



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 2

September 10, 2004

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, October 3**

### **Anti-Semitism Today: Champagne Brunch With David Harris**

The Women's Auxiliary,  
Men's Club and Religious  
School Parents  
Organization cordially  
invite Temple members to  
hear David Harris,  
executive director of the  
American Jewish

**10 a.m.**



Committee (AJC) on the subject  
"Anti-Semitism Today." The program includes a  
champagne brunch and a question-and-answer  
period following Mr. Harris' talk.

The cost for this event is \$25 per person.  
For more information, call the Women's Auxiliary  
at (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

## SABBATH SERVICES

### **Friday evening, September 17 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, September 18 Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study — 9:15 a.m.  
**Main Sanctuary**  
Service — 10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion — Ha'azinu  
Readings — Deuteronomy 32:1-52  
Hosea 14:2; Michah 7:18-20;  
Joel 2:15-27

**Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich preaching**

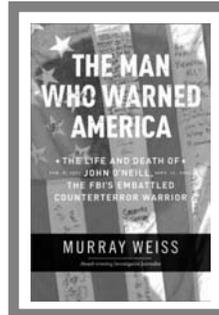
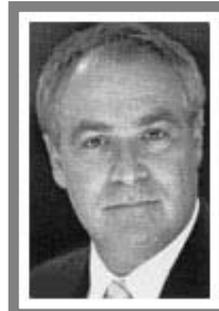
**Monday, September 27**

**6:30 p.m.**

### **American Counterterrorism: Reception and Discussion With Author Murray Weiss**

**MEN'S  
CLUB**

Members of the Temple are invited to  
this special evening organized by the  
Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El.  
Award-winning investigative journalist  
Murray Weiss will discuss his new book,  
*The Man Who Warned America: The Life and  
Death of John O'Neill, the  
FBI's Embattled Counter-  
terror Warrior.*



For more than three  
decades with the *New  
York Post* and *New York  
Daily News*, Weiss has  
written extensively on  
law enforcement, organ-  
ized crime, terrorism,  
criminal justice and pol-  
itics. He is currently the  
*Post's* criminal justice  
editor. He appears fre-  
quently on radio and  
television shows, includ-  
ing *Larry King Live* and  
*The O'Reilly Factor*. He  
also is co-author of *Palm  
Beach Babylon*.

The cost for this event is \$30 for Men's  
Club members and their guests, \$35 for  
nonmembers. Please enter through the  
Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Commu-  
nity House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street. For addi-  
tional information, call the Men's Club at  
(212) 744-1400, ext. 250.

## PULPIT FLOWERS

### **Pulpit flowers at Rosh Hashonah services have been generously donated by our congregants:**

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Sobel  
in loving memory of  
*Ethel B. and Peter P. Sobel*

Mrs. Constance A. Austin  
in loving memory of  
*Anita K. Agate*

Ida Broz  
in loving memory of her parents,  
*Eva and Louis Rothenberg*

Dr. Herbert G. and Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen  
in memory of their beloved parents,  
*Dr. Samuel Weiskopf*  
and *Esther Altman Weiskopf*

Ms. Georgia K. Friedman  
in loving memory of  
*Norma K. and Jerome Friedman*

Mrs. Ann Perse  
in loving memory of her husband,  
*Harry H. Perse*

Jeanine P. Plottel and Roland Plottel  
in loving memory of  
*Lea and Maurice Parisier*  
and *Frances and Charles Plottel*

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Scheurer  
in loving memory of  
*Lewis D. Raabin and Harry Scheurer*

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Schneiderman  
in loving memory of  
*Shelly Taylor*

Beverly Yunich  
in loving memory of  
*David Yunich*

### **Pulpit flowers for Sabbath services this week are the generous donation of our congregants:**

Hilary, Stuart and Olivia Oran  
in honor of *Gregory Oran*  
becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Helen Swedowsky  
in loving memory of her mother,  
*Lillian E. Jaffe*

## B'NEI MITZVAH

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

*William John Danilow*,  
son of Susan and Greg Danilow

*Gregory Daniel Oran*,  
son of Hilary and Stuart Oran

*Robert Alexander Silverstein*,  
son of Liana and Roger Silverstein

*Charles S. Garber*,  
son of Cathryn and Jayson Garber

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

*Worshippers attending Friday evening services are invited to remain afterwards for white wine and hors d'oeuvres from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. as part of our Oneg Shabbat program. These events are made possible from contributions by our B'nei Mitzvah families and other members of the Temple who wish to mark special events throughout the year. As with Pulpit Flowers, sponsorship of an Oneg Shabbat should be coordinated through Sherry Nehmer at (212) 744-1400, ext. 312.*

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# HIGH HOLY DAYS

## NOTE ABOUT SERVICES AND TICKETS

Worship services are conducted simultaneously in our Main Sanctuary and in our Leon Lowenstein Sanctuary. The Rabbis alternate between the various services. In order to share her musical gifts with all our congregants, Cantor Lori Corrsin will officiate at the evening services in the Main Sanctuary and at the morning services in the Lowenstein Sanctuary. Judith Pannill, who has so ably assisted us in the past, will return this year for High Holy Day services.

