

United Synagogue of Hoboken

TISHREI/HESHVAN 5780

October 2019

MITZVAH DAY WRAPUP 2019

Thank you to the 140 volunteers, from toddlers to seniors, who made Mitzvah Day 2019 at USH, on Sunday, Sept. 15, such a success!

By the numbers: We collected 37 coats to be donated to Welcome Home of Jersey City, which assists refugees in our area. 12 Learning Center students in 5th through 7th grades created 36 jars of chocolate chip cookie dry ingredients donated to the Food Pantry.

15 teens and LC students in 8th through 12th grades prepared and served lunch at the Hoboken Shelter. A team of 11 people cleaned our section of Riverside Cemetery.

Children from 5-8 years old made fleece blankets which were donated to comfort people having chemotherapy treatments. Children up to 5 filled 15 backpacks with school supplies which were donated to Hoboken Family Alliance. Our four shifts of sandwich-makers made 537 sandwiches for the Hoboken Shelter. A team ironed talleisim and polished the Torah crowns to be ready for Rosh Hashanah. 17 homebound seniors were visited and given Rosh HaShanah gifts of challahs, apples and honey. We created 160 hygiene kits of mini toiletries for the Hoboken Shelter. Two teams organized the Food Pantry and clothing bank, and two teams welcomed participants at the Lobby Registration Desk, setting the mood for an energetic day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2019

Oct 8 Kol Nidre (Yom Kippur eve)

Oct 9 Yom Kippur

Oct 13-20 Sukkot at USH (see page 4)

Oct 21 Shemini Atzeret

(Simchat Torah svcs at 6:30pm)

Oct 22 Simchat Torah

Oct 24 Introduction to Judaism begins

Oct 27 Culinary Journey workshop and

dinner

November 2019

Nov 7 Shalom Baby

Nov 11 USH at the Shelter

Nov 15 TRIBE Shabbat Dinner (young professionals)

Nov 17 Book Fair Family Day

Nov 19 Planning a Jewish Wedding Workshop

Nov 23 Speakeasy: Isle of Klezbos

Friday night services 7:00 pm Saturday morning services 9:30 am

See www.hobokensynagogue.org and the USH Facebook page for more info on these and other upcoming events!



Thank you to captains of our 13 projects: Doug Heyman, Louise Kurtz, Yvonne Silver, Rochelle Ohring, Monique Haas, Mike Shaw, Erica Seitzman, Samantha Glass, Rhonda Strosberg, Grace Gurman-Chan, Shana Lee; And to the parent assistants in the Learning Center and children's projects: Sharon Stern, Lauren Sapira, Talya Schaeffer, Simone Crespi, Jonathan Katell, Deborah Sklar Weiss.

And to the Mitzvah Day team: Merry Firschein, Adam Berkowitz, Melissa Sandler, Hope Koturo, Gabby Becker!

(see more photos on page 3)



KEEPING THE WILLOWS ALIVE

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

On the holiday of Sukkot (this year, Oct. 13-20), it is traditional to bring together four different kinds of plants -- palm, willow, myrtle, and etrog (citron) -- for ceremonial use throughout the holiday. I have written essays about each of these plants and how they can help us to understand the deeper meaning of Sukkot and how Judaism encourages us to approach this autumn season. Below is my essay on the willows. You can find the essays on the palm, myrtle, and etrog at my web site, rabbischeinberg.com.



Sukkot is a holiday of technological challenges, major and minor, that pit a Jew against the forces of nature. Challenge #1: Build a structure that is temporary and flimsy enough that it meets the criteria for a sukkah according to Jewish law, and strong enough to withstand the wind and rain that many Jewish communities can expect at this time of year. Challenge #2: Keep the Lulav's willow and myrtle branches looking fresh, with vibrant green leaves, when natural processes lead the myrtle leaves to dry out and the willow leaves to turn black and grow mold.

Our synagogue distributes care instructions with the Lulav and Etrog sets that we sell. Fortunately, the etrog requires no special maintenance (other than being careful when handling it so that the pitom protrusion does not fall off). We instruct for the myrtles and willows to be wrapped in a wet towel or newspaper and refrigerated when not in use, or else they will decay (and we remind purchasers that the tropical Lulav (palm branch) does not want to be refrigerated, or else it will decay). But even though I am the one who has written and circulated these instructions, by the end of Sukkot, I am always the one whose myrtle and willow leaves have clearly seen better days.

I take some consolation in knowing that the decay of the willow branches is not a recent phenomenon. The sad condition of the willow branches at the end of Sukkot is even mentioned in classic rabbinic texts. The midrashic collection Psikta de-Rav Kahana, from the year 700 or earlier, includes various allegorical interpretations of the Four Species. In one interpretation, the etrog corresponds to Abraham, the palm branch corresponds to Isaac, the myrtles correspond to