

**HISTORIC SYNAGOGUE PRESENTATION
AT TEMPLE JUDEA
Eldridge Street Synagogue of Lower East Side**

Temple Judea of Manhasset's Greatest Generation will hold a special presentation about the renovation of the historic and socially important Eldridge Street Synagogue. The 1887 Lower East Side building was recently restored to its original magnificence, completed over the course of 20 years at a cost of \$20 million. A docent from the Synagogue will present a slide show followed by a discussion on the social and historic background of the period. This rare treat will be held on Sunday, May 3rd from 2 to 4 pm.



The Synagogue is the largest surviving landmark of the great era of 19th century Jewish immigration. While these early settlers struggled to establish themselves in America -- living in crowded tenement apartments, working in harsh factory conditions -- the Synagogue was an island of spiritual repose, a source of aesthetic delight and a vital community center easing their adjustment to American life.

(more)

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Opened in time for Rosh Hashanah in 1887, it was the first Synagogue built in New York by the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. In recent years, the Synagogue fell into significant disrepair, but it has now been restored, and visitors are overwhelmed by what has been accomplished.

The architecture is phenomenal with Moorish-Gothic terra cotta finials outside and an array of jewel-like stained glass windows inside. The main sanctuary has a 70-foot high vaulted ceiling with an elegant upstairs women's gallery, allowing more than 1,000 congregants to pray together comfortably. The monumental brass and crystal

chandelier that illuminates the exquisitely hand-carved ark as light gleams through the restored panes of the stained-glass is a work of art unto itself.

Today the Eldridge Street Synagogue, renewed to its former glory, is a New York City and National Historic Landmark, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The opportunity to view and marvel at this historic structure is open to the public. A \$5 fee will be collected to cover the cost of refreshments. Temple Judea is located at 333 Seasingtown Road in Manhasset.

Temple Judea of Manhasset was established in 1955 and has over 500 member families. One of the few temples that is completely handicapped accessible, Temple Judea is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. It is located at 333 Seasingtown Road, Manhasset. Please call (516) 621-8049 for further information and visit its website at **temple-judea.com**.

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