

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 26

February 23, 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **SEX ETHIC** of **JUDAISM**

Tuesday, February 27 6 p.m.

The Women's Auxiliary cordially invites all congregants to a special lecture with Rabbi David M. Posner. Through a reading of several texts from the classical Rabbinic period, Rabbi Posner will discuss how Judaism makes an intriguing transition from mere biology to sublime spirituality. Light refreshments will be served. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One E. 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

SABBATH DINNER With ART SHAMSKY

Friday, March 9 6:15 p.m.

The Men's Club is pleased to welcome baseball legend Art Shamsky, part of the 1969 "Miracle Mets" team and one of the few Jewish major league ball players. Mr. Shamsky will discuss his championship experience and sign



copies of his new book, *The Magnificent Seasons*, which will be available for purchase.

Cost is \$40 per person, which includes a traditional Sabbath dinner. (Make checks payable to the Men's Club.) All congregants are invited to attend. Don't miss this night of fun for the whole family! RSVP by Monday, March 5. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250

SABBATH & FESTIVAL SERVICES

SHABBAT ZACHOR Friday evening, March 2 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.

SHABBAT SHALOM! Friday evening, March 2—6:30 p.m. Leventritt Hall

All congregants (adults and youth) are encouraged to sing, pray and learn with us at our monthly, late worship service. Enter at One East 65th Street.



Saturday morning, March 3 **Women's Auxiliary Lounge** Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Tetzaveh
Readings—Exodus 27:20-30:10
Deuteronomy 25:17-19
I Samuel 15:2-34

Sermon: Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

EVE of PURIM **Saturday evening, March 3—5:30 p.m.** **Greenwald Hall**

Reading of the Megillah
(See page 3 for more Purim events.)

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Margot Helena Byrne,
daughter of
Martha and Richard Byrne

Jack Ellis Grabow,
son of
Patti and Mitchell Grabow

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

TIKKUN OLAM

STITCH'N TIME

Sunday, March 4
11 a.m.

Don't miss the
next lively and
productive session of
our **Stitch'n Time**
knitting program.

Expert instructor Claire
Brenner will be on site

to work with us. If you can't attend the session,
work from home—We'll gladly send you materi-
als. Participants knit for babies born at Beth
Israel Hospital and for the Sanctuary Blanket
Project of the Jewish Board of Family and Chil-
dren's Services. Since October 2006, we have
sent many beautiful baby sweaters, caps and
blankets to Beth Israel and more than 60 blan-
ket squares to JBFCS. Beginners and "pros"

of all ages are welcome. We provide yarn,
needles, patterns, refreshments
and a wonderful opportunity to
make new friends.

(212) 744-1400, ext. 452



Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel

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



Mark your calendars
for these upcoming
EMANU-EL READS!
lectures...

The **THREE BOOKS** of **MOSES:**
Maimonides' Attempts to
Revolutionize Judaism —
Commentary on the Mishnah,
Mishneh Torah and *The Guide of*
the Perplexed
Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20
6:30 p.m.

Rabbi David
Greenstein is
rabbinic dean of
the Academy for
Jewish Religion,
where he teaches
rabbinics, kabbalah
and Jewish thought.
(This is a three-
part lecture.)



APPLYING the
ETHICS of **MAIMONIDES**
Sunday, March 11 10 a.m.

Sponsored by the Men's Club and
moderated by Men's Club past
president Richard Valcourt, this
panel will feature the following dis-
tinguished Temple members, who
will discuss ethics in medicine, busi-
ness and law:

- Dr. Joseph Fins
- Judge Susan Danoff
- Neil Cooper

The cost for this event is \$10 per
person, which includes a continen-
tal breakfast. **RSVP by Wednesday,**
March 7. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250
mensclub@emanuelnyc.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.

PURIM: CONFRONTING JEWISH DESTINY

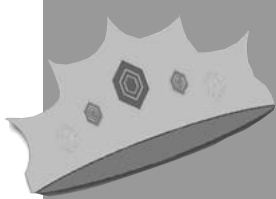
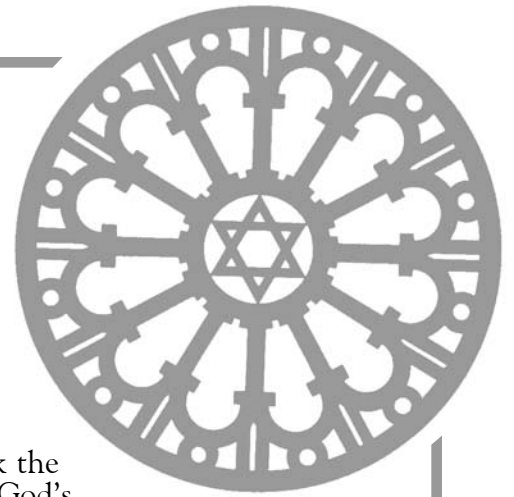
The following passage from The Jewish Way, by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, offers an interesting perspective on the festival of Purim.

