



THE SHOFAR  
שופר

**United Synagogue of Hoboken**

KISLEV/TEVET 5780

December 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 2019

- 12/14** Speakeasy: Evening of Storytellers
- 12/15** Young Families Hanukkah Party 11 AM – 1 PM
- 12/15** LC Hanukkah party at Gravity Vault 2pm
- 12/22** Hanukkah begins (at sundown)
- 12/22** TRIBE Young Professionals Vodka Latke Dinner
- 12/27** Hanukah Oneg Shabbat

### January 2019

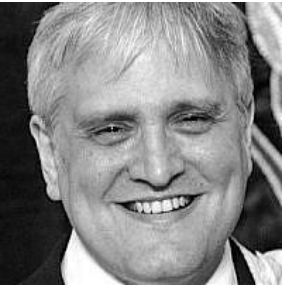
- 1/3-1/4** Shabbat with Heschel Harmonizers
- 1/11** Speakeasy Game Night 8pm

**Friday night services 7:00 pm**

**Saturday morning services 9:30 am**

**Thursday Torah Study 9:30 am**

See [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org) and the **USH Facebook page** for more info on these and other upcoming events!



## HOW MANY HANUKKAH MIRACLES

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

How many days do we celebrate Hanukkah?

What a question... even the youngest kids in our community know that the answer is eight. And they all know the story –that when the Israelites returned to the Temple in Jerusalem after it had been desecrated, they searched and searched for enough oil to light all the lights in the Temple. But they could find only one small jar of oil that still had the seal of the High Priest, and it was sufficient to keep the lights lit for just one day. It would take eight days until new oil could be brought. But a great miracle happened, and the oil lasted for eight days.

Yes - when compared to some of the classic miracles of the Bible, like the splitting of the Red Sea - long lasting oil is a little anticlimactic. And yes, the story of the miracle of the oil is not found in our earliest sources about Hanukkah, like the Books of Maccabees, but is first found in the Talmud, hundreds of years later. But even so, the miracle of the oil is one of the major focal points of the holiday.

Back to the question: The oil was expected to last for one day, and it lasted for eight days. Thus the oil lasted for seven days longer than expected. So why do we celebrate Hanukkah for EIGHT days? Why not SEVEN days, because there were seven days of the miracle! Another way to ask this question is: we commemorate a miracle every day of Hanukkah - except for the first day. The first day, everything happened exactly as expected -- so what miracle are we commemorating?

You may not be surprised to learn that this important question has been asked in Jewish tradition since at least the 1500's. In fact, a Hanukkah "parlor game" developed for coming up with explanations of why there are eight days of Hannukah when there were ostensibly only seven days of the miracle.

Here are a few of the most popular answers to this question.

The rabbi who started this parlor game, Rabbi Joseph Caro, the author of the classic 16th century law code the Shulchan Arukh, gave three answers of his own. He said: one answer is that the Israelites divided up that little bit of oil into eight parts, and lit one part each night, so the miracle was that on the first day, just 1/8 of the oil burned for the entire day. His second suggestion is that the miracle was that everyone woke up on the following day, expecting to see that the level of the oil in the lamps had diminished, but it hadn't - so that was the miracle of the first day.

And Joseph Caro provides a third explanation: on the first day, we mark the miracle of the military victory over the Greeks, and the successful struggle for independence and religious freedom, and the remaining seven days we mark the miracle of the oil.

Later generations got in on the act too. Rabbi Meir Yehiel Halevi of Ostrovetz, a late-19th and early 20th century Hasidic master, taught that seven days of Hanukkah do in fact mark the miracle of the oil. But the greatest day of Hanukkah is actually the eighth day, because that's the day when the miracle concluded, and the people began to commemorate Hanukkah as a holiday, out of gratitude for the miracle they had witnessed. In other words, the greatest miracle is the human capacity to reflect upon our experience and to express gratitude for the good we have experienced.

