



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 15

December 10, 2004

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 6, 2005 7:30 p.m.  
**Yefim Bronfman at the  
New York Philharmonic**

The Women's Auxiliary invites Temple members and their friends to attend a performance by Yefim Bronfman, regarded widely as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today.



The cost for this event is \$85 per person (\$25 of which is tax deductible). Seats are located in the Preferred Orchestra section, keyboard side. Paid reservations must be received by Friday,

December 17. Orders will be filled in the order they are received. Questions? *Call the Women's Auxiliary at (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.*

## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, December 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, December 18  
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.  
**Main Sanctuary**  
Service—10:30 a.m.  
Torah Portion—Vayigash  
Readings—Genesis 44:18-47:27  
Ezekiel 37:15-28

**Rabbi Nadia E. Gold preaching**

## Winter Clothing and Toy Drive

Temple Emanu-El's annual winter clothing drive and Chanukah toy drive will be held through Tuesday, December 14. We are collecting coats, scarves, hats and gloves for children and adults, as well as toys (not wrapped, please!) for boys and girls from age 3 through 13. Donations should be brought to the lobby of One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street between



9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or to the lobby of 10 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street during Nursery School and Religious School hours. Thanks for your support!

## Family Candle Lighting With DOROT

Fulfill the mitzvot of lighting the Chanukah candles and of giving *tzedakah* by setting aside one of your Chanukah nights to celebrate in the home of a DOROT senior. DOROT provides a *chanukiah*, candles, chocolate gelt, a dreidel, and helpful guidelines for Chanukah blessings, songs and dreidel playing. Each family is asked to donate \$50 per visit. If your family is unable to make a visit, DOROT will send a teen volunteer in your place. To register, call the DOROT office at (917) 441-5051.

*This program is underwritten in part by our Temple members Joanna and David Silver.*



CHANUKAH  
MITZVOT

## EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Friday, January 7, 2005 6:15 p.m.

### **Young Families: Tot Shabbat**

Families of preschool-age children are encouraged to attend this Sabbath service geared toward our youngest Temple members.

Dinner and an art project follow. Please enter through the lobby of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65<sup>th</sup> Street.

*RSVP by Thursday, January 6 to  
(212) 744-1400, ext. 242.*

Sunday, January 9, 2005 10 a.m.

### **Men's Club: U.S. Intelligence and Counterintelligence After September 11**

Richard Valcourt, editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and former Men's Club president will lead this program with prominent speakers addressing critical issues of national and international importance. Breakfast will be served. *Call the Men's Club at (212) 744-1400, ext. 250 for details.*

Sunday, January 9, 2005 11 a.m.

### **Senior Youth Group: Pop Culture and Judaism**

Youth Group members in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to reserve this date on their calendars for Temple Emanu-El's first ever all-day NFTY subregional event, titled "Jew-Strong: Pop Culture and Judaism."

*To register, call (212) 744-1400, ext. 244  
and follow the prompts.*

Monday, January 10, 2005 6:30 p.m.

### **Eighth Grade Leadership Academy**

A reminder to all eighth grade students about our first meeting of the new year. We will gather in Room 602 of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House. Dinner will be served.

Tuesday, January 11, 2005 8:30 a.m.

### **Men's Club Reading Group**

We will discuss *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth, a fictional accounting in which Charles Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election.

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 Prepares for Journey to Israel

SKIRBALL  
CORNER

**T**wenty-one students of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El will join Rabbi Leon A. Morris as he leads a thoughtful and stimulating trip to Israel from December 15 through 26. Using the land of Israel as a context for study, students will explore the theme of "The Place of Space in Jewish History and Thought" through Biblical, Rabbinic, medieval and modern texts. Participants will be spending five nights in Jerusalem on the campus of Hebrew Union College and three nights at Kibbutz Yahel, the Reform movements kibbutz in the Arava Desert.

For more information about Skirball and its programs, call (212) 507-9580 or log on to [www.adultjewishlearning.org](http://www.adultjewishlearning.org).

# SKIRBALL



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

## PULPIT FLOWERS

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

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*

Phillip I. Pollak  
in loving memory of his parents,  
*Louis and Pauline Pollak*

Denise, Nicki and Alex Rein  
in loving memory of  
*Mark Alan Rein*

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.

