

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 79, Number 5

September 29, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 10 8:30 a.m.
Men's Club: Book Group

We will discuss *Absurdistan*, Gary Shteyngart's satiric look at globalization, petrol politics and the obsession with Jewish continuity. Sessions meet in Room 405 of the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One E. 65th Street. (212) 744-1400, ext. 250

Sunday, October 22 10 a.m.
Scanning NYC's Vital Signs

The Women's Auxiliary, the Men's Club and the Religious School Parents Organization team up for their annual opening breakfast, this year featuring **Clyde Haberman**, city columnist for *The New York Times*.

Cost is \$25 for paid-up members, \$35 for nonmembers and guests. Make checks payable to the Women's Auxiliary. RSVP by Monday, October 16. (212) 744-1400, ext. 235

SUCCOS SERVICES

**Friday evening, October 6
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 7
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

EVENTS
FOR SUCCOS

Friday, October 13
5:15 p.m.

**Religious School:
Consecration Service
& Shabbat Dinner**

Religious School students and their families are invited to join us for Sabbath services in the Main Sanctuary, where we also will celebrate the consecration of new students under the succah. A traditional Sabbath dinner will follow. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 226 by Monday, October 9.

Please let us know the number of adults and number of children who will be attending.

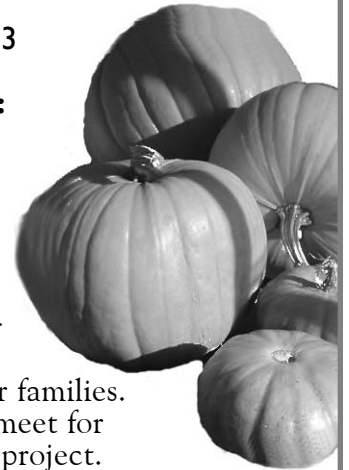
Friday, October 13
6:15 p.m.

**Young Families:
Tot Shabbat**

Celebrate the End of Succos with a Sabbath service geared specifically for our youngest Temple members and their families.

Afterwards, we'll meet for dinner and an art project.

We also ask families to donate to the **Tikkun Olam** food drive by bringing nonperishable foods (canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, pasta, rice, cake mix, juice boxes) in the special **Mitzvah Day** grocery bag sent to Temple members. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242 by Monday, October 9.



B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Matthew Reed Aaronson,
son of
Michael and Jo Ann Aaronson

Freeman D. Love and Rachel W. Love,
son and daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Walton Love

Morgan Joseph Wolf,
son of
Annik and Michael Wolf

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

PULPIT FLOWERS

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

Ellen J. Weiss
in celebration of life

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

**For information about sponsoring
Pulpit Flowers or an Oneg Shabbat,
call Sherry Nehmer at
(212) 744-1400, ext. 312.**

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.

SUNDAY
SEMINARS

*In response to
growing demand for
these one-day, intensive
study sessions, the Skirball
Center for Adult Jewish
Learning at Temple Emanu-El
is pleased to offer seven different
Sunday Seminars as part of its fall
schedule of courses. Each week's
seminar will include elements
of text study and discussion.
Come once, or come for all seven!
Cost is \$50 per session or \$300 for
the series. All seminars are held
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enter at
One E. 65th St. Coffee and bagels
are served. To register or for more
information, call (212) 507-9580.*

OCTOBER 22
Created in the Image of God:
The Biblical Accounts of Genesis

OCTOBER 29
The Jewish People in Opera

NOVEMBER 5
A Biblical Road Map:
Towards Middle East Peace
for the Descendants of
Isaac and Ishmael

NOVEMBER 12
The Natural History of the Bible:
An Environmental Exploration
of the Hebrew Scriptures

NOVEMBER 19
Pope Pius XII and the Jews of Rome

DECEMBER 3
The First Modern Jew:
The Life and Times
of Moses Mendelssohn

DECEMBER 10
Jewish Ethics and
the Sermon on the Mount

SKIRBALL



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

SUCCOS... SUKKOT... SUCCOTH

By Rabbi David M. Posner

WHEN FACED with a theological issue, Moses himself once said, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets that the Lord would put His spirit upon them." Borrowing from this theme today, we might say, "Would that all the Lord's people were *grammarians* that they might better understand variants in Hebrew pronunciation."