But truly my favorite explanation is that of Rabbi David Hartman, the recently deceased contemporary rabbi and theologian in Israel, who was the founder of the Shalom Hartman Institute. He said: the miracle of the first day of Hanukkah is that they bothered to light the lights at all. They took a leap of faith, with absolutely no assurance that it would be successful. They lit the oil even though they knew it was insufficient. And anything important in Jewish history and in world history has only been accomplished because people have been willing to take that kind of leap of faith and leap of action, and have been willing to embark on a process when they did not know whether or not it would succeed.

*(continued on page 2)*

We can be grateful for a tradition that reminds us that on Hanukkah, and every day, we celebrate miracles that are far more impressive than long-lasting oil. On all our Jewish holidays, we celebrate the miracles of the human intellect and heart and memory, and our capacity to remember, interpret, appreciate and understand. And we celebrate the miracles of perseverance and resilience that have helped us to thrive as a people, giving us the confidence and faith to pursue our dreams of a world characterized by more and more light ☆

# Women's Torah Study Group

Come join us to schmooze, nosh, and study torah and liturgy with a lively group led by Anne Pettit.

We meet at USH on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm



To RSVP or be added to our mailing list please email [ritual@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:ritual@hobokensynagogue.org)

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## THE USH CHOIR PRACTING FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE HOBOKEN INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



On October 23rd, the USH Refugee Support Committee, in conjunction with Welcome Home and the NJ Jewish Coalition for Refugees, hosted a "Know Your Rights Training for Allies" in the USH Social Hall. Members of Wind of the Spirit, an immigrant advocacy organization, conducted the training. It was an interactive session focused on how allies can best interact with ICE should ICE approach us in a home or in public. A video of the entire training can be found on the Welcome Home Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WelcomeHomeJerseyCity/permalink/1023185471352115?sfns=mo>

# A special Shabbat with the Heschel Harmonizers!

Fri-Sat, Jan. 3-4



115 Park Avenue, [hobokensynagogue.org](http://hobokensynagogue.org)



The Heschel Harmonizers is the a cappella group of the Heschel High School in NYC. With a repertoire including songs in Hebrew and English, the Harmonizers have performed throughout the NYC area.

Fri Jan 3: Shabbat eve services and performance, 7pm  
Shabbat dinner, 8:15pm (\$15/members, \$20/non-members)

Sat Jan 4: Learning Center classes (10:30am) include music workshop with Heschel Harmonizers; performance at end of shabbat morning services, 11:45am (also featuring LC students), followed by kiddush refreshments

Sat Jan 4: light dinner and Havdalah with the Harmonizers, 5pm

RSVP to all events: [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org) before December 30, 2019!

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A delicious dinner of Syrian Kurdish food was shared on November 2 at the home of USH members, Jill Miller and Michael Katz. The meal was absolutely astounding, as always, with food that looked great and tasted even better. Dinner guests were moved to hear about the journey of our chef, Fadila Maamo, and her family as they made their way from what had been a stable life in Syria to a town, suddenly facing war and weapons they had seen only in movies. They then traveled through Turkey and finally to the US. If you wish to host a Refugee Support dinner in your home, please contact either Simone Crespi, [screspi@gmail.com](mailto:screspi@gmail.com), or Ben Zablocki, [zablocki@rutgers.edu](mailto:zablocki@rutgers.edu). As long as you have the space, we will walk you through everything that occurs at a dinner.



**YOM KIPPUR APPEAL DONATIONS:**

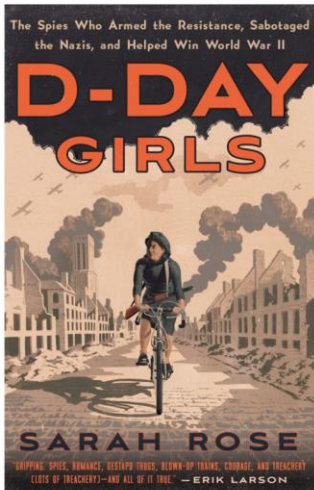
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Alyssa & Daniel Kane  
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**TODAH RABAH TO ALL OF OUR DONORS**

# SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Brunch with Sarah Rose**, author of "D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II"

Come hear the extraordinary story of five women recruited by Britain's elite spy agency to help pave the way for the D-Day invasion and Allied victory in World War II. Ms. Rose's account includes spies and saboteurs, ingenious deceptions, dirty poems transformed into cryptologic keys, blown-up trains, audacious courage, romance, and treachery.



