



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 22

January 28, 2005

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 4 6 p.m.  
**Shabbos With Song**

Temple members are invited to this special Shabbos dinner and concert following worship services in the Main Sanctuary at 5:15 p.m.

Cantor Lori Corrsin will be featured in *Jewish Music Through the Ages*. The cost for this event is \$75 per person.\* Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 215 for more information.

\*The couvert represents the value of the event and is not tax deductible.

Tuesday, February 8 6 p.m.  
**Our Sanctuary: History, Restoration and Renewal**

The Women's Auxiliary invites all Temple members to this special lecture and slide show led by Temple Administrator Mark H. Heutlinger. A wine-and-cheese reception will precede the presentation.

RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 by February 4.

## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, February 4**  
**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, February 5**  
**Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

**Main Sanctuary**

Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Mishpatim  
Readings—Exodus 21:1-24:18  
Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

**Rabbi Nadia E. Gold preaching**

MEN'S CLUB  
JOINT BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 6  
10 a.m.

**England's Jewish  
Community: A Historical  
Novelist's Perspective**

The Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El and the Brotherhood of Central Synagogue invite all to join in our traditional brotherhood breakfast.

Special guest—author Edward Rutherford—will speak on the topic *England's Jewish Community: A Historical Novelist's Perspective*.



Born in Salisbury, England, Mr. Rutherford used his hometown as the setting for *Sarum*, his first work of historical fiction, published in 1987. An immensely popular book, *Sarum* remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 23 weeks. Worldwide sales have exceeded 6 million copies, published in 15 languages. Other works include *Russka* (1991); *London*, (1996); *The Forest*, (2000); and *Princes of Ireland*, (2004). He currently is working on *Princes of Ireland, Volume 2*.

**Cost is \$30 per person. RSVP by February 1. Call the Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El at (212) 744-1400, ext. 250. On the day of the event, enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street.**

## B'NEI MITZVAH

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

*Charlotte Van Dercook,*  
daughter of  
Marjorie and Charles Van Dercook

*Joseph Pomp II,*  
son of Bryna and Martin Pomp

*Eric Spencer Feldman,*  
son of Susan and Robert Feldman

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

## PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Elisabeth Cassell  
in loving memory of  
her cherished husband,  
*Marvin Cassell*

Mrs. George Lust  
in loving memory of  
*George Lust*

Mrs. A. Coleman Poll  
in loving memory of her brother,  
*Jacques G. Coleman Jr.*

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**To sponsor Pulpit Flowers  
or an Oneg Shabbat,  
contact Sherry Nehmer  
at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312 or  
snehmer@emanuelnyc.org.**

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

A History of Polish Jewry:  
1,000 Years of  
Triumph and Tragedy

DR. MARK W. WEISSTUCH

Wednesdays, Feb. 23–April 13 6:30 PM–8 PM

SKIRBALL  
CORNER

Until the Holocaust, Poland was the center of world Jewry for nearly five centuries. This vibrant Jewish community shaped our understanding of Jewish law and custom, literature, language, and our very identity as Jews. Trace the saga of Polish Jewry and examine the contributions this community made to our rich Jewish heritage.

This and 40 other courses make up the Spring Semester at the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. Classes begin Tuesday, February 22. To register or for more information, call (212) 507-9580.

SKIRBALL



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

## TO BE NOTED

### South Asia Relief

As a follow-up on the report to our members in the January 7, 2005, bulletin, informing the Congregation of our initial contribution of \$10,000, our President Robert Bernhard and Philanthropic Committee Chairman Oscar Schaefer are pleased to report that we have subsequently contributed another \$15,000 to American Jewish World Service. Mr. Bernhard and Mr. Schaefer, along with the Rabbis of the Temple, urge all our members to participate in the relief effort through the charity of their choice. Any members who wish guidance are invited to call one of the Rabbis here at the Temple—(212) 744-1400.

### 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.

## TSUNAMI RELIEF — LENDING A HELPING HAND

*Following are remarks delivered by Rabbi David M. Posner during the Friday evening service of December 31, 2004, and broadcast over WQXR radio, printed at request.*

**D**ear friends, we are met this Sabbath in the kinship of human sorrow, and we join our hearts and our prayers with all of God's children. All of us stand humbled by the terrifying forces of nature.

We Jews are a people much schooled in sorrow and well acquainted with grief. There is a brief passage in the Jerusalem Talmud which found its way into the liturgy of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a prayer that the ancient High Priest would offer on behalf of the inhabitants of the Sharon Valley in the Land of Israel. And this is what he said: "May it be your will, O Lord our God and God of our Fathers, that their homes not become their graves."

