



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 40

June 3, 2005

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, June 10 Main 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 11 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Naso
Readings—Numbers 4:21-5:31
Judges 13:2-12

Sermon: Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

SHAVUOS SERVICES

EVE OF SHAVUOS

Sunday evening, June 12
Main Sanctuary—5:30 p.m.

SHAVUOS

Monday morning, June 13
Main Sanctuary—10:30 a.m.

Memorial Service

Torah Portion—Exodus 19:1-8; 20:1-14
Readings—The Book of Ruth

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

Temple members and their guests are encouraged to join us for Eve of Shavuos services in the Main Sanctuary, followed by a dairy dinner and discussion with our rabbis. The cost is \$18 per person.

Reserve your seats by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 215. Make your check payable to Congregation Emanu-El.

JUNE
ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, June 8
5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Temple members should gather in the I.M. Wise Hall, One East 65th Street. Refreshments will be served. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 215 for additional information.

Thursday, June 16

6 p.m.

Torah Among the Trees: Walking Tour and Jewish Text Study

Explore the theme of expulsion and return to the Garden of Eden in a walk through Central Park led by Rabbi Leon Morris and Tony Robins (author, historian, writer and guide). The cost is \$15. We will meet in front of Temple Emanu-El at Fifth Avenue and 65th Street—rain or shine. Wear comfortable shoes! Register by calling the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El at (212) 507-9580.

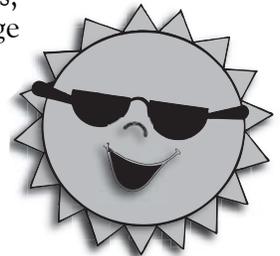
Saturday, June 18

11:30 a.m.

Young Families: Rooftop Party

Don't miss our end-of-the-year celebration! Bring bathing suits, towels, hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and a change of clothes. In case of rain, the party moves inside. Enter at 10 East 66th Street.

Young Families is for preschoolers and their families. All attendees must preregister by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.



PULPIT FLOWERS

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

The Dagny, Mitchel, Patrick and Richard Maidman families
in loving memory of *Dr. Robert Lateiner*
(June 24, 1909 – May 12, 2005)

Jerome Tarnoff in loving memory of
his mother, *Anna Tarnoff*

Pulpit Flowers at Shavuot worship services are the generous gift of:

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

Dr. Barbara L. and Sandra M. Claster
in memory of
Della F. and Philip A. Leiner
and *Miriam H. and Aaron A. Claster*,
loving parents and grandparents

EVENTS FOR TEENS

Attention! Students entering grades 8 through 12 in the fall:

- Eighth Grade Leadership Academy begins *Monday, September 12*
- Ninth Grade High School Academy begins *Monday, September 19*
- 10th-12th Grade High School Academy begins *Monday, September 26*

Each program will meet one **Monday** per month from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for discussion about various topics relating to a teen's Jewish identity.

Dinner will be served. Watch your mail for details and future dates. Students who have not yet signed up should e-mail Rabbi Gold at nadiagold@emanuelnyc.org or call (212) 744-1400, ext. 204.

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

SUMMER AT SKIRBALL



**A COURSE
COMBINING
FILM
SCREENINGS
WITH
TEXT STUDY**

*with Erik Greenberg Anjou
& Rabbi Leon A. Morris*

Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
\$15 per class | \$75 for entire course

*Brief introduction of film and theme,
followed by screening,
refreshment break and text study*

**June 8—
CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS, 1989**
Written and Directed by Woody Allen

**June 15—
ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, 1999**
Written and Directed by Pedro Almodovar

**June 22—
THE EDGES OF THE LORD, 2005**
Written and Directed by Yurek Bogayevicz

June 29—MY ARCHITECT, 2003
Written and Directed by Nathaniel Kahn

July 6—BREAKER MORANT, 1980
Screenplay by Jonathan Hardy;
directed by Bruce Beresford

July 13—THE HUMAN STAIN, 2003
Screenplay by Nicholas Meyer;
directed by Robert Benton

**For more information, contact the
Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning
at Temple Emanu-El
by calling (212) 507-9580 or log on to
<www.adultjewishlearning.org>.**

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.

