



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 80, Number 33

April 11, 2008

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday evening, April 18
Temple 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 HAGADOL

The Great Sabbath

Saturday morning, April 19

Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 A.M.

Temple Sanctuary

Service—10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion—*Acharei Mot*

Readings—Leviticus 16:1-18:30

Malachi 3:4-24; 3:23

Sermon: Rabbi Howard Goldsmith

EVE of PASSOVER SERVICE

Saturday, April 19 — 5:30 P.M.

Beth-El Chapel (Fifth Avenue)

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

PASSOVER SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 — 10:30 A.M.

Temple Sanctuary

Readings—Exodus 12:21-51

Numbers 28:16-25

Joshua 3:5-7; 5:2-6:1; 6:27

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

**View our special Passover
resources on the Emanu-El Web
site (www.emanuelnyc.org)!**



Hearing Loop installed in Temple Sanctuary
and Beth-El Chapel; switch aid to T-coil.
Headsets or neck loops also available for use.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

*The Men's Club of
Congregation Emanu-El
cordially invites all Temple
members and their guests to
attend a special conversation...*

**REMEMBERING THE SHOAH:
Today and Tomorrow**

Sunday, April 27

10 A.M.

*A personal perspective
with Menachem Z.*

Rosensaft,

*Guided by Dr. Mark
W. Weisstuch*



With the aging of
Holocaust sur-
vivors, their children
have come to assume
a special responsibili-

ty. Yet, by the very nature of their dis-
tance from the actual experience, their
role as transmitters of the story is differ-
ent: They have experienced the Shoah
through the lens of their parents.

The cost for this event (which includes
brunch) is \$30 for Men's Club members,
\$40 for all others. Make checks payable
to the Men's Club. RSVP by Wednes-
day, April 23. Questions? Call (212)
744-1400, ext. 250 or send an e-mail to
mensclub@emanuelnyc.org.

For a full program description, log on to
the Temple Web site and click "Calen-
dar." On the day of the event, enter at
the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Com-
munity House, One East 65th Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ISRAEL'S HERITAGE: The Meaning of the Sabbath for Reform Jews

Tuesday, April 15

6:30 P.M.

Rabbi Leon Morris, executive director of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, leads the last of three sessions on this topic. "Israel's Heritage" is one of seven learning experiences organized as part of "Emanu-El Reads," our congregationwide reading of *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel. All are welcome to attend. Enter at One East 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 214



JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP: Spices and Strikes

Saturday, April 26 5:45 P.M.



Emanu-El's fifth and sixth graders are going bowling! Students first will participate in our beautiful ceremony of *Havdalah* that separates Shabbat from the rest of the week. Then they'll have the chance to bond during the age-old Youth Group tradition of bowling. Drop off and pick up are at the bowling alley (300 New York at Chelsea Piers, between Piers 59 and 60, 23rd Street and the Hudson River). Cost is \$45 per person; permission slips must be submitted to our director of Youth Activities. (212) 744-1400, ext. 329

TIKKUN OLAM: Stitch'n Time

Sunday, April 27

11 A.M.



Stitch'n Time volunteers knit or crochet blanket squares, baby sweaters and caps that are donated to Beth Israel Hospital and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. Yarn, needles and patterns are provided, and a professional instructor is on hand for assistance. No prior knitting is experience required. Light refreshments are served. Open to Temple members only. (212) 744-1400, ext. 452

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.

B'NEI MITZVAH

**The following student of
our Religious School will become
a bat mitzvah this weekend:**

Alexandra Grace Young, daughter of
Stephanie Scherer Young and Eric Young

**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:**

Herbert C. Bernard
in loving memory of my parents,
Essie and Louis Bernard

Sivia Brodsky in loving memory
of her husband, *Andrew Brodsky*

Suzanne Sloan in
loving memory of *Peter Moore*

Robert, Ann and Jessica Freedman
in loving memory of *Felix C. Fertig*

Robin M. Laden in loving memory
of her father, *Leonard Laden*

John, Laurie, Matthew, Spencer and Amanda
Rudey; Liz, Kirk and Kate Rudey Ruebenson
in loving memory of *Samuel Richard Rudey*

**Flowers at Passover services are
the generous donation of:**

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

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

UNDERSTANDING THE SEDER: A PASSOVER GUIDE

By Rabbi David M. Posner

BEFORE THE HAGGADAH was brought into being there was the Mishnah. The Mishnah is essentially the result of the labors of Rabbi Judah Ha-Nasi, Judah the Prince. Given the year of his death of 323 C.E., it may be surmised that the Mishnah can be dated no later than this date. The Mishnah is a codification of all Jewish law in existence up to that time, and it consists of six sections or “orders.” These six orders are subdivided further into 63 tractates. Among them is tractate *P’sachim*, which deals with the laws of Passover.

