



# TEMPLE EMANUEL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 4

September 24, 2004

## SUCCOS SERVICES

**Wednesday evening, September 29**  
**Main Sanctuary—5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday morning, September 30**  
**Main Sanctuary—10:30 p.m.**  
**Rabbi Nadia E. Gold preaching**

## SABBATH SERVICES

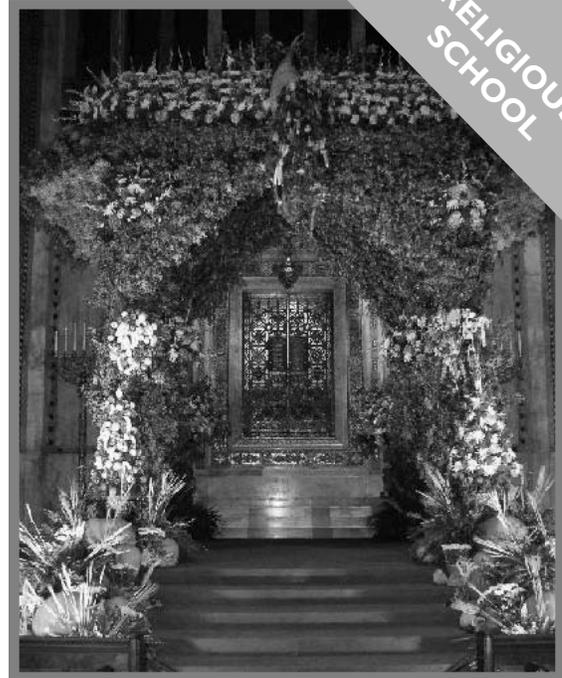
**Friday evening, October 1**  
**Main Sanctuary**  
Organ Recital—5 p.m.  
Sabbath Eve Service—5:15 p.m.  
WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) and Internet  
(www.wqxr.com) broadcasts—5:30 p.m.

**Saturday morning, October 2**  
**Women's Auxiliary Lounge**  
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.  
**Main Sanctuary**  
Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Exodus 33:12-34:26  
Readings—The Book of Ecclesiastes  
**Rabbi David M. Posner preaching**

## END OF SUCCOS

**SHEMINI ATZERES-SIMCHAS TORAH**  
**Wednesday evening, October 6**  
**Main Sanctuary—5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday morning, October 7**  
**Main Sanctuary—10:30 p.m.**  
**Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich preaching**  
Memorial Service



**Friday, October 1** **5:15 p.m.**  
**Religious School:**  
**Consecration of New Students**

**A**ll new students (grades K through 7) and their parents will be blessed under our beautiful succah in the Main Sanctuary. The service will be followed by an Oneg in the Leon Lowenstein lobby and an all-school Shabbat dinner in Blumenthal Hall. Students in grades six and seven are invited to participate in the Shabbat dinner blessings alongside our Rabbis. Please feel free to bring extended family to witness your child's role in this special occasion.

The cost for dinner is \$25 per person.  
Call the Religious School office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 226 to make your reservation.

## PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Leslie, Jeffrey and Andrew Weitzman  
in honor of *Bethany Weitzman*  
becoming a Bas Mitzvah

Yves-Andre Istel in loving memory of  
*Andre Istel*

Diane and David Koplik in loving memory of  
*Kenneth E. Koplik*

Robert S. Lazar and Kathryn S. Pershan  
in loving memory of *Gertrude* and *Leon Schaeffler*

In memory of *Lawrence Lachman*  
from his loving family

John, Laurie, Matthew, Spencer and Amanda Rudey  
and Liz, Kirk and Kate Rudey Ruebenson  
in loving memory of *Thelma Barasch Rudey*

Dan K. Wassong in loving memory of *Maria Czudnowski*

## B'NEI MITZVAH

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

*Bethany Kass Weitzman*, daughter of  
Leslie and Jeffrey Weitzman

*Alexander Hanswirth Lamport*, son of  
Dori Ann Hanswirth and Joseph Lamport

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 1 6:30 p.m.  
**Young Families: Tot Shabbat**  
Don't miss our first Tot Shabbat of the  
new season. We will meet in Blumenthal Hall  
after the Religious School Consecration.  
RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

Sunday, October 3 5:30 p.m.  
**Youth Group Kick-off Dinner**  
Students in grades five and six are invited to  
meet at Tony's Di Napoli, 1606 Second Avenue  
(between 83<sup>rd</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> streets).  
RSVP to Arin Frome at (917) 886-2722.

