



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 78, Number 3

September 23, 2005

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, September 30
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 1
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**

Torah Study—9:15 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Nitzavim
Readings—Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Sermon: Rabbi David M. Posner

HOLY DAY SERVICES

EVE OF ROSH HASHONAH

Monday, October 3 5:30 p.m.

Main Sanctuary—Rabbi Posner
Leon Lowenstein—Rabbi Gold

ROSH HASHONAH

Tuesday, October 4 10 a.m.

Main Sanctuary—Rabbi Ehrlich
Leon Lowenstein—Rabbi Posner

Family Worship Service 2:30 p.m.

Main Sanctuary—Rabbi Ehrlich

HOLIDAY BROADCASTS

Those who cannot attend Rosh Hashonah services may tune into WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) at 5:30 p.m. on October 3, or log on to our Web site (www.emanuelnyc.org) for abbreviated services repeated hourly from noon Monday through noon Tuesday.

YOUTH GROUPS

**Saturday, October 15
11 a.m.**



Members of **Club 56** (for fifth and sixth graders) are invited to an afternoon of fun and games at New York's ESPN Zone.

Sunday, October 16

Time TBD

Club **78** (for seventh and eighth graders) will host a "Limo Scavenger Hunt."



For details regarding both of these events, contact Youth Group Advisor Lori Jacobson at templeclub5678@yahoo.com or (516) 965-4736.

YOUNG FAMILIES

Sunday, October 16

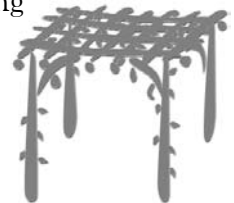
11 a.m.

Sunday, October 23

11 a.m.

First, join Shira as she teaches us songs for the upcoming Succos holiday.

The following week, we'll have a special Succos celebration—including pumpkin painting and making decorations for our succah—geared just for our youngest Temple members!



Young Families is for children who are of preschool age through early elementary school age and their parents. Attendees must preregister by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

FOR
OUR YOUTH

PULPIT FLOWERS

Pulpit flowers at Sabbath worship services this week have been donated generously by our congregants:

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

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

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*

Pulpit Flowers at Rosh Hashonah services have been donated generously by our congregants:

Rabbi 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

Rhoda Weiskopf Cohen
in loving memory of my dearest parents,
Dr. Samuel and Esther Altman Weiskopf,
and my beloved grandmother,
Gussie W. Altman

Georgia and Jay L. Horner
in loving memory of
Norma K. and Jerome Friedman

In memory of *Lawrence Lachman*
from his loving family

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 their parents,
Norma and Lewis D. Raabin and Harry Scheurer

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

B'NEI MITZVAH

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

Scott Lewis Fischbein,
son of Susan and Peter Fischbein

Justin Baron Pash,
son of Betsy and Jeffrey Pash

Alexander H. Sugerman, son of
Adrienne Halpern and David Sugerman

Matthew Benjamin Smerling,
son of Kathryn and Robert Smerling

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

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.

ROSH HASHONAH AND THE SHOFAR

By Rabbi David M. Posner

Since Rosh Hashonah 1973, it has been both my privilege and pleasure to sound the *shofar* on Rosh Hashonah morning in the Leon Lowenstein Sanctuary, a practice which I look forward to continuing. The *shofar* is the preeminent symbol of the Holy Day season, and its nature and usage often are shrouded in wonder and mystery. As one who learned to sound the *shofar* the year before I became a bar mitzvah, I can attest to the ease with which this skill can be learned. The history of this practice is also of interest, especially at this time.

The Torah may designate the 10th day of the seventh month as Yom Ha-Kippurim—the Day of Atonement—but it does not refer to the first day of the seventh month as Rosh Hashonah, the New Year. In fact, there is no reference to the “New Year” in the Torah at all. Instead, we find two different phrases: *zichron t’ruah*, a memorial of *shofar* blowing (Leviticus 23:24) and *yom t’ruah*, a day of *shofar* blowing (Numbers 29:1).

According to strict tradition, the *shofar* is sounded not only on Rosh Hashonah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur but also during the entire month of Elul, which precedes Rosh Hashonah. The *Talmud* and the codes of Jewish law also are replete with detailed instructions and regulations regarding the *shofar* itself and the manner in which it is sounded.

