

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 15

December 8, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Families: Music With Shira & Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 17 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Outrageously hip Jewish kiddie rocker **Shira Kline** first will teach us songs about Chanukah.

Afterwards, we'll have food, treats and arts-and-crafts at our holiday party. The Emanu-El Junior Choir will help us light the menorah at noon. We ask



that families bring a new or used children's book for donation. Enter at the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 242

SABBATH SERVICES

FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH Friday evening, December 15 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, December 16 Women's Auxiliary Lounge

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion—Vayeshev

Readings—Genesis 37:1-40:23

Numbers 7:1-17

Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Sermon in Song: Cantor Lori Corrsin

EMANU-EL
CELEBRATES!

CHANUKAH WORSHIP SERVICE & SANCTUARY REDEDICATION

We remind our Temple families to join us for the lighting of the first Chanukah candle and the ceremony marking the rededication of our sanctuaries during our December 15 worship service. A festive reception will follow. Congregants also may participate in a sneak preview of "Sanctuary Revealed: The Restoration of an Architectural Icon," the new exhibit to be on display at the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica.

CONCERT SERVICE

Our celebration continues on Saturday morning with a *Sermon in Song* by Cantor Lori Corrsin. Also performing will be our Emanu-El Choir and the highly regarded klezmer clarinetist Margot Leverett. The program includes excerpts from "Judas Maccabeus" by George Frideric Handel, "Sacred Service" by Ernest Bloch, and some unusual, joyful settings of favorite Chanukah melodies—particularly "I Have a Little Dreidel" as never heard before!



PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Ferne and Robert Maibrunn
in celebration of the marriage of
Marc and Tovah Maibrunn

Sally F. Broido in memory
of her beloved sister, *Ellin F. Ente*

Mrs. A. Coleman Poll
in loving memory of her parents,
Mildred and Jacques G. Coleman,
and her grandmother,
Sophie Brock

Monte Wolfson in loving memory
of his wife, *Doris Wolfson*

TO BE NOTED

The following questions may be helpful to congregants participating in our "Emanu-El Reads!" program as a means for further understanding the life and work of Maimonides.



Maimonides was supposedly a poor student and a rebellious runaway. What do these stories reveal about traditional ideals of family and upbringing? How was Maimonides a rebel later in life?

In what ways is Maimonides' approach to Scripture modern? In what ways is it traditional?

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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.

Charles S. Salomon

The Universal Funeral Chapel

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

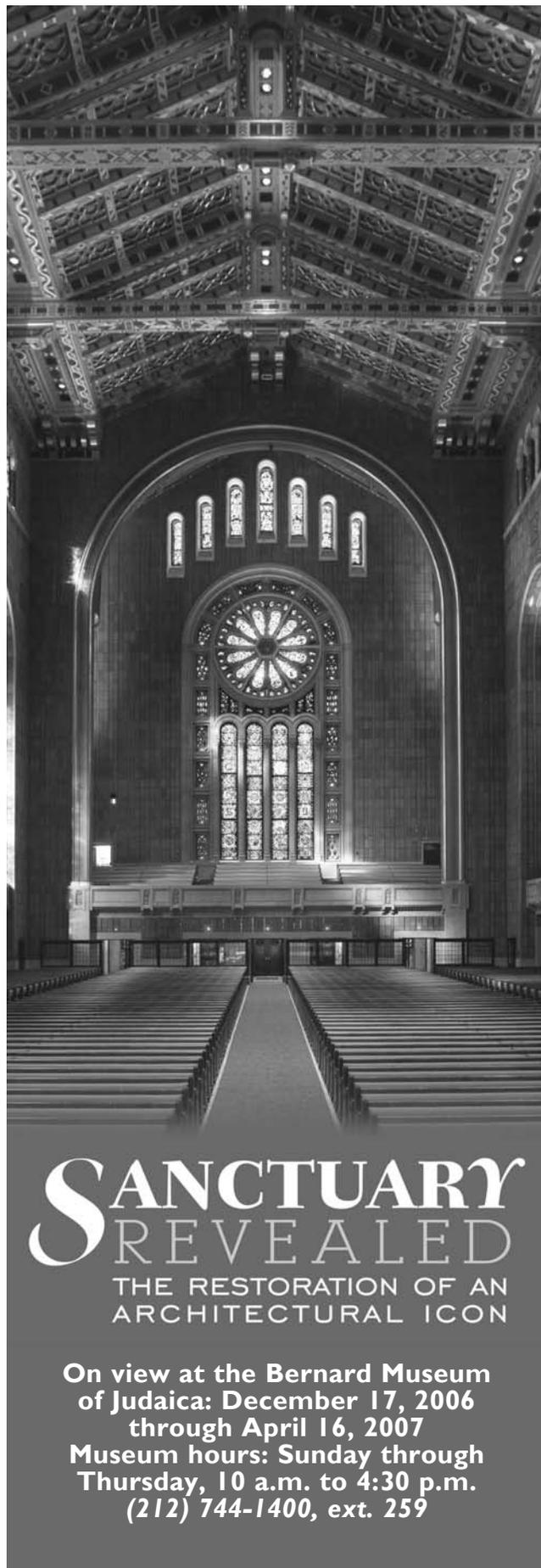


Photo by Samuel Morgan • Banner design by Hirsch & Associates

SANCTUARY REVEALED

THE RESTORATION OF AN
ARCHITECTURAL ICON

On view at the Bernard Museum
of Judaica: December 17, 2006
through April 16, 2007
Museum hours: Sunday through
Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(212) 744-1400, ext. 259

