared). [Because] it takes time to prepare meat in this manner, they initially ate dairy after Sinai. The insistence on dairy food may well be a messianic reference. Just as Passover evokes the future universal redemption, so Shavuos evokes the hope of the universal covenant. The prophet predicts that even the carnivorous animals will turn vegetarian (“and the lion, like the ox, shall eat straw”); hence follows the anticipatory dairy meal of Shavuos.

Another custom is to bake two extra-long *challahs* in remembrance of the two special loaves offered in the Temple on the day of the first fruits. A still later custom is to prepare triangular-shaped *latkes* or *krep-lach*. The three-sided shapes evoke the old witticism that God gave a three-part Torah (Torah, Prophets and Writings) to a three-part people (Kohen, Levite and Israelite), through a third-born son (Moses, youngest sibling to Miriam and Aaron) in the third month (Sivan).

Given the strong association of Shavuos and Talmud Torah, it was customary in traditional French and German Jewish society for young children to begin studying the Torah on this day. To sweeten the experience, parents would coat the first letters that the child was to learn with honey. Licking off the honey, the child would taste the fulfillment of the psalmist’s words that

the commandments are “more desired than gold...and sweeter than honey.” (Psalms 19:11)

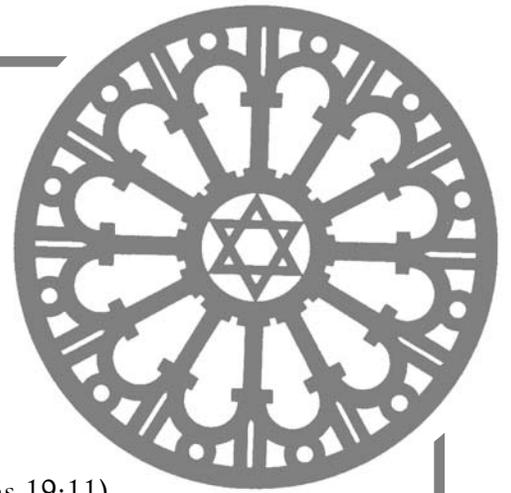
Still another custom is to bake “Mount Sinai cakes”—honey cakes filled with almonds and raisins—to fulfill the dictum: “Taste and see that God is good.” (Psalms 34:9)

All in all, Shavuos is the festival most limited in specific rituals and shortest in duration—one day in Israel, two days in Diaspora in traditional Jewish practice. Samson Raphael Hirsch suggested that the Torah deliberately avoided creating one dominant holiday ritual in connection with the giving of the Torah lest people think that a specific ritual was the way to celebrate the Torah. In fact, the Torah should be with all the people at all times and should permeate all actions.

Hirsch’s own favorite symbol of the holiday was the two loaves of bread and the *shlamim*—the peace offering—that was brought on Shavuos to the Temple. These represented food and human independence and the state of complete human happiness that was expressed in the *shlamim* sacrifice, a celebration of inner peace and harmony:

*For those who have achieved this inner harmony...In the presence of God, together with wife and children, they can enjoy eternal values which transform every moment of our fleeting existence on earth into a taste of eternity.**

* Samson Raphael Hirsch, *Judaism Eternal*, Volume 1, p. 109.



JUST AS PASSOVER
EVOKES THE FUTURE
UNIVERSAL
REDEMPTION,
SO SHAVUOS EVOKES
THE HOPE OF
THE UNIVERSAL
COVENANT.

SUMMER AT SKIRBALL

JEWISH DOCUMENTARY FILMS
MONDAYS, 6:30 P.M. (JUNE 5 – JULY 31)
\$15 PER CLASS, \$90 FOR THE SERIES



Producer/Director Faye Lederman—a part-time faculty member at the School of Visual Arts and a member of the Working Group on Jews, Religion and Media at NYU's Center for Religion and Media—leads this eight-week course, sponsored by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. Explore documentary films on Jewish subjects from the 1930s until today, and develop insights and trends in ethnographic practice, including shifts in filmmaker approach from objective to subjective. View one to three films each week and contextualize them with short theoretical and practical readings. *To register, or for more information about the films, log on to www.adultjewishlearning.org/film or call (212) 507-9580.*

- June 5:** *Number Our Days* (1976); clips from the Spielberg archive (**This session is FREE.**)
June 12: *Best Boy* (1976); clips from *Best Man*
June 19: *Rannanah, A World of Our Own* (1980); *The Miracle of Intervale Avenue* (1983)
June 26: *Nobody's Business* (1996)
July 10: *Treyf* (1998); *Women of the Wall* (1999); *A Good Uplift* (2002)
July 17: *Promises* (2001)
July 24: *Brownsville Black and White* (2000)
July 31: *Hiding and Seeking* (2004)

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Dr. David M. Posner
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