**If you have not yet received your High Holy Day tickets, call the Temple Office immediately at (212) 744-1400, ext. 210.**

## PREACHING SCHEDULE: ROSH HASHONAH EVE

*Wednesday, September 15* 5:30 p.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Dr. Posner  
Leon Lowenstein — Rabbi Gold

## ROSH HASHONAH DAY

*Thursday, September 16* 10 a.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Rabbi Ehrlich  
Leon Lowenstein — Dr. Posner

*Family Worship Service* 2:30 p.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Rabbi Ehrlich

## YOM KIPPUR (KOL NIDRE)

*Friday, September 24* 8 p.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Dr. Posner  
Leon Lowenstein — Rabbi Ehrlich

## YOM KIPPUR DAY

*Saturday, September 25* 9:45 a.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Dr. Sobel  
Leon Lowenstein — Dr. Posner

*Family Worship Service* 1:30 p.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Rabbi Gold

*Afternoon Service* 2:20 p.m.

*Memorial/Concluding Service* 3:45 p.m.  
Main Sanctuary — Dr. Posner  
Leon Lowenstein — Rabbi Ehrlich

## WQXR HOLIDAY BROADCASTS (96.3 FM)

Wednesday, September 15 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, September 24 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, September 25 4:05 p.m.

## INTERNET BROADCASTS

Those who cannot attend High Holy Day services may connect to our Web site at [www.emanuelnyc.org](http://www.emanuelnyc.org) for abbreviated services that are repeated on an hourly basis. Rosh Hashonah services run from noon on September 15 through noon on September 16. Yom Kippur services run from noon on September 24 through noon on September 25.

*(Internet broadcasts are made possible through a contribution from Jeffrey S. Gould.)*

## HEAR THE SHOFAR SOUNDED

Temple members who cannot leave their homes to attend Rosh Hashonah services but would like to hear the shofar should call (212) 744-1400, ext. 202. Rabbi Posner will gladly make home visits during the afternoon of Rosh Hashonah, shofar in hand.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Members of the congregation desiring to have the names of relatives who have passed away since October 7, 2003, mentioned at the Yom Kippur Memorial service should return to the Temple Office by Tuesday, September 14, the black-bordered necrology card recently sent to all congregants.

## USHERS NEEDED

Temple members who are interested in assisting with High Holy Day services should call the Temple Office at (212) 744-1400, ext. 212. Ushers also are needed during the year for Saturday morning worship service.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Because of the timing of Rosh Hashonah services this year, the first day of class for Wednesday students will be September 22. School also will be closed Wednesday, September 29 and Wednesday, October 6 for the observance of Succos and Shemini Atzeres.

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

By Rabbi David M. Posner

It was exactly 350 years ago—in early September of 1654—that Jewish history took root in North America. It was at this time that 23 Jews—four couples, two widows and 13 children—landed in what was then called New Amsterdam. This was not their port of choice. Instead, it was their last hope. And Peter Stuyvesant, the governor of New Amsterdam, gave them anything but a royal welcome. He petitioned his superiors of the Dutch West India Company for permission to urge them to depart. His petition was denied in a letter addressed to him dating April 25, 1655:

*These people may travel and trade in New Netherland and live and remain there, provided the poor among them shall not become a burden to the Company or to the community but be supported by their nation.*

From whence did they come? They were Sephardic Jews who were among members of the Dutch community that settled in Recife, the eastern-most point of Brazil, conquered by the Dutch from the Portuguese in 1630. At that time, Jews had come from Europe to Recife in large numbers. By 1645, nearly 1,500 Jews already were there. They boasted one synagogue and two schools, and in 1641, the renowned Rabbi Isaac Aboab became their spiritual leader. Recife thus became a mini-Jewish Amsterdam in which religious authority of the classic type found its place.

*A view of New Amsterdam published in Holland in 1655, the year after the first Jewish settlers arrived.*



However, in January 1654, the Portuguese reconquered the city and the Jews scattered. Most returned to Holland; some remained in Recife as secret Jews; but the 23 who came to New Amsterdam were too poor to return to Holland and too proud to become crypto-Jews (*Marranos*).

## **Broad strokes, sweeping generalizations**

When re-imagining history, we too often forget that history is the story of people who lived day by day, moment by moment. Let us remember the painful struggle of the Plymouth colonists and then try to imagine what similar trials confronted our New Amsterdam Jews. Of the 102 passengers who landed in 1620 at Plymouth Rock, half died within the first six months. The truth is that the first English settlers observed their first Thanksgiving after a year of painful and cruel adversity. It was celebrated precisely on July 30, 1623—not in the fall.