Why this prayer? It was said because the houses in the Sharon Valley were subject to landslides and to flash floods. Thus, the High Priest prayed that the inhabitants of the Sharon Valley not be trapped in the ruins of their homes. And we can only imagine how many times in our ancient land did nature reveal its fury, so often that it became part of our ritual to pray that "their homes not become their graves." The terrors of mass destruction due to floods weighed on the minds and on the hearts of our ancestors, our sages and our teachers.

And we New Yorkers all share together special bonds of brotherhood and commitment and compassion. When all is said and done, everyone knows that New York is the epicenter of the human spirit. New York speaks of a dedication to and love for all God's children.

So, how are we to act? Jewish tradition gives us all an answer. We are a tradition of many rituals and many commandments, and before the performance of each one of them, we recite a prayer in blessing of God. We do this every week when we light Sabbath candles, and bless God for the Sabbath wine,

**T**HINE EVERLASTING ARMS O LORD  
UPHOLD ALL CREATION.  
THOU ART OUR UNFAILING HELP.  
DARKNESS DOES NOT CONCEAL THEE  
FROM THE EYE OF FAITH, NOR DO  
FORCES OF DESTRUCTION OBSCURE  
THEY PRESENCE. ABOVE THE FURY OF  
MEN AND THE RAGING OF THE  
TEMPESTS STANDEST THOU. TRUSTING  
IN THEE, WE FEAR NOT THE ARROWS  
OF ILL-FORTUNE THAT FLY BY DAY  
NOR THE PESTILENCE THAT STALKS BY  
NIGHT. WHEN PAIN AND SORROW TRY  
OUR SOULS, GRANT US COURAGE TO  
MEET THEM WITH HEARTS  
UNDISMAYED AND WITH FAITH THAT  
DOES NOT WAVER. WE WOULD NOT  
CLOSE OUR EYES TO THE EVILS THAT  
BESET OUR PATH BUT STRUGGLE  
MANFULLY TO TURN THEM INTO  
STEPPING STONES, LEADING UPWARD  
UNTO THEE. AMID TEARS AND  
TRIBULATIONS, MAY WE BEHOLD THE  
REASSURING VISION OF THY  
GOODNESS. AMEN.

and for our Sabbath bread. However, there is one law of our faith for which there is no liturgical blessing—and that is the commandment of charity—what we call the mitzvah of *tzedakah*. We are commanded in the Torah numerous times to help those who are in need. And when we perform this commandment, there is no need and there is no time to be reflecting on the theological significance of our actions. When someone else is in dire need, the thing to do is to act immediately.

And so we at Temple Emanu-El this evening lend our voices to a caring world community, and we ask and implore our members, our neighbors and all our friends who share this service with us to please give now to the rescue agency of your choice. Let us mobilize our efforts through our various faith communities and houses of worship. In our tradition, all are required to give to charity—the rich and poor alike. Let us all act immediately, and thus in the end reaffirm our faith in God who feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, and brings comfort to those in need. May God give strength unto His people; may God bless all His children with peace. Amen.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

It has been more than 30 years since the Women's Auxiliary began sponsoring the Emanu-El Center for Seniors. From the very beginning, the art classes have been one of the most enduring and popular programs.

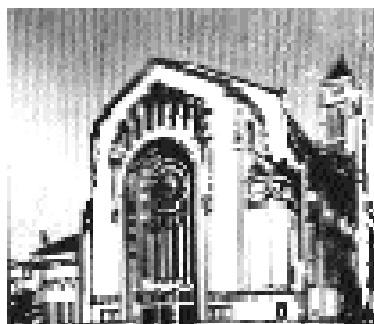
**Vera Chopak** was the instructor from that time until her death a few weeks ago, encouraging and teaching hundreds of seniors. She was proud of her students' progress and accomplishments and looked forward to their annual exhibition. She will be missed by her many students, as well as the Women's Auxiliary and Temple members.

*Ms. Chopak examines the work of one of her students during the May 2003 Seniors Art Show.*

*(Inset) Ms. Chopak with student Bessie Grand.*



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Web site: [www.emanuelnyc.org](http://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**

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**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*

**Published weekly** September 3 through  
June 10 by Congregation Emanu-El of the  
City of New York, formed by the  
consolidation of Emanu-El Congregation  
(founded 1845) and Temple Beth-El.

**Postmaster**, send address changes to:  
Temple Emanu-El Bulletin, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021 (212) 744-1400  
Periodicals Postage Paid at New York, NY  
USPS 891-160.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE  
PAID AT NEW YORK, NY