## TO BE NOTED

Attention all eighth and ninth grade students: Following are the dates for our Leadership Academy programs. Meetings will be held in Room 602 at One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street unless notified otherwise. If you have **NOT** yet signed up officially, **CALL** Rabbi Gold at (212) 744-1400, ext. 204 as soon as possible.

**Eighth Grade Program**  
Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
October 4, November 8,  
December 6, January 10, February 7,  
March 7, April 4

**Ninth Grade Program**  
Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
October 13, November 17, December 8,  
January 19, February 11-14 (RAC trip),  
March 9, April 6

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

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.

# HOLY DAYS IN A NEW LAND... JUDAISM COMES TO AMERICA

By Rabbi David M. Posner

**B**efore we re-imagine how holy days came to a new land, it would be well for us to consider how holy days came to the Holy Land.

Recognition that much of the corpus of Jewish ritual law antedated its incorporation into the Torah was acknowledged even by Moses Maimonides of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when he maintained that the entire sacrificial legislation of the Torah was an adaptation of monotheistic faith. It is taken for granted by modern scholarship that the principle festivals of the ancient Israelites in their new Holy Land were adaptations of pre-existent Canaanite rites. Fascinated as we might be, however, by the archaeological revelations into the earliest of Jewish antiquity, we always must be on guard against committing what the late philosopher of religion Edgar S. Brightman termed “the fallacy of primitivism.” This “fallacy” is the error made when we assume that what were the earliest origins and meanings of a religious custom must, of necessity, be the meanings imputed to that custom on down through the ages. For example, it is widely recognized in the circles of modern scholarship that the breaking of a glass at the conclusion of a wedding has its origin in the realm of superstition and demonology. However, assuming that to be true, the origin of the custom, shrouded in antiquity, is irrelevant to contemporary Jewish life.

Similarly, the harvest festival of Succos—while observed in some form in pagan Canaan with its various cults that even

countenanced the practice of human sacrifice—was not and need never be discarded nor neglected by the Jewish community on the premise that its origin was primitive. Succos was transformed by the Torah into a festival that celebrates and commemorates the protection afforded the Israelites throughout their wanderings in the wilderness:

*You shall dwell in booths seven days, that your generations may know that I made the Israelites dwell in booths.*  
(Leviticus 23:42-43)



and hostile at worst to a Jewish presence, would anyone have attempted to build a succah?

Let us not forget that to celebrate the festival, the community would have needed the four species of the *Lulav*. Plentiful, yes, in the Land of Israel and exported easily to Europe, could the *Lulav* have made its way to New Amsterdam in time for Succos? If so, it would have been another Succos miracle.



## FALL SEMESTER OPENING

SKIRBALL  
CORNER

The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, a popular and dynamic Manhattan intellectual venue for those seeking the richness, relevance and meaning of Jewish study, announces its expanded, fourth Fall Semester, beginning October 12 and running through mid-December.

Forty distinct courses will be offered, each meeting once per week for eight consecutive weeks.

“This season offers by far the most exciting mix of courses, lectures and other intellectual challenges yet for Skirball,” says Rabbi Leon A. Morris, director. “People looking for depth, complexity and stimulation will be able to choose from a wide range of topics taught by our

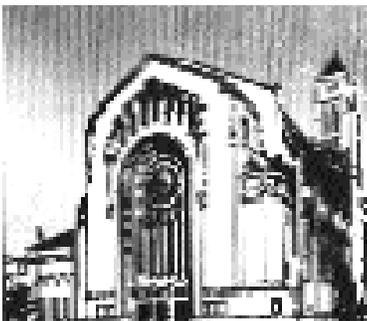
excellent faculty. Courses offer insight into what it means to be both human and a Jew in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

One special “first” this year is the launching of a three-year *Iyun* certificate program, which offers serious students the chance to join a “community of learning.” Students pursue intensive Jewish studies through intellectual and experiential learning, completing 12 eight-week courses over six semesters to qualify for the certificate.



The Skirball Center’s programs are open to the entire community but are a distinct source of pride for members of Temple Emanu-El. To register, log on to [www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org) or call (212) 507-9580.

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**Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich**

*Associate Rabbi*

**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*

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