# 350 YEARS OF AMERICAN JEWISH THINKERS: A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH CREATIVITY (PART 4 OF 10)

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath-Beit Halachmi

**W**hile she is perhaps best known for her role in founding *Hadassah* (the Women's Zionist Organization of America), Henrietta Szold contributed a lifetime of service to the Jewish people that was more far reaching than many are aware. Not only was Szold's model of practical idealism influential in the creation of the State of Israel, but the impact of much of Szold's work to transform American Zionist leadership, the organizations of pre-state Israel and the opportunities available to women can be felt to this day.

The eldest of eight daughters born to the prominent Baltimore rabbi Benjamin Szold, Henrietta understood from an early age the importance of helping Jewish immigrants integrate into foreign cultures. In the late 1870s, Szold and her father would meet Jewish immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe arriving at the Baltimore docks and help them to get settled. In 1889, Henrietta worked with the Hebrew Literary Society to create a night school to train immigrants in English language and American citizenship. And, in 1893, Szold became the first paid employee of the Jewish Publication Society—which remains one of American Jewry's most important publication houses—serving as literary secretary until 1916 and overseeing the publication of nearly 90 books during that time.

Despite such early successes, Szold—as a woman—did meet with some resistance to her leadership and scholarship at several key moments in her life. One such example was in 1903 when she moved to New York to become a student at the then male-only Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS). Szold received a letter confirming that she would be

permitted to study at JTS but on the condition that she would not seek rabbinic ordination.

In 1909, Szold visited Palestine and, one year later, became secretary of the Federation of American Zionists. In 1912, Szold helped found *Hadassah*—the organizational meeting for which was held in the vestry rooms of Temple Emanu-El at its former location of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue—and was elected its first president. In a long address delivered on

April 30, 1929, Szold evaluated the work of *Hadassah* in creating a medical establishment in Palestine, describing in detail the thousands of programs initiated as well as offering some criticism. She closed her address as follows:

*Time will pass judgment upon the work of Hadassah done hitherto. Doubtless there were mistakes in detail...doubtless the trend of the work now and again deviated from what Hadassah had itself indicated as the straight and narrow path. Yet, I venture to believe that when the history of the Zionist resettlement of the land comes to be written,*

*the chronicler will have to say of the Hadassah undertaking: It began as a mere war relief measure. It stayed on in the land as an effective peace organization. It entered into the fabric of Palestinian life, into its web and woof, as a part of the renewal and rehabilitation Zionism stands for. From first to last, it remained true to its motto, "The healing of the daughter of my people."*

During the 1930s, Szold further expanded *Hadassah*'s efforts by becoming a major force in the *Youth Aliyah* effort—a program initiated to help Jewish children and young adults

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**HENRIETTA SZOLD  
(1860-1945)**

## JEWISH THINKERS (continued)

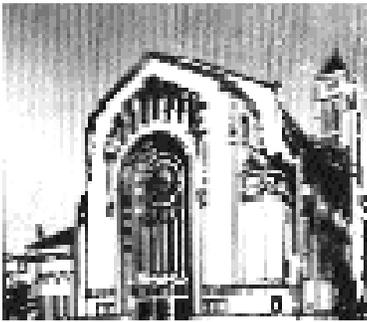
emigrate to Palestine. Under Szold's leadership, it is estimated that the program saved some 22,000 Jewish children from Hitler's concentration camps.

On the question of Arab-Jewish relations in Palestine, Szold was far from silent. She became active in *Brit Shalom* (Covenant of Peace), an organization founded in 1925 to consider carefully the possibility of a binational solution in Palestine. Along with Judah Magnes (the first president of Hebrew University and Temple Emanu-El senior rabbi from 1906-1910) and Martin Buber, Szold believed that there must be dialogue and cooperation with the Arabs. Zionism, Szold wrote, was "the balm for wounds inflicted by history upon the Jewish people...an ideal that can be embraced by all, no matter what their attitude may be to other Jewish questions."

Szold remained an active leader on many fronts until falling ill in July 1943. Over the years, Szold received numerous honors, including several honorary degrees and a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. Szold, however, preferred to take a more humble view of her efforts. In an interview when she was 75—10 years prior to her death—Szold noted that her greatest assets were "a strong constitution, a devotion to duty and a big conscience," together with "a flair for organization" and "a pretty big capacity for righteous indignation."

**Rabbi Rachel Sabath-Beit Halachmi, a former instructor with the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El, is director of Lay Leadership Education at Shalom Hartman Institute and an instructor at Hebrew Union College, both in Jerusalem.**

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