**Sun., Dec. 8, 2019**  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$18 for members  
\$25 for nonmembers



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
201.659.4000

Purchase tickets by email to  
[office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:office@hobokensynagogue.org)  
or online at  
[www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org)

# SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Brunch with Gili Getz:**  
"The Forbidden Conversation: A One Man Performance"

As Israel becomes an increasingly divisive issue among American Jews, conversations about Israel now frequently degenerate into bitter arguments and angry accusations. In his powerful and poignant one-man play "The Forbidden Conversation," Gili Getz addresses this issue head-on, with candor, wit, and passion. Group discussion to follow the performance.

**Sun., Feb. 9, 2020**  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

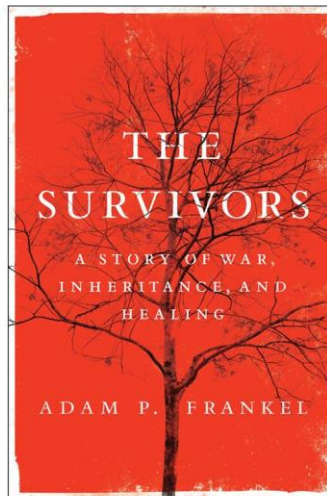
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# SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Brunch with Adam Frankel**, author of "The Survivors: A Story of War, Inheritance and Healing"

Barack Obama's speechwriter Adam Frankel describes his grandparents' Holocaust experiences in Europe, their effort to put these experiences behind them when they immigrated to Connecticut, and the ways that subsequent generations in his family continue to contend with the lingering aftereffects of the trauma of the Shoah. In honor of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.



**Sun., Apr. 19, 2020**  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

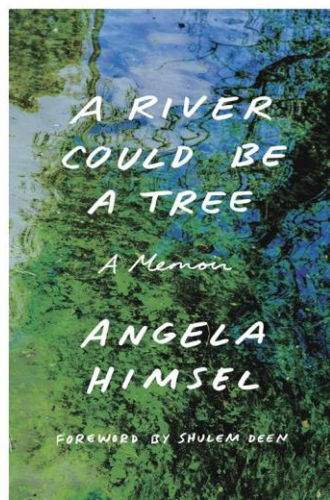
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or online at  
[www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org)

# SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Brunch with Angela Himsel**, author of "A River Could be a Tree: A Memoir"

In this memoir, journalist Angela Himsel powerfully traces her unlikely journey from her Indiana upbringing in a cult-like Evangelical doomsday sect, to studying in Israel and embracing and converting to Judaism.



**Sun., Mar. 29, 2020**  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$18 for members  
\$25 for nonmembers



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
201.659.4000

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or online at  
[www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org)



Saturday, December 14 at 8:00pm  
The Joel and Marilyn Freiser Speakeasy Series  
at the United Synagogue of Hoboken presents:



2nd Annual Evening of Storytelling

USH members and 20-time Moth Storyslam winner Adam Wade will share unique, personal stories that will touch your heart, make you laugh, and perhaps once or twice think "gee, glad that didn't happen to me."

The Speakeasy is an intimate, candlelit performance space within the United Synagogue of Hoboken. Complimentary wine, beer and snacks are served.