And what, then, of the first Rosh Hashonah marked by the refugees from Recife? It is truly difficult to imagine. Bear in mind that the group of 23 people was comprised of four couples, two widows and 13 children. With this in mind, we immediately can recognize that there was no *minyan*—no quorum of 10 men over the age of 13—necessary for public prayer. And in the absence of a *minyan*, there could be no reading from the Torah (actually, a Torah scroll did not make its appearance in New Amsterdam until late 1655), no recitation of the Kaddish and not even the recitation of *Borchu*. Is it not, then, even possible that this nascent community may have lacked a shofar with which to herald the New Year? Would the few poor adults, fleeing Recife, have had the presence of mind to have packed a ram's horn? When they arrived in New Amsterdam, these Jews already had run out of money and even sold

**continued on next page**

## TO BE NOTED

### SANCTUARY RESTORATION

A reminder to Temple members that Phase I of our Sanctuary restoration project will begin October 12, 2004, following the end of the High Holy Day season. While some of the work already has been undertaken—for example, the north and south sides of the Main Sanctuary, as well as the whole west gallery wheel window, have been painstakingly restored—the current state of the Sanctuary requires extensive work. Please be aware that the Beth-El Chapel and the rear half of the Main Sanctuary will be closed during Phase I; the front half will remain open for worship services. Work during this period will include the removal, refinishing and reupholstering of pews. They will then be replaced in time for the High Holy Days next year so that the congregation may worship together. Phase II of the work is scheduled to begin October 31, 2005, and will focus on the front half of the Sanctuary, including the *bimah*. Services at this time will move to Leon Lowenstein, although the Beth-El Chapel will be reopened for private life-cycle events.

### OUR RABBINIC INTERN

It is with the greatest pleasure that we introduce Mr. Howard Goldsmith, a third-year rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, as our new rabbinic intern. This is made possible through a program that exists between the rabbinic school of our movement—HUC-JIR—and congregations that wish to offer young men and women studying for the rabbinate an opportunity to experience first hand the professional responsibilities of this calling. Student Rabbi Goldsmith will be working with our Rabbis in all of their activities, including the conduct of services on Sabbaths and Holy Days, the Shabbos Morning Torah Study Program, Religious School classes and the various youth programs. A graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Goldsmith grew up in Chappaqua, N.Y. He will be with us for one year, prior to leaving for a year's study in Israel.



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

SKIRBALL  
CORNER

The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El begins its fourth year offering engaging and intellectually challenging courses for the entire New York Jewish community. This upcoming fall semester features 40 distinct courses in every area of Jewish studies. Most courses meet one night a week for eight consecutive weeks. For more information, or to register, visit [www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org) or call (212) 507-9580.

SKIRBALL



The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El

## HOLY DAYS (continued)

their furniture in a futile attempt to pay their ship's captain his fare.

Remember, too, that these were traditionally observant Jews. Reform or liberal Judaism was not an option because nothing of the sort existed. How then could any of the adult males observe the rite of *Kapparot*? (This practice still observed by devoutly orthodox Jews, even in New York today, involves taking on the eve of Yom Kippur a live barnyard fowl—usually a chicken—grasping it by the feet, twirling it around one's head and reciting the formula, "This is in place of my sin.") When the 23 Jews sailed into New Amsterdam, the city had no more than 1,000 inhabitants. Their presence provoked public concern, at the very least. Would any dare to perform this rite in the presence of hostile neighbors?

One thing we know for sure: A Torah scroll arrived in late 1655, indicating the presence of a *minyan*. Interestingly enough, that very scroll was returned to Amsterdam in 1663, an indication that the community had scattered. The next time a sefer Torah was to be seen in New York was 1680—this time under British rule, not Dutch.

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.

## FACES OF EMANU-EL

“I’ve been playing the organ as long as I can remember,” says Pedro d’Aquino, Temple Emanu-El’s new associate organist. “I was impressed with the sound and decided that’s what I wanted to do. It’s the first instrument I played, even before the piano.”

Pedro became a part of the Emanu-El family on June 1, 2004. A New York native, he studied mostly with private teachers on Long Island where he grew up and then attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In 1982 he became the organist for Nassau Community Temple in West Hempstead. And, for 12 years he was music director and organist at Union Temple of Brooklyn. The decision to move to Emanu-El, however, was one Pedro could not let pass.

“It’s not every day you’re given the opportunity to work with one of the best professional choirs in New York,” he says. “Temple Emanu-El also has one of the finest symphonic organs. It’s a hidden treasure.”

In addition to working at Temple Emanu-El, Pedro recently joined the adjunct faculty at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion’s School of Sacred Music. He also serves as cantor at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church near Times Square and directs his own baroque ensemble—called Ensemble Les Goûts-Réunis—whose members perform on period instruments. Somewhere within that schedule, he makes time for composing and arranging. Some of Pedro’s arrangements already have been incorporated into our worship services.

*“Faces of Emanu-El” is a new monthly feature highlighting the people who help make our Temple such a special place.*



**PEDRO D'AQUINO**

*Associate Organist*

Lives in Brooklyn with wife, Kirsten, and four sons

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**Dr. David M. Posner**

*Senior Rabbi*

**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**

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**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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