

# TEMPLE EMANUEL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 27

March 10, 2006

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 13 4:30 p.m.  
**Ninth Grade High School Academy**

**P**rogram participants are reminded that we will be volunteering to serve at the HUC-JIR Community Soup Kitchen. **Please meet at One W. Fourth Street and note our special time.**

Tuesday, March 14 8:30 a.m.  
**Men's Club Reading Group**

**W**e will discuss *The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life* by Tom Reiss, who spent five years tracking down secret police records, love letters and deathbed notebooks of Lev Nussimbaum—a Jew who transformed himself into a Muslim prince and became a bestselling author in Nazi Germany.

## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, March 17  
Lowenstein 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 18  
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.  
**Lowenstein Sanctuary**  
Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Ki Tissa  
Readings—Exodus 30:11-34:35  
Numbers 19:1-22; Ezekiel 36:16-38  
**Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner**

PASSOVER  
MITZVOT



## Homebound Delivery & Second Seder for the Elderly

**P**acking of meals for the homebound will begin at 9 a.m. on **Sunday, April 9**, in the Leventritt Room of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street. Volunteers with cars will be needed for deliveries. Second Seder will be held **Thursday, April 13** at 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Dinner service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. Individuals interested in assisting with these programs should call the Temple office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 210 to request a Passover volunteer form.

**Because of the nature of our work and strict timetable, these activities are limited to adults and youngsters from our Temple youth groups (grades 5-12). All volunteers must be Temple members.**

## PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Dr. Sandra Gluck in loving memory of her mother, *Harriet Prusock*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 19

10 a.m.

### **France and the Jews, France and the Arabs**

**F**red Rosenbaum, founding director of Lehrhaus Judaica (the West Coast's largest school for adult Jewish education), leads this Sunday seminar sponsored by the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El. The third largest Jewish community in the world, France experienced a wave of anti-Semitic attacks beginning in 2000. What was the origin of this widespread Judeophobia in France, and why has it ebbed the past two years? Examine French anti-Semitism from the Dreyfus Affair to the Holocaust, and then focus on the period since Charles de Gaulle, in which the Arab world has loomed large in French foreign policy and the fast-growing Muslim minority has had a major impact on French politics and society.

**The cost for this session is \$50.  
Coffee and bagels will be served.  
Enter at One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street.  
To register or for more information,  
call Skirball at (212) 507-9580.**

Sunday, March 19

7:30 p.m.

### **Night Out With the Knicks!**

**J**oin the Men's Club for an evening of basketball at Madison Square Garden, where the New York Knicks will play the Miami Heat. Cost is \$50 per person.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis to all Temple members.  
Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

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

Tuesday, March 21

6 p.m.

### **The Hidden God of Psalms**

**R**abbi Posner will lead this discussion, preceded by a reception. Enter at One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street. *RSVP to the Women's Auxiliary by Wednesday, March 15. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 or send an e-mail to womaux@emanuelnyc.org.*

Tuesday, March 28

6:30 p.m.

### **What IS it About Jews and Food? A Conversation With Nach and Maron Waxman**

- How did the elaborate laws of *kashrut* evolve from four simple rules?
- How do you deconstruct a Sabbath dinner?
- Are brownies kosher for Passover...and should they be?

**C**ome hear the distinguished husband and wife team of Maron and Nach Waxman engage in a lively discussion of these issues and other delightful digressions. This symposium on food and Jewish culture is presented by the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica and the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library at Temple Emanu-El as part of their 2006 lecture series, *The Arts [and] Jewish Identity*. Admission is free. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street. *RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 362.*



*Hearing enhancement system available. Headsets or neck loops may be obtained from an usher or lobby attendant.*

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.

# MI'MAMAKIM KARATIKHA YAH: CALLING OUT TO GOD

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

FUNDAMENTAL TO Judaism is the idea that we can turn directly to God in times of need. We don't need an intermediary; we don't even need a text. But, we do have texts that model a sometimes brazen soul turning to God and demanding to be heard. From the heights of joy to the depths of sorrow, from perfect faith to anger and agnosticism, the author of the Book of Psalms knew the power of human experience, and this ancient soul composed some of the most powerful expressions of the human spirit.

Psalms 130 opens with the description of a spiritual situation:

*From the depths I call out to You, Lord. Hear my voice; let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.*

Expressing a human being's need for God takes on a particular form. Interestingly and not surprisingly, the calling out to God occurs in a low, perhaps dark place. Physically low, the individual calls on God to be heard. Two basic assumptions about the human predicament and the nature of God and prayer already emerge: In human suffering, we can call on God, and part of our faith is the notion that we will be heard and will find comfort. While Judaism is filled with notions of the ethical and the communal, the faith of Judaism is based on notions of both communal as well as personal prayer.

