



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 29

March 18, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 23 9:30 a.m.

Young Families: Storytime in the Library

Temple librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read stories about Purim. Storytime is for preschoolers (from age 2½) accompanied by a parent. All attendees must preregister by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.

Tuesday, March 22 12:30 p.m.

Women's Auxiliary: Book Discussion Group

Rabbi Nadia Gold will discuss with us *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. She also will lead a discussion about Jewish thinking on the afterlife. Feel free to bring your lunch; coffee and cookies will be served. We will meet in the Women's Auxiliary Lounge (Room 602).

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, March 25 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, March 26 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Tzav
Readings—Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Ezekiel 36:22-336

Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich preaching

FREE
CONCERT

Sunday, April 3
3 p.m.

Young Artists Concert

Award-winning pianist and musical prodigy Esther Park, age 20, will perform a special program at Temple Emanu-El's Greenwald Hall featuring works by Clementi, Chopin,

Liszt and
Rachmaninoff.

The recital, presented in association with the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation, is one of the rewards for winners of the New York Piano Competition.

The recipient of numerous national

and international piano competitions, Ms. Park has performed as a soloist with orchestras in recitals across the United States, as well as in Israel, Korea, Russia, Poland and Italy. Born in Pusan, Korea, in 1984, she began to play in public soon after her first piano lessons at age four. She moved to the United States in 1995 after being accepted to the Juilliard School's pre-college division, where she is a full-scholarship student.



This event is free and open to the public. On the day of the event, please enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. For more information, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 215.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 25 Time TBD
Emanu-El League: Purim Party

Watch your mail for details! The Emanu-El League is for Jewish singles in their late 20s through early 40s.

Tuesday, March 29 10:45 a.m.
**Women's Auxiliary:
Trip to the Jewish Museum**

Women's Auxiliary members are invited to attend a docent-led tour of the exhibit "The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons" at the Jewish Museum, Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street. The exhibit examines representative salons from Berlin, Vienna, Paris, London, New York and Milan, as well as their hostesses, participants and the art that flourished as a result of the contacts and conversations that took place. The cost for this event is \$45 per person, which includes museum admission, the tour and lunch at a local restaurant. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

Tuesday, April 12 8:30 a.m.
Men's Club: Reading Group
We will discuss *A Spectacle of Corruption* by award-winning author David Liss.

TO BE NOTED

Annual Meeting Date Changed

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation has been changed to Wednesday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m. Temple members should gather in the Isaac Mayer Wise Hall of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

Hearing Enhancement System

 The Main Sanctuary, Greenwald Hall and the Leon Lowenstein Sanctuary are equipped with an infrared sound system. Headsets or neck loops may be obtained from an usher or lobby attendant.

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

Idea's Café
Tuesdays 8 PM

SKIRBALL
CORNER

Hungry for intellectual give-and-take in a relaxed setting? Then join us at Ideas Café, a weekly salon sponsored by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. Meet others over coffee, wine and snacks at small, candle-lit tables. Discuss vital current issues that affect Jewish and American life. Ideas Café is a meeting of minds where spirited discussions move at a rapid pace—sometimes with very surprising results. You'll find our sessions provocative, stimulating and fun—and above all, a great intellectual experience. Cost is \$10 per session at the door, \$5 for Skirball Center students.

Visit us online at www.ideascafe.org.

SKIRBALL



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

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Ann Leggett Perse
in loving memory of her husband,
Harry H. Perse

Mr. Alan Stuart
in loving memory of
Elizabeth L. and Milton M. Stuart
and *James M. Stuart*

**To sponsor Pulpit Flowers, call
Sherry Nehmer at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312.**

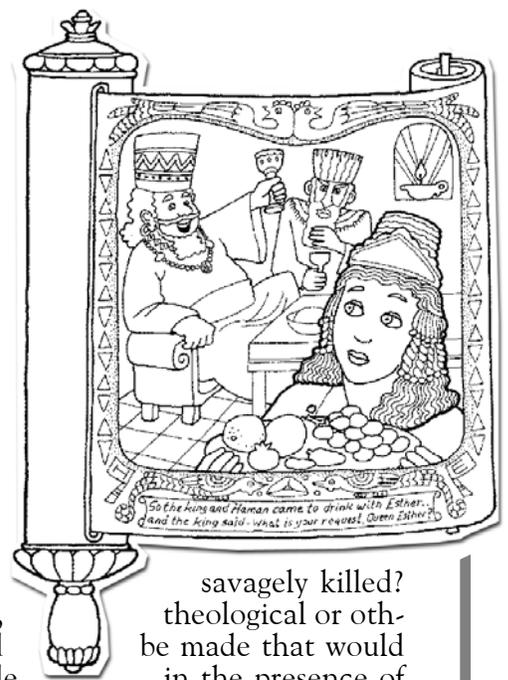
The Cemeteries of Congregation Emanu-El
Salem Fields and Beth-El

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.

