

LOCAL

Spicehandler to conduct Rosh Hashanah services

Rabbi Erza Spicehandler, Ph.D., the emeritus distinguished professor of Hebrew Literature at the Cincinnati School of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of



EZRA SPICEHANDLER

Religion, is returning to Laredo to officiate over the annual High Holy Day scheduled for Rosh Hashanah.

The Jewish holiday observance will run from Friday, Sept. 26, Rosh Hashanah Eve, through Monday, October 6, Yom Kippur Day, under the auspices of Temple b'nai Israel.

Spicehandler was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1921. He was ordained and awarded the masters of Hebrew letters at the College-Institute in 1946. In 1952, Spicehandler earned a doctor of philosophy degree.

He was appointed to the faculty of the New York School and after 1955 taught at the Cincinnati School.

Spicehandler held teaching fellowships at the college-institute for two years. At the same time, he was engaged in graduate study and he studied for a year at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 1960 and 1961, he was awarded the National Defense Education Fellowship in Oriental Languages.

In 1961, Spicehandler received a Fulbright research grant to study in Iran.

From 1966 through 1980, he served as director and then as dean of the Jerusalem School of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He served as visiting professor of Modern Hebrew Literature at Hebrew University (1969-1971) and at the Oriental Institute of Oxford University (England), in 1983-84.

From 1973 through 1975, he was a visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies at Oxford University.

He has published articles on modern Hebrew literature, Israel, Zionism, Judeo-Persian studies, and Talmudic history in a number of publications including the *Hebrew Union College Annual*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Midstream*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Commentary*, *Jewish Book Annual*, *Ariel*, *Israel Argosy*, *The Reconstructionist*, *Studies in Bibliography and Book Lore*, *Journal of Jewish Social Studies*, *Judaism Hadoar*, and *Moznayim*.

He co-authored with Jakob Petuchowski, *Perakim Beyahaduth (Chapters in Judaism)* which was published in Tel Aviv and New York in 1963.

A second book, *The Hebrew Poem Itself*, co-edited with Stanley Burnshaw and T. Carmi, was published by Holt, Reinhart, and Winston in 1965. A revised edition of this work was published by Harvard University Press in 1989.

Recently he co-edited with David Patterson, professor emeritus of Oxford University, an annotated volume of translations of Haim Nahman Baiik's novella (Westview Press, 1999) including the introduction for each of these works.

He has also edited a dual language anthology of the Modern Hebrew short story for Bantam.

Among his other publications are a book about Joshua Heschel Schorr (1970), a study concerned with the Jewish people in Iran (1967) and *New Writing in Israel* (1972)

Spicehandler served as divisional editor of modern Hebrew literature of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. In this capacity, he wrote several articles including the comprehensive article on Modern Hebrew literature.

He served as a member of the Executive Board of the World Congress of Jewish Studies. He was an advisory editor of the *Oxford Companion to Jewish Culture* (1989) and a divisional editor

for Modern Hebrew literature in the *Encyclopedia of Zionism*.

He is a former vice president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Spicehandler was an active member of the Council of the World Zionist Organization and a member of its presidium, and the Jewish Agency Assembly.

Spicehandler has served as national president of the Labor Zionist Alliance from 1982-1988. In 1988 he was named as an honoree (*yakir*) of the World Labor Zionist Movement and was made a fellow (*amit*) of the World Zionist Organization.

Spicehandler served as visiting professor at the University of Sao Paulo Judaica Department (Brazil) in August 1989. He was awarded the Skirball Fellowship at the Oxford Centre of Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies. He taught at the center during the winter and spring trimesters beginning in January 1991.

During the 1990-91 academic year, he was the Skirball Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies, Oxford England. In 1990, he was awarded the Friedman Prize for his achievements in the field of Modern Hebrew Literature and in 1992, he received a doctorate in humane letters, *Honoris Causa* from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion.

Spicehandler is an honorary associate of the Oxford Centre for PostGraduate Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He was invited for a residency at the Rockefeller Foundations Study and Conference Center in Bellaio, Italy (November-December 2000) and was again awarded a Skirball Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (2002).

The services will be at the 10th floor of LNB Plaza Tower.

The schedule is:

Friday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m., Rosh Hashanah Eve, Our God is One—Judaism's Unity Principle.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m., Rosh Hashanah morning, Road Maps or Eroded Highways—United States, Iraq and Israel and the elusive peace.

Friday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m., Evening of Shabbat Shuvah: The Response is Return.

Sunday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m., Kol Nidre Eve: Renew the Jewish Pledge of Allegiance.

Monday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m., Yom Kippur Day: Moral Cleansing—Personal and national.