PURIM CELEBRATED the ability of the Jew to live and cope with an imperfect world where shrewd use of power and opportunity often spelled the difference between destruction and survival. It celebrated (and admitted!) the narrow margin by which Jews snatched meaning from the jaws of tragedy and absurdity in history. The humor, mockery and tongue-in-cheek tone of the Book of Esther and of the holiday are perfect ways to express the ambiguities and reversals built into the occasion. The way to deal with reversals is to *play* with them; humor can be the key to sanity. It is the only healthy way to combine affirmation with ongoing doubt.

Although the Bible uses humor to mock the pretensions of God's adversaries, the application of satire in a holy day was unprecedented. No wonder established thinkers hesitated or resisted; adoption of the Purim holiday came from the folk, which expressed itself in a rollicking (to scholars, "unseemly") way. It took time for the religious authorities to confirm the holiday, and it took centuries for the Book of Esther to be fully accepted as worthy of inclusion in the Bible.

Persian Jews gave up neither on the Diaspora nor on their Jewishness. Despite the narrow margin of their salvation, they remained committed and involved in Persia. The scroll of Esther describes their remarkable transformation from a condemned, vulnerable minority to a powerful, confident community. Thanks to Jewish self-assertion and the *hidden* grace of God, the mourning, fasting, weeping and lamenting are turned into "light, joy, gladness and honor" for the Jews. Purim "reruns" the Exodus story. This time, its result is not a happy ending in the Promised Land but peace and prosperity in the Diaspora.

By expanding the history of Jewish redemption to include Diaspora experiences, the Book of Esther opened up Judaism to the world. Once the Megillah made clear that God's redemption operates in Diaspora as well, Judaism became an option for those who never lived or had no intention of living in the Land of Israel. The Book of Esther tells that many of the peoples of the land became Jews or passed themselves off as Jews. While the obvious motive for this behavior was fear of the new Jewish power, the result was that people now saw Jews as a religious community that all could join and not just as a tribe living in a certain land.



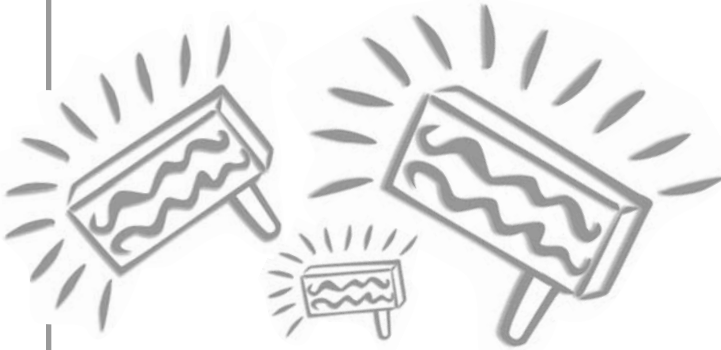
FESTIVITIES FOR PURIM

YOUNG FAMILIES:
Storytime in the Library
Wednesday, February 28
12:30 p.m.

Join us first for a brown-bag lunch in Room 403 at noon. (Bring your own!) Then we'll head to the library, where Temple librarian Elizabeth Stabler will read stories from our wonderful collection of children's books. Storytime is for children from age 2½ with their parents. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.

(Continued on back page)

FESTIVITIES FOR PURIM



CLUB 56 & 78: PURIM PARTY & COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT Saturday, March 3 12 p.m.

Contact Youth Group leader
Lori Jacobson for details.
Send an e-mail to youth.emanuel@gmail.com or call (516) 965-4736.

FAMILY MEGILLAH READING & PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 4

11:15 a.m.

Temple families are invited to join us in Greenwald Hall, where we'll engage in a fun reading of the *Megilat Esther* (Get ready to boo Hamen!) and our Temple Emanu-El Junior Choir also will perform. Afterwards, at noon, our celebration will continue with a Purim Carnival in I. M. Wise Hall—complete with food and lots of games! Costumes aren't required but definitely are encouraged. On the day of the event, enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. Questions? Call the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226.

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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