STORIES FROM THE RESTORATION

By Rabbi David M. Posner

Our series concludes with thoughts from our senior rabbi regarding the rededication of our sanctuaries and the celebration of Chanukah.

IN PRAISING THE SABBATH, Rabbi Solomon Alkabetz—the mystic of 16th century Safed—in his classic *Lcha Dodi*, sings of the holiness of the day as “the end of the deed—but the first in thought.” By this, he meant that the Sabbath was the crowning feature of creation, but it was not created first.

Similarly, a home is built to provide living quarters for a family, but the furnishings and interior decoration are the last things that go into it. The first thought of young parents planning a home for their family is of a secure and wholesome place in which to raise children. Nevertheless, before that final goal—truly the first in thought—can be realized, they must undertake a long list of tasks that seemingly have no relationship to the goal but which are indispensable to its attainment: engaging an architect, envisioning a concept, finding a builder, obtaining financing. Finally, when all the work is done, that original dream—the beautiful home—has taken shape.

In the summer of 2002, when the lay leadership and staff of Temple Emanu-El began planning each and every step, in careful detail, of the restoration of our

sanctuaries, the very first thing that we did was to take the long-range Hebrew calendar and check the date of Chanukah for the year 2006 (5767). Lo and behold, upon the realization that the first night of Chanukah would fall on the Sabbath of December 15, we knew that we had a fixed day on which to celebrate officially our rededication. December 15, thus became for us the “end of deed—first in thought.” It seemed too good to be true, but—thank God—the day has arrived.

The great Maccabean victories took place in 168–165 of the Common Era, and they led eventually to a period of religious freedom and national independence in the Land of Israel—inspiring many subsequent generations to face persecution with triumphant courage. With the miracle of Chanukah occurring in 165 B.C.E., calculation reveals that it took place in the Jewish year

3596. This year, then, will mark the 2,171st Chanukah celebration.

We should keep in mind, however, that other feasts of dedication preceded the one of the Maccabean period. It is precisely for

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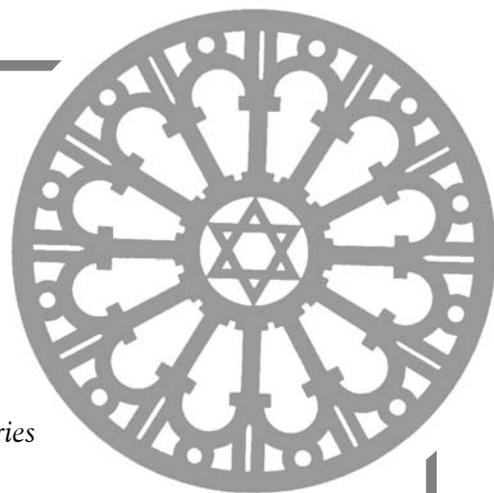


Photo by James Rhodes

RESTORATION (CONTINUED)

this reason that the traditional Torah portions read during the eight days of Chanukah are from the book of Numbers (7:1–8:4). These are the passages about the dedication of the Tabernacle in the wilderness and the lighting of the Golden Menorah—the first in Jewish history.

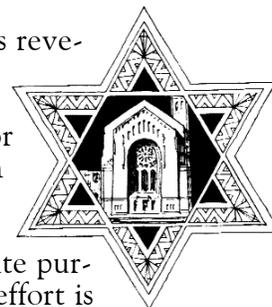
Similarly, II Chronicles 29:17 reveals to us a rededication of the First Jerusalem Temple during the kingship of Hezekiah—a full five centuries before the Maccabean period. The passage reads as follows:

They began this purifying on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day they reached the vestibule of the Lord; then they purified the Temple of the Lord in eight days.

Obviously, then, we are following in ancient tradition. And, in this tradition,

even our language offers revelation. Our Hebrew word *Chanukah*—meaning, “dedication” or “rededication”—is from the same root as the word *Chinuch* (“education”). Thus, the ultimate purpose of our restoration effort is not only the rededication of our Main Sanctuary but also the greater rededication of our inner sanctuaries—the residences of our very souls—to the glorious heritage of learning and education. It is an effort to make of our very being a habitation for God’s will and God’s plan for our children and, ultimately, for all of His.

May we always cherish the memory of this special Chanukah in our lives and in the life of Temple Emanu-El.



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