ZECHER LI-TSIYAT MITZRAYIM: DEPARTING FROM EGYPT

There is no event in all of Jewish history that is given greater theological evidence than the Exodus from Egypt. Most Jews in America are under the impression that the Exodus is memorialized once a year, logically, on Passover. If truth be told, and if Judaism be observed, we know that the Exodus is remembered and commemorated each time we recite Kiddush on Friday evenings (52 times a year), when we read the words, “Zecher li-tsiyat Mitzrayim”—a memorial of the Exodus from Egypt.

The festival of Shavuos (“Weeks”) is the second of the three major Exodus celebrations. Passover celebrates the liberation experience. Five days after Yom Kippur, Succos reenacts God’s providential care in the wilderness. And coming between those two holidays is Shavuos, falling seven weeks after Passover. It is the holiday that celebrates the defining feature of Jewish existence: the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. Rabbi Irving Greenberg writes of the essence of the holiday in his book *The Jewish Way*.

The binding of God in the covenant is the guarantor that redemption is the true fate of humankind. Reality itself does not always seem to operate to ensure the triumph of good. Ultimately, then, it is God’s promise that justifies hope. This is the irony and paradox of the “guarantee”: It is built on nothing more substantial than the word of God.

What could be more ephemeral than a word, especially when the promise of redemption may point to an event hundreds or even thousands of years away? Yet, Jews trusted, waited and worked. The Torah is no easy, ironclad guarantee against fate or suffering, yet it has outlasted empires. The Jews’ testimony is that the covenant will outlast even those societies and cultures that deny its existence. On the other hand, the ethics of asking people to depend on God’s word implies that God will truly bind God’s own self to keep that promise.

Therefore, Shavuos is not a coronation ceremony. On Rosh Hashonah, Jews blow the *shofar* and crown the Lord as ruler of the universe. Shavuos is a more “democratic” holiday. It remembers those who trekked to Sinai to receive the Torah. It celebrated the God who “descended upon the mountain” and bound the divine self permanently to the Jewish people. A ruler issues decrees of life and death. A covenant rests upon “free negotiations, mutual assumption of duties and full



MOSES AT MOUNT SINAI

recognition of the equal rights of both parties.”* God also becomes a partner in this covenantal community. God joins in human community and shares in its covenantal existence. As Joseph B. Soloveitchik points out, the whole concept of God suffering along with humanity (“I [God] shall be with him in trouble” [Psalm 91:5]) “can only be understood within the perspective of the covenantal community which involves God in the destiny of his fellow members.” ‡

So Shavuos is the holiday of partnership. The Divine, out of unbounded love, voluntarily puts aside unbounded power; this equalizes the two partners. This idea of partnership has had an immeasurably positive impact on human history even beyond religion. Covenant became the source of morality and ethics, moving humanity away from magical and ritual/mechanical concepts of divine-human interaction. Concern for social justice, compassion for human suffering, and the demand that religious people serve other humans have all flowed from this idea.

Another outgrowth of this covenant concept has been the principle of the rule of laws, not men. If God is bound by the law, then an earthly ruler is not above the law either. This tradition persists in the United States with the supremacy of the Constitution, the right of the individual and the group to legal protection, and the consensus on the need for limits on government.



IN REMEMBRANCE

At what proved to be a memorable and emotional afternoon, Congregation Emanu-El hosted a dedication ceremony of the new Russian Community Memorial Garden at Beth-El Cemetery, which pays tribute to Jewish Russian war veterans, their families and loved ones lost during



World War II. Rabbi Posner welcomed the various dignitaries participating in the dedication ceremony, as well as approximately 100 members of the Russian community who were in attendance. "For many, the memorial garden will be a place where they can, for the first time since arriving



in America, memorialize lost family members and those left behind in Russia," Rabbi Posner said. At the centerpiece of the garden is a monument representing the Star of David, topped with an obelisk and a sculpture of an eternal flame.

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