Some of the most basic aspects of personal prayer are exemplified in Psalm 130.

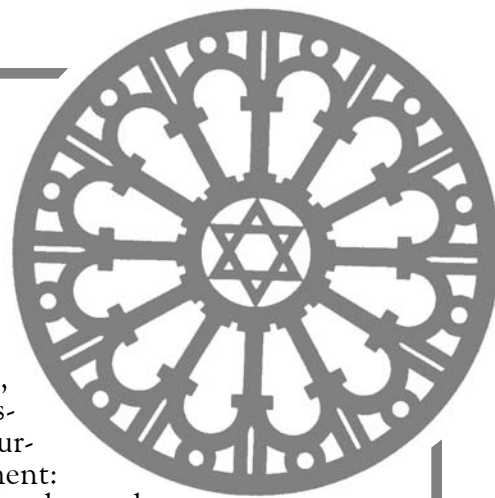
**OUT OF THE DEPTHS HAVE  
I CALLED THEE, O THE LORD.  
LORD, HEARKEN UNTO MY VOICE;  
LET THINE EARS BE ATTENTIVE TO  
THE VOICE OF MY SUPPLICATIONS.  
IF THOU, THE LORD, SHOULDEST  
MARK INIQUITIES, O LORD,  
WHO COULD STAND?  
FOR WITH THEE THERE IS  
FORGIVENESS, THAT THOU  
MAYEST BE FEARED.  
I WAIT FOR THE LORD,  
MY SOUL DOTHTH WAIT, AND IN  
HIS WORD DO I HOPE.  
MY SOUL WAITETH FOR THE  
LORD, MORE THAN WATCHMEN  
FOR THE MORNING;  
YEA, MORE THAN WATCHMEN  
FOR THE MORNING.  
O ISRAEL, HOPE IN THE LORD;  
FOR WITH THE LORD THERE  
IS MERCY, AND WITH HIM IS  
PLENTEOUS REDEMPTION.  
AND HE WILL REDEEM ISRAEL  
FROM ALL HIS INIQUITIES.**

— PSALM 130

Like many of the 150 psalms, it follows a classic, ancient, four-stage development: first the call (the demand to be heard); then the statement of a lack of worthiness (“If you, Lord, should mark

iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?”), together with the knowledge that God will forgive; a restatement and commitment to God; and finally the concluding statements of confidence that Israel will be heard and redeemed (“Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is loving kindness, and with him is bountiful redemption.”) Further assumptions also emerge: Human beings are imperfect, we need God to forgive us for our failings, and a life with God is one of forgiveness, kindness and redemption.

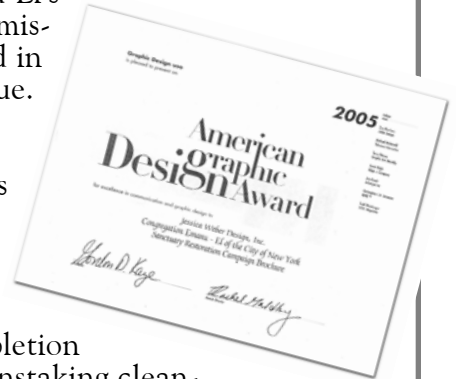
Along with the classic theme of many psalms—which resound joyfully in the sheer delight of sensing God's closeness—the book has a powerful and repeated refrain: God hears and God answers. “In the day when I cried, you answered me and strengthened me with strength in my soul.” (Psalm 138) We don't always know if, when or how, but our people's continuity and richness of spirituality is a product of this faith. We are never, not even in our lowest places, without God.



## AND THE WINNER IS...

Congregation Emanu-El and the firm of Jessica Weber Design, Inc., are recipients of a 2005 American Graphic Design Award issued by *Graphic Design USA*, a monthly publication for creative professionals, for the creation of our Sanctuary Restoration Campaign brochure and promotional materials. Congregation Emanu-El's entry was one of more than 10,000 award submissions, and the brochure cover was showcased in the magazine's annual Design Award issue. Ms. Weber is a long-time Temple member.

The Sanctuary Restoration project is in its second phase of fruition and is on schedule to be completed in time for the 2006 High Holy Days. Current work includes rejuvenation of the front third of the sanctuary pews, completion of the stained glass restoration, and painstaking cleaning of all ceramic tiles and the *bimah*. A formal rededication ceremony is being planned for the end of the year on the first night of Chanukah—December 15, 2006.



## TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



March 10, 2006  
Volume 78, Number 27  
Web site: [www.emanuelnyc.org](http://www.emanuelnyc.org)

**Dr. David M. Posner**

*Senior Rabbi*

**Amy B. Ehrlich**

*Associate 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*

**Published weekly** September 9 through  
June 9 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