\*\*\*\$10 members; \$15 non-members\*\*\*

Tickets: e-mail [office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:office@hobokensynagogue.org) or  
online at [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org) or  
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HAPPY HANUKKAH  
חנוכה  
KLC Class Parties

PARENTS - PLEASE SEND SNACK WITH STUDENTS:

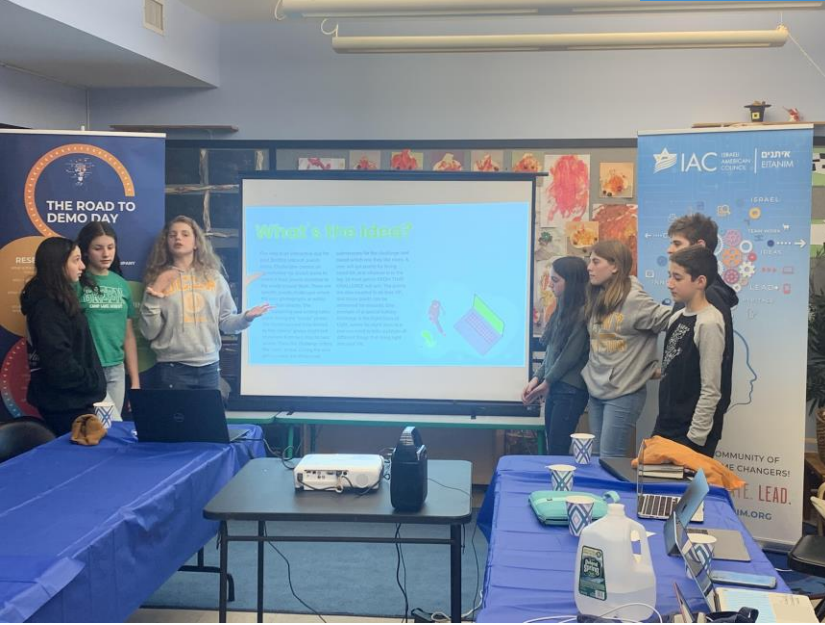
Tuesday, 12/17 K, 1st, 2nd & 3rd grades  
Wednesday, 12/18 7th grade  
Thursday, 12/19 4th-6th grades & 8th grade

Latkes and applesauce will be served!  
Please bring a snack for your child's class party. At the class' discretion, students will together choose 5 snacks to conduct a small class party. Most of the food collected will be donated to the Hoboken Shelter for their holiday celebrations. Please talk with your child about how important it is that they are donating to the shelter. Also prepare them that their contribution to the party will most likely be donated to the shelter.  
They will play dreidel games in their class, eat some latkes and go home with chocolate gelt.

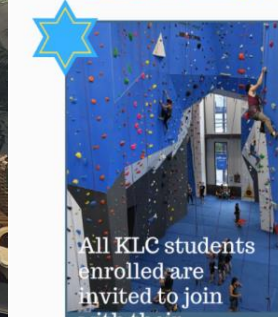
All Parties will take place during class!



\*\*All snacks must be Kosher to be used in Synagogue (and enough for your child's class). Please look for an OU or a K on the packaging.\*\*



Teen Happenings  
Tichon Classmates Leah Katell, Tessa Weaver, Julia Critz, Aly Calmas, Sammy Sapira, Jared Lee, & Micah Goodman practice their startup pitch during the second session of the EITNAM program at USH, sponsored by the Israeli American Council and the Jewish Federation



All KLC students enrolled are invited to join with their families for an afternoon of climbing, snacks & fun in celebration of Hanukkah!

**KLC PRE-HANUKKAH FAMILY PARTY**

**THE GRAVITY VAULT**  
INDOOR ROCK GYMS

All family members are invited to attend, whether they climb or not! Climb fee for students age 5 and up is paid for by their tuition. Climb fee for adults THAT WISH TO climb is \$33.

**SUNDAY 12.15 2-4PM**

**GRAVITY VAULT**  
1423 Clinton Street  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Together we will climb to new heights!