PURIM — AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

It generally is assumed that the festival of Purim—and the story of Esther, Mordecai, Haman and King Ahasuerus—present us with the opportunity to indulge in a holiday that is pure and unadulterated joy...a festival in which the normal rules of synagogue decorum are suspended in favor of a spirit of joyful intoxication. However, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, in his excellent book *The Jewish Way*, plumbs the depths of Purim and sees in it a deeper understanding of theodicy—the problem of evil.

“**T**here is the excruciatingly intense problem of theodicy—the problem of evil, which looms larger than ever because of the monstrous evils inflicted in this time. In *The Brothers Karamazov*, Ivan dramatically underscores the difficulty of speaking of God after an innocent child has been brutalized and torn to death by dogs. Then what shall be spoken in a generation when thousands went by dogs and by fire, when over a million innocent



children were savagely killed? No statement, theological or otherwise, should be made that would not be credible in the presence of burning children. Any easy denial of God would appear to mock the burning children. Any easy denial of God would appear to turn the children's deaths into a gigantic travesty. A simple denial of God would appear to deny the reality of redemption in our time and the validation of biblical promise by contemporary fulfillment. How then can one speak of God with integrity?

The holiday of Purim is a good guide as to how one can affirm. The answer is: humorously, tentatively, humanistically. Purim teaches how to speak subtly, admitting the alternatives yet knowing the reality of meaningfulness. Purim speaks of “chance” (lots), yet hiding between forms of chance is the Divine Presence. Vashti's recalcitrance enabled Esther to assume the throne; the king's insomnia raised Mordecai to greatness. These are “random” incidents that, decoded, spell out a pattern of redemption. These are natural events that point beyond themselves to a greater meaning.

Such speech about God also torments, of course. What kind of world is this, where a king authorizes mass murder and, a short time later, does not even remember the incident! When Esther tells him of the Jews' tragic fate, he asks her: Who is this who has dared to do this? What kind of world is this, where genocide is narrowly averted by flirty tea parties, by currying favor and appealing to male chauvinism? Yet by that margin the Jews are saved. The promise endures. The people of Israel live. One recognizes the implication: Our Father still lives.”

PURIM ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 24 5:30 p.m.
Megillah Reading

 **A**ll Temple members are invited to join us in Greenwald Hall for a spirited reading of the Megillah. Enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

Thursday, March 24 6:30 p.m.
Family Purim Celebration

The Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El invites all Temple members and their families to this special celebration in honor of Purim.

Our evening includes dinner and entertainment by *Divahn*, a music ensemble that infuses traditional Jewish songs with sophisticated



harmonies and entrancing improvisations. The cost for this event is \$50 per adult, \$35 per child (under age 13). RSVP to the Men's Club at (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

AROUND THE TEMPLE

Sunday, April 17 Homebound Delivery

We are seeking members of the Temple—both adults and children—to assist with the preparation and delivery of meals to the homebound for Passover. Preparation begins at 9 a.m. Let us know if you have a car available for use. We will meet at One East 65th Street.



Sunday, April 24 Second Seder for the Elderly



Temple members also are needed for our 30th annual Second Seder for the Elderly. Set up begins at 1:30 p.m. Kitchen duty starts at 3 p.m., and dinner service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.

To register for either of these events or for more information, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 210.

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

Dr. David M. Posner

Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich

Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

Assistant Rabbi

Lori Corrsin

Cantor

Dr. Ronald B. Sobel

Senior Rabbi Emeritus

Robert A. Bernhard

President

Rabbi Leon A. Morris

*Director of the Skirball Center
for Adult Jewish Learning*

Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch

Administrative Vice President

Mark H. Heutlinger

Administrator

Robyn W. Cimbol

Director of Development

Henry Fruhauf

Administrator Emeritus

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