One of the most fascinating things about *P’sachim* is Chapter 10, which gives us an order of the seder that shares similarities with the order listed in our present-day Haggadah but that significantly eliminates many aspects of the seder to which we fondly have grown accustomed.

The seder as described in the Mishnah begins—as does our customary seder—with *Kadeish*, the sanctification over wine (the first cup). It then proceeds to *karpas* (green vegetable), matzah, *maror* and *Shulchan Aruch* (the festive meal itself). In the Mishnah, it is at this point that the son asks questions—but only three of them and not four. And the third one is entirely different from what we expect: “On all other nights we may eat meat that is roasted, stewed or boiled, but on this night we eat only roasted meat.” And the issue of reclining/not reclining is not included at all in the Mishnah’s seder.

The *Magid* (narrative section) now begins, ending with *Hallel* (which we find in our Haggadah) and a second cup of wine. The *Birkat HaMazon* (Grace After Meals) is then recited, concluding with the third cup of wine, as it does in our seder. The recitation of *Hallel* Psalms is resumed, ending with the fourth cup. At this point, the Mishnah states, “One does not conclude the seder with the *afikoman*!” Nevertheless, we, of course, do.



Look what is missing from the seder as described in the Mishnah: *ur’chatz* (washing); *yachatz* (the bread of affliction); all the portions of *Magid* except the Four Questions; the sections that begin with the full narrative of the Exodus story; *korech* (the Hillel sandwich with *charoset*); the *afikoman* search; the final *nirtzah*; the Four Sons; “Dayeinu”; the opening the door for Elijah; “Echad Mi Yodei-a” (“Madrigal of Numbers”); and “Chad Gadya”...essentially all of the parts that we tend to love! And remember...in the Mishnah, first you eat, and then you tell the story!

So, this is the seder, circa 323 C.E. But, lo and behold, look at what might be a description of the seder night as described in the New Testament (Matthew 26:26-30 and Mark 14: 22-26), dated anywhere from 50 C.E. to 70 C.E.: Jesus and the disciples eat; Jesus says the *Motzi*; he says *Kiddush* and then they sing Psalms (*Hallel*). In other words, the entire order is *Shulchan Aruch*, *Motzi*, *Kadeish*, *Hallel*...and it’s over!

VISIT OUR SPECIAL PASSOVER SECTION ON THE WEB (WWW.EMANUELNYC.ORG) FOR OTHER ESSAYS IN THIS SERIES, WRITTEN BY OUR CLERGY AND STAFF!

REMINDERS:

SECOND NIGHT SEDER FOR THE ELDERLY will be held **SUNDAY, APRIL 20**. If you have not received your volunteer confirmation letter, call the Temple office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 215.

The **WQXR** (96.3 FM) **SEDER BROADCAST** (tape) will air **SATURDAY, APRIL 19** from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

The Temple Emanu-El **CYBER SEDER** will be available for downloading and listening from the Temple Web site.

AROUND THE TEMPLE

Mark your calendars for the following events...

**Men's Club
Annual Meeting
and Presentation of
the Samuel Sacks
Achievement Award**
Thursday, May 15 6 P.M.



Photo: Renee Ann Del Percio

Each year since 1977, the Men's Club board of directors has established a committee to recommend deserving individuals to receive the Samuel Sacks Achievement Award, which recognizes members of the congregation for their service and support of the Temple. The award is presented each year at the Men's Club Annual Meeting, which includes the installation of officers. **This year's recipient is Administrator Mark Heutlinger.** Light refreshments will be served prior to the

meeting, and more plentiful hors d'oeuvres will be served after the award presentation. Cost is \$30 per person; make checks payable to the Men's Club. All are invited to attend. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250

**Women's Auxiliary
Spring Luncheon and
Annual Meeting**
Thursday, May 22 12:30 P.M.



Photo: Chrystie Sherman

Women's Auxiliary members and their guests are invited to our Spring Luncheon featuring special guest speaker **Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service.** We also will hold our annual meeting, which includes the election of board members and officers. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

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Lori Corrsin

Cantor

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