PLEASE RESERVE YOUR CLIMB SPOTS BY 12/3





## President's Message

By Jem Morley

### **CULTURE AT USH** is Just So Good!

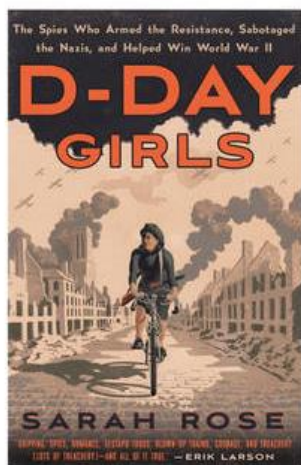
**Adam Laden** has created an array of splendid delights to enrich all of us.



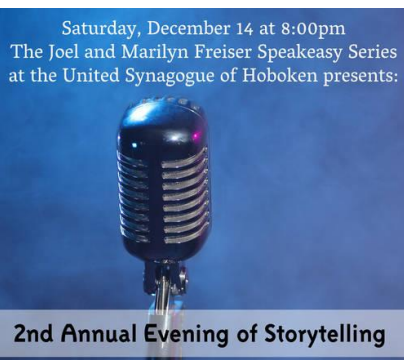
The Israeli chefs' **Culinary and Cultural Journey** event was a sold-out mega-success. Women from Ethiopian, Kurdish, Yemenite, Moroccan and Greek communities in Israel conducted cooking workshops, told stories of their families and communities, and made and served a remarkable dinner. Fabulous!

**The Isle of Klezbos Speakeasy** in our intimate candlelit performance space was truly great! And it was

another sell-out. Such good fun, with good music, fun stories and fun people. I took my "often-too-cool" elder daughter and we both loved the Yiddish swing, late-Soviet era Jewish drinking songs, regrooved klezmer standards and story-filled intros.



Next up is our first post- High Holidays Brunch on Sunday December 8th at 10:30am with author Sarah Rose, author of **D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II**. Come hear the extraordinary story of five women recruited by Britain's elite spy agency to help pave the way for the D-Day invasion and Allied victory in World War II. Ms. Rose's account includes spies and saboteurs, ingenious deceptions, dirty poems transformed into cryptologic keys, blown-up trains, audacious courage, romance, and treachery. I'm psyched!



And then on Saturday, Dec 14th at 8:00pm we will have **An Evening of Storytelling**, again as part of the Joel and Marilyn Freiser Speakeasy Series. Join us as fellow USH members and 20-time MOTH storySLAM winner Adam Wade entertain us with personal stories that will touch your heart, keep you laughing...and make you think once or twice 'gee glad that didn't happen to me'. If you were lucky enough to attend last year's terrific storytelling event, you'll most certainly be joining us again. If you didn't come last time, I suggest that you buy a ticket now

because it will be brilliant.

For all this, and all the other great events, **Thank You to our very own Impresario Extraordinaire, Adam Laden.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Rebecca & Aaron Weitman

GENERAL FUND

Mary Kuntz, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Emily Yavitz, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Martin & Sheryl Hoffman  
Eliot & Bonnie Nierman  
Benjamin Freed  
Randi Klaber, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Jonathan Zaid  
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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Kevin Nolan, in memory of Jorge Fernandez and in honor of Mark Jurish  
Ceil Chait, in memory of Sara Goldblatt and Gertrude Chait  
Kitty Bateman, in honor of Rabbi Naomi Kalish's appointment to the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary  
Dr. Howard & Cynthia Mangel, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Dr. Melanie Callender, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Dr. Robert Eckhardt, in memory of Jorge Fernandez  
Dr. Jane Shapiro, in memory of Jorge Fernandez

REFUGEE FUND

Suellen & Thomas Newman

ADULT EDUCATION

Henry, Laura & Sasha Cabin, in memory of Jorge Fernandez

INTERACTIVE CHILDREN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

Diane Zultowsky, in memory of Jorge Fernandez

SPECIAL NEEDS

Adam Klaber, in memory of Jorge Fernandez

LEARNING CENTER

Roy Friedland, in memory of Jorge Fernandez

Congratulations to:

Razel Solow and Joel Trugman on the engagement of their daughter Rabbi Dena Trugman and her fiancé Dr. Dan Ly

