

FROM THE ARCHIVES: CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

For the seven-month period of September 14, 1944, through April 7, 1945, Temple Emanu-El celebrated its 100th anniversary with a host of activities: a music festival, religious services for men and women in the armed forces, a women's forum, a lecture series with the theme "Moral and Spiritual Foundations for the World of Tomorrow."

On November 9, 1944, the Temple hosted a Centenary Fund Dinner at the Plaza Hotel to kick off its fundraising efforts and goal "to free the Temple from indebtedness."

On April 5, 1945, an anniversary dinner was hosted at the Waldorf=Astoria, overseen by Centenary Committee Chairman Roger W. Straus and Vice Chairman Walter N. Rothschild. Other committee members included Brigadier General Julius Ochs Adler, Alfred R. Bachrach and James Marshall (son of Louis Marshall). Only one woman served on the committee—Mrs. Edward B. Schulkind, president of the Women's Auxiliary.

The New York Times and the New York World-Telegram published articles announcing the anniversary. Also included in the Temple Archives are letters from various dignitaries, including Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, congratulating members, the rabbis and Temple officers on their anniversary. In his letter, Gov. Dewey writes:

The contribution of Emanu-El to the spiritual life of the community has been outstanding. The beauty of its present edifice is equaled by the active participation and leadership of its membership in all good causes.... I take this opportunity of joining citizens of the state of all creeds in sending my congratulations and best wishes to Emanu-El and its distinguished spiritual leaders upon its century of great achievements and the certainty that its future contributions to the welfare with the state and nation will be continued through centuries to come.



*Top photo:
A feature article in Liberal Judaism magazine about Temple Emanu-El's centennial, complete with photos—including a listing of the "erstwhile spiritual shepherds of Emanu-El" and services in the Main Sanctuary.*



*Bottom photo:
Temple Emanu-El's Centenary Celebration booklet features Temple history as well as photos from various Temple groups, including the Women's Auxiliary, the Confirmation class and the Emanu-El Scout Troop.*