In order to be fit, the *shofar* must be made from the horn of any kosher animal except a cow or an ox. Why neither cow nor ox? It is because of their association with the sin of the golden calf, the memory of which never leaves us completely. The accepted practice is to use a ram’s horn because of its association with the story of the binding of Isaac, which is the Torah reading for Rosh Hashonah. However,

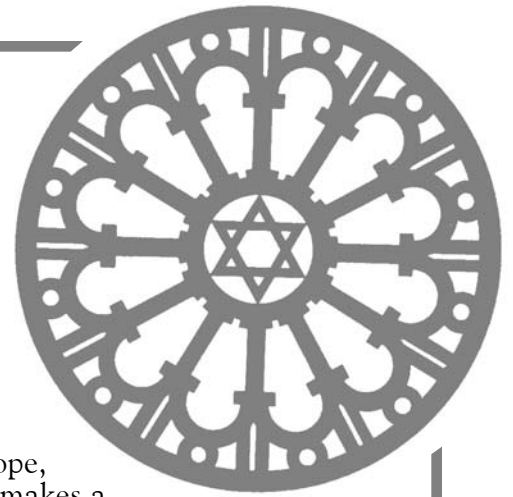
the Yemenite Jews have preferred to use the horn of an Ethiopian antelope, which certainly makes a more impressive sight and sound, as well. This is the type of *shofar* I employ in the Lowenstein Sanctuary.

The *shofar* should be bent or curved in a shape to symbolize the bent and humbled spirit appropriate on Rosh Hashonah. It should be no less than 6 inches long, and cracks may render it invalid for use.

Early in the Talmudic period, shortly after the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., the *shofar* was blown somewhat at the beginning of the synagogue service, right in the middle of the *shacharis amidah*, which is the central part of the morning service. By the next century, the Talmud notes that this practice was discontinued, and the sounding of the *shofar* was put further back into the service, traditionally both after the reading of the *haftorah* and during the *amidah*, the major section of the *musaf*, or additional service.

Why was the sounding postponed until later in the service? The reason is simultaneously remarkable and human. It was done to accommodate all of the worshippers who weren’t coming to the synagogue on time—that is, the people who couldn’t make it for the beginning of the service. Some things in Jewish life remain eternal.

With a stroke of creative genius, the Reform liturgy sounds the *shofar* after the *haftorah* reading, with a *shofar* service that incorporates the basic features of the tradi-



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 GLADLY WILL MAKE HOME VISITS DURING THE AFTERNOON OF ROSH HASHONAH, SHOFAR IN HAND.

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

TO BE NOTED

CHAIT NAMED NFTB'S NEW YORK METRO PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Temple member Andrew Chait, who will serve as president of the New York Metropolitan Conference of the North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

Among the organization's many activities are free High Holy Days services for Jewish college students and young adults, for which Temple Emanu-El lends Torah scrolls.



Services are held at St. Bartholomew's Church (Park Avenue and 51st Street). This year, optional holiday dinners will be offered for \$29.95 each.

For dinner reservations, call (212) 888-2664.

READERS NEEDED

The rabbis are seeking students in grades 8–12 to serve as readers for Yom Kippur. Readings will be given in English. In addition to the joy of performing a great mitzvah for our congregation, readers will receive community service credit. Sign up by calling (212) 744-1400, ext. 453.

Commandment
and Forgiveness:
The Divine
Dialectic in Judaism

RABBI EUGENE B. BOROWITZ
Wednesday, September 28 8 PM

The final guest lecturer in our Elul mini-semester, Rabbi Borowitz is a distinguished member of the faculty at HUC-JIR and a renown author.



This lecture and more than 30 other classes make up the Skirball fall course schedule. Eight-week classes begin Thursday, October 27. To register, log on to www.adultjewishlearning.org or call (212) 507-9580.

SKIRBALL



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

SKIRBALL
CORNER

NURSERY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2006-2007 school year will be available through September 30. **Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 230 through this date only.** Although it is our policy to give priority to congregation members, acceptance is not automatic.

WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

Rabbi Philip Hiat's weekly *Talmud* class begins again on **October 5**. Meeting for an hour on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., this class is co-sponsored by the Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El and the Brotherhood of Central



Synagogue. We will resume studying *Tractate Megillah* of the Babylonian *Talmud*, part of the Mishnaic section of *Moed*, dealing with holidays and special times.

