

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 39

June 2, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 11 11 a.m.
**Young Families:
Rooftop Party**

Don't miss our last event of the year! Bring gear for the pool if the weather cooperates—sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, towels, dry clothes. In case of rain, the party moves inside to Blumenthal Hall. Enter at 10 East 66th Street. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242 by June 9.



Men's Club: Yankees Outing

The Men's Club has Yankees tickets available for two games: **Sunday, June 11** vs. Oakland and **Sunday, July 30** vs. Tampa Bay. Cost: \$65 each (Loge level). Reserve seats on a first-come, first-served basis by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday evening, June 9

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, June 10

Lowenstein Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Naso

Readings—Numbers 4:21-7:89

Judges 13:2-25

Sermon: Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

**PROGRAM
EXTENDED**

Women's Auxiliary: Project Backpack

As a result of overwhelming support by members of the Temple, the Women's Auxiliary is continuing the solicitation of donations for **Project Backpack** and has decided to make it one of the permanent philanthropic projects sponsored by the Auxiliary, along with the Emanu-El Center for Seniors, English in Action, Veterans' Parties and Ronald McDonald House.

The Women's Auxiliary has partnered with Public School 112 in East Harlem to donate backpacks filled with school supplies to all newly entering kindergarten students.

A \$20 donation covers the cost of supplies for one backpack.

Donations will be accepted throughout the summer and on a continuing basis.

Checks should be made payable to the Women's Auxiliary.

For more information about this program, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.



B'NEI MITZVAH

The following student of our Religious School will become a Bar Mitzvah this weekend:

Matthew Jacob Zeitler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Zeitler

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

TO BE NOTED

Sunday Lunch Program

Calling all Summer Angels! The Sunday Lunch Program is compiling a list of volunteers who can be called on short notice to help out in the kitchen during the months of July and August. Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 210 to have your name included on the list.

Mitzvah Day 2006

Do you have a project idea for Mitzvah Day 2006? Are you interested in participating but were unable to attend the first planning meeting?

Don't worry... There's still plenty of time to join the Mitzvah Day team/committee.

Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 425 and leave a message on the Mitzvah Day voice mail.

Or, send an e-mail message to MitzvahDay2006@yahoo.com. Someone will get back to you.

(And, mark your calendars for the big day on Sunday, November 12, 2006!)

Nursery School Applications

Applications for the 2006-2007 school year will be available Tuesday, September 5 through Friday, September 29. Call the Nursery School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 230 during this period only. Although it is our policy to give priority to members of the congregation and siblings, acceptance is not automatic.

Charles S. Salomon

The Universal Funeral Chapel

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

Auxiliary Elections

Congratulations to those members of the Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club elected as officers and board members at their recent annual meetings.

Women's Auxiliary Officers for 2006-2008:

Jocelyn F. Chait, President
Karel Greenberg, Vice President
Cecelia A. Hauptman, Vice President
Rita Haves, Vice President
Frances A. Hess, Treasurer
Tamie Laurance Goldstine, Secretary*

**Continuing previous term*

New Board Members (Class of 2007):

Rhona Lipton
Rosalind Pretzfelder
Maureen Rosenkrantz

Men's Club Officers for 2006-2007:

Ross Brady, President
Seth Ramson, Vice President
Dr. Ira Titunik, Vice President
William Kahane, Vice President
James Asher, Treasurer
Edward Froelich, Secretary

New Board Members:

Bernard King
Jerome Rosenberg
Robert Waldman

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.

STUDY THE TORAH AGAIN AND AGAIN, EVERYTHING IS FOUND IN IT

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

WHAT IS the most important act for a Jew? Prayer? Ethical acts? Ritual observance? Offering sacrifices? Settling and protecting the Land or State of Israel? This debate is as old as Judaism itself.

In the Bible era, the most sacred acts were the observance of God's laws and the offering of the proper sacrifices at precisely the right times. But, after the destruction of the Temple, the ancient Sages created a new culture in which prayer and study were just as significant. They, in their own way, understood that these behaviors had to be combined with ethical behavior (*Torah im derekh eretz*) because Torah and ethical practice together uphold the world—a balance they learned from the *Mishnah*. Another Sage insists this about the Torah: “Turn it over, and turn it over again, for everything is found in it (*Hafokh bah v'hafokh ba d'khola bah*). Constantly examine it...for there is nothing more excellent...”

Our Reform Sages of earlier eras stressed the sacred nature of the ethical, referring to Judaism as ethical monotheism. These and other sociological concerns led many Reform leaders to emphasize social action, in addition to prayer, as the most important acts for the Jew. The centrality of our concern with the ethical and with *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) characterized much of our activities and, thus, inspired our involvement in the Civil Rights movement, in feminist transformations, in protesting America's involvement in particular wars and arms accumulation, and in our work to feed the hungry and

clothe the naked wherever we found them. Our Reform religiosity meant taking our religion to heart in all that we did in the world.

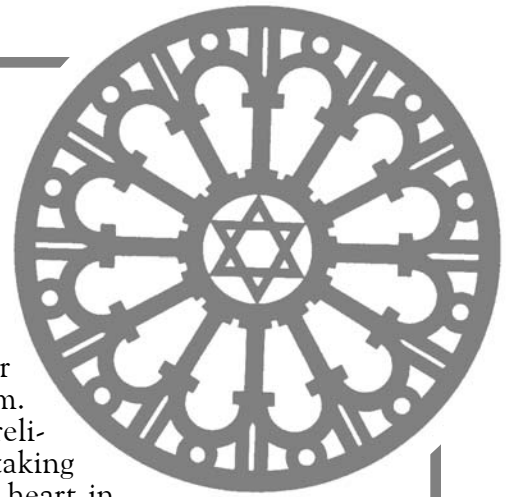
In recent years, much of the Reform community has moved into what Eugene Borowitz—the foremost theologian of liberal Judaism—has called the “second stage of Reform Jewish piety.” While significant changes in our liturgy are taking place gradually—indicated in part in the forth-

coming new Reform prayer book, *Mishkan Tefillah*—some are taking on and renewing ritual practices once discarded by our founders. Many more are finding meaning in intensive Jewish study.

This, too, is a great Reform Jewish act. Just as some of our Sages knew that—more than any other single activity—the study of Torah

is as fundamental to our rich cultural lives as bread itself, then we know that Torah study is as fundamental to our Jewish lives as social action and prayer. Our knowledge of the limitations of politics and humanism has brought us to a new readiness to engage with our traditional sources. As Borowitz recently commented, “We talk about [a place for God in our lives now] not in the accents of rationality but rather by reference to experience or relationship or even mysticism. That is accompanied by a fresh appreciation of what the classic texts of Judaism can teach us when they are read through the lenses of our emancipation.”

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Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, a founding faculty member of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, is a member of the faculty at the Shalom Hartman Institute and HUC-JIR in Jerusalem. For previous articles in this series, as well as other scholarly articles appearing in the Temple Emanu-El Bulletin, log on to www.emanuelnyc.org and click on “Bulletin (Newsletter).”

AROUND THE TEMPLE

2006 Samuel Sacks Awardee Frances A. Hess (below) celebrates with family members at the May 18 dinner held in I.M. Wise Hall.



Men's Club officers and directors gather for a group photo at their annual meeting. (For a list of officers and newly elected board members, see page 2.)

Women's Auxiliary president Jocelyn Chait (below right) introduces NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn at the end-of-year luncheon.



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