Jesse Mishkin and Scott Mack on the birth of their daughter Beatrice Essie Mack and to her brother Jason

Amanda and Robert Connelly in honor of their daughter Ruby's baby naming and to her sister Penelope

Michele and Keith Lustman on the birth of their son Easton and to his brother Levi and to his sister Charlston

Rabbi Naomi Kalish on her appointment as the Harold and Carole Wolfe Director of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Ruthy Tyroler on making her Bat Mitzvah

Frank Donovan (USH maintenance staff) and his wife Julia Bernal on their wedding  
Allyson Bunin (KPS teacher) and her husband Andrew Ashe on their wedding

Thank You for Sponsoring Kiddush:

11/1: To the USH community in honor of Rabbi Naomi Kalish  
11/8: Robert and Amanda Connelly in honor of their daughter's baby naming  
11/15: Jenny Labendz, Zalman Newfield, Mike and Rachel Kerstetter and their families  
11/22: Ruthy Tyroler in honor of her making her Bat Mitzvah  
11/30: Kitty Bateman in memory of her cousin Barbara Belsky Vanefsky

Condolences to:

Alice Jurish on the loss of her husband, Jorge Fernandez and to their children Harry, Sebastian and Nathania

Amy Sommer on the loss of her grandmother, Lee and to her husband Stewart Mader and their children Naomi and Nathalie

Phil Cohen on the loss of his father Max Israel Cohen and his wife Rebecca Kramnick and their daughters Madeline and Anna and Phil's mother Ellie Cohen

The USH "Pair for Prayer" Initiative

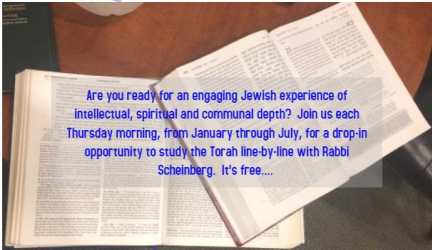
The skill of leading Jewish prayer services has long been an important aspect of Jewish leadership. A knowledgeable Jewish community like ours has many people who have these skills (and all bar/bat mitzvah students in our community acquire some of these skills), but we can always use more. You are invited to fill out the form at [http://bit.ly/pair\\_for\\_prayer\\_USH\\_2019](http://bit.ly/pair_for_prayer_USH_2019), to indicate what skills you have and what skills you are willing to teach as a volunteer. We will then make an effort to pair people together to acquire these skills. Many recordings, texts, etc are available to assist you, whether you are a teacher or a learner, at [rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com](http://rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com).

Shabbat Dinner Initiative


We would like to try a new approach to encouraging people in our community to share Shabbat meals together. We invite you to fill out this questionnaire ([http://bit.ly/USH\\_Shabbat Dinner Initiative 2019](http://bit.ly/USH_Shabbat_Dinner_Initiative_2019)) and to indicate if you are interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner and inviting others from our community, and/or in being a guest at a Shabbat dinner. We also invite you to indicate your approximate age and life stage, if you would be interested in connecting with others who are demographically similar to you. We will then work with the hosts to help them to invite people who have indicated a desire to be guests. We also have resources available to help people to learn and lead the Shabbat evening rituals (see <http://rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com/p/resources-for-hosting-shabbat-dinner.html>). It is our hope that this initiative will strengthen the bonds that connect us to each other, as well as strengthen our connection to Shabbat. There is also an opportunity on the questionnaire to indicate if you would like to assist in organizing this initiative.

Thursday mornings, 9.30-11am

## Torah Study with Rabbi Scheinberg



Are you ready for an engaging Jewish experience of intellectual, spiritual and communal depth? Join us each Thursday morning, from January through July, for a drop-in opportunity to study the Torah line-by-line with Rabbi Scheinberg. It's free....

 UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

115 Park Avenue, Hoboken NJ [rsvp\\_office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:rsvp_office@hobokensynagogue.org)

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