When finished, we will celebrate with a *siyyum* (a ritual of completion of study) before turning our attention to *Pirke Avos* and related texts. Open to members of both congregations, the class and study materials are free. Come when you can!

ATTENTION: COLLEGE STUDENTS

Temple Emanu-El has **NOT** forgotten about you! Keep on top of the latest news and happenings here at the Temple. You also can sign up to receive holiday mailings and packages.

Clip and return this form to:

Rabbi Nadia Gold, c/o Temple Emanu-El,
One East 65th Street, NY, NY 10021

Name _____

College Address _____

E-mail _____

Birthday _____

Or e-mail: nadiagold@emanuelnyc.org





A NEW YEAR WISH FROM OUR RABBIS

October 2005/Tishri 5766

Dear Congregants,

Once again, it is our pleasure to join with the president of our Temple, Mr. Robert A. Bernhard, and our board of trustees as we wish you a good and sweet year. May it be one of blessing and fulfillment to you and to your families.

For such a numerically insignificant people, the agenda of our faith is truly enormous. Judaism is concerned with the happiness of the individual as well as with the survival of the Jewish people, with the redemption of all people, and with the will of the One God. And if this were not agenda enough, Judaism's conception of the nature of people created in the likeness of God, its understanding of God and history, of prayer and even of basic morality all stand in stark contrast to a world gone mad with hedonism, egocentrism, secularism, materialism and now fanaticism. The sad fact is that when the traditional demands of piety become increasingly mysterious in a technological society, then religion itself becomes a function, a talisman, a bromide, an instrument to satisfy needs ordinary and ephemeral. As we think about the role of the synagogue in our lives and in the place of the Jewish people in the world, we always must guard ourselves against falling into the habit of looking at our religion as if it were a machine or an organization that can be run according to mere calculation.

Ultimately, the issue of how to live a meaningful Jewish life cannot be solved in terms of common sense or common experience. The order of Jewish living is a spiritual one. It has a spiritual logic of its own, and this logic cannot be known unless the basic terms of Judaism are understood, lived and appreciated. Indeed, these are some of the many issues that we, your rabbis and teachers, hope to explore with you during the Holy Days to come. Seeing you is a joy. And learning with you is a privilege. God bless you all.

Rabbi David M. Posner
Rabbi Amy B. Ehrlich
Rabbi Nadia E. Gold
Cantor Lori Corrsin
Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel
Rabbi Leon A. Morris
David Young (Rabbinic Intern)

OUR NEW RABBINIC INTERN

We offer a hearty welcome to David Young, a fifth-year rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, who will be joining us for the year

as our new rabbinic intern. Student Rabbi Young will be working with our rabbis in their activities, including the conduct of worship

services, the Shabbos morning Torah study, Religious School classes and various youth programs. A graduate cum laude of Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., David has nearly seven years working with youth through camp activities and as a Hebrew/Judaica teacher.



Student Rabbi David Young with his wife, Natalie, and son, Gabriel

SHOFAR (CONTINUED)

tional *musaf amidah*—thereby marking the three major divisions of *malchuyos* (verses that stress God's kingship), *zichronos* (verses that refer to God's remembrance) and *shofaros* (verses concerning the shofar).

It also is important to note that there are three types of *shofar* blasts: *T'kiah*, which is a straight, unbroken sound; *Sh'varim*, a series of three broken sounds; and *T'ruah*, a quick succession of short sounds. The sounding ends with *T'kiah G'dolah*, the great *t'kiah*, which is prolonged as long as the *baal-t'kiah*—the *shofar* blower—and the congregation can hold out.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



September 23, 2005
Volume 78, Number 3
Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

Dr. David M. Posner

Senior Rabbi

Amy B. Ehrlich

Associate 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

Published weekly September 9 through June 9 by Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York, formed by the consolidation of Emanu-El Congregation (founded 1845) and Temple Beth-El.

Postmaster, send address changes to: Temple Emanu-El Bulletin, One East 65th Street New York, NY 10021 (212) 744-1400 Periodicals Postage Paid at New York, NY USPS 891-160.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW YORK, NY