One of the consequences of the Jewish Diaspora is an ultimate lack of uniformity in the way that Hebrew is pronounced. This has given our people a linguistic variety that is, in its way, very special. However, as far as the eye is concerned, the transliteration of Hebrew may cause some confusion among the laity.

The festival of Succos affords us a prime example of this issue. In Jewish press and prayer books, we often encounter three spellings: *Succos*, *Sukkot* and *Succoth*.



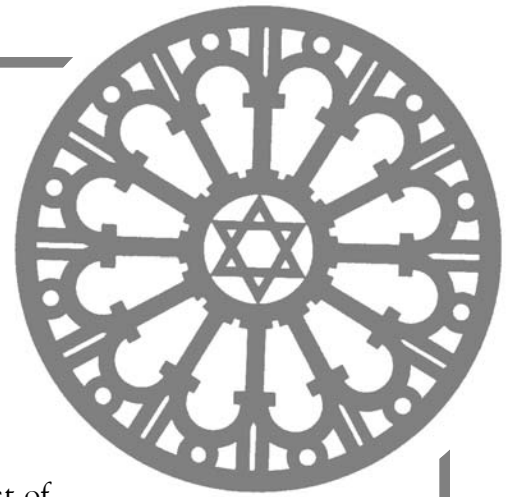
SUCCOS (FEAST OF THE TABERNACLES) IS THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF THANKSGIVING ON OCCASION OF THE FINAL GATHERING OF THE HARVEST. THE SUCCAH SYMBOLIZES GOD'S PROTECTION OF OUR ANCESTORS IN THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI. MANY THANKS TO THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR THEIR GIFT OF OUR BEAUTIFUL SUCCAH.

This has led some to believe that each spelling represents a different aspect of the holiday: that "Succos" is the name of the festival, that "Sukkot" is the name of the booth and that "Succoth" is the plural of Succot.

Actually, each of these words is the plural of *succah*, a singular noun that means "booth." Succos is the *Ashkenazic* (European Jewish) way of pronouncing the plural; Sukkot is the *Sephardic* (Mediterranean Jewish and Modern Hebrew) pronunciation; and Succoth, with a real "th" sound as in "thing," is truly the most authentic pronunciation of all, retaining an archaic form that is found in the most ancient transliteration of Hebrew.

We are accustomed to seeing these various transliterations in more common Hebrew words and phrases. For example, we attend *Sabbath* services, and we know people who are members of the Jewish fraternal order *B'nei Brith* (archaic); we attend a *bris* (Ashkenazic); and we observe the rite of *Brit Milah* (Sephardic). Hebrew, however, is not the only language that exhibits the trichotomy between s, t and th. We see this in English, for example, in the word "has," which is an Ashkenazic pronunciation. In German, one says "hat" (...er, hat). And, in classical Shakespearean English, "hath" is the pronunciation. (What hath he done?)

All this being said, when it comes to modern conversation, we use only two of the pronunciations discussed. When speaking with fellow Jews, we say either that we are celebrating Succos or Sukkot; we never use the pronunciation Succoth. The same may be said for the festival of Shavuot: One celebrates either Shavuot or Shavuot but never Shavuoth. The "th" is a pronunciation that simply no longer exists.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

What college student doesn't like to receive mail when he or she is away from home? If you're a student attending classes out of town, let Temple Emanu-El keep you up-to-date on its latest news and happenings. We'll also send you holiday mailings and packages. (Parents, please forward this to your children if they've already left for school!) Simply complete this form and return it by FAX to (212) 570-0826 or MAIL (Congregation Emanu-El, One East 65th Street, NY, NY 10021 Attn: Rabbi Nadia Gold). Or, send an E-MAIL with all the pertinent information to nadiagold@emanuelnyc.org.



Name: _____

College Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Birthday: _____ **Year of Graduation:** _____

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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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