

October 2009

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5770

Vol. 36 No. 1

Join Us For Services

Friday, October 2

6:15 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
Sukkot Across Emanu-El

Saturday, October 3

10:30 a.m. in the Sukkah

Friday, October 9

7 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 10

10:30 a.m. in the Lefkowitz Chapel
10:30 a.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

Friday, October 16

6:15 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

Saturday, October 17

10:30 a.m. in the Lefkowitz Chapel
10:30 a.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

Friday, October 23

6:15 p.m., in the Olan Sanctuary
8:15 p.m., in the Olan Sanctuary
Union Prayer Book Service

Saturday, October 24

10:30 a.m. in the Lefkowitz Chapel
10:30 a.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

Friday, October 30

6:15 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

Saturday, October 31

10:30 a.m. in the Lefkowitz Chapel
10:30 a.m. in the Olan Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. in the Olan Sanctuary

**Complete schedule,
Page 2**

From the study of Rabbi Asher Knight

Capacity, energy for solutions comes from within our stories

On the fifth day following *Yom Kippur*, we will celebrate the Festival Holiday of *Sukkot*. This year *Sukkot* begins on the evening of October 2.

Known as *z'man simchateinu*, the season of our rejoicing, the joyous celebration of *Sukkot* is full of remarkable contradictions.



**Rabbi
Asher Knight**

We are instructed to live in a *sukkah*, a fragile and delicate booth, at a time when the fall weather often turns cold and wet. Our tradition even tells us that the roof of the *sukkah* must allow us to see the moon and stars in the heavens above.

The character of this porous structure exposes us to the elements of nature. We submit to getting a little dirty and possibly damp. We open ourselves to the experience of dwelling in a structure that leaves us susceptible to the weather conditions of the season.

Another paradoxical aspect of *Sukkot* is the idea that despite our vulnerability to nature, we are instructed to invite guests into our *sukkah*. The inspiration of welcoming guests into the *sukkah* stems from the biblical story of Abraham. Abraham used to sit outside his dwelling waiting for the opportunity to invite wayfarers for a meal under the shade of his tent. Based on this story, the Jewish mystics of the 16th century instituted a custom of inviting seven exalted ancestors of Israel to live in the *sukkah*. The Ushpizin, which means "guests" in Aramaic, are a symbolic and poignant reminder that we are encouraged to be warm, welcoming, and in relationship with other people despite our own vulnerabilities.

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin explains in her book, *The Tapestry of Jewish Time*, "*Sukkot* reminds us that ultimate security is found not within the walls of our home but in the presence of God and one another. The walls of our *sukkah* may make us vulnerable, but they make us available, too, to receive the kindness and support of one another, to hear when another calls out in need." The paradox of *Sukkot* is the idea that we can find

strength, relationship, and power in a time of vulnerability.

Beginning in October and continuing through *Purim*, our Just Congregations core-team will be asking members of our community to open your doors, hearts, and thoughts. In face-to-face and small group meetings, we will listen to the stories of our members' experiences with the healthcare system. Please join us on October 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., when Just Congregations will explore possible healthcare solutions in the Dallas area.

Concerns over healthcare are widely and deeply felt within our congregation. To date, the Just Congregations core-team has heard stories from a variety of Temple members. We've heard from small business owners who cannot afford the health insurance for their employees. We've heard from cancer survivors who told us about paying for medication not covered by health insurance. We've heard about people in our community who are paying more for a family health insurance plan than their mortgage payment. We have heard from so many who worry about healthcare and their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

Our Just Congregations leaders believe that unique solutions and ideas can be uncovered through exploring and addressing the issues that are keeping us up at night. Moreover, our capacity and energy to work towards just solutions comes from the power within our stories. *Sukkot* reminds us that we cannot be hidden behind locked doors. True freedom can be enjoyed when we are able to open our homes and our hearts to one another. In this spirit, I invite you to get involved in Just Congregations, to share your story concerning healthcare, and to act powerfully on a social justice issue that matters most to our community. To get involved, contact our core-team leaders, Mike Sims, Barbara Hyman, Penny Coney, and Max Jaffe. You may also sign up at <http://www.tedallas.org/justcongregations>.

Join the Conversation at Wilshire

Share a service, meal and dialogue on Sunday, Nov. 1 with our friends at Wilshire Baptist Church.

For more information, see Page 4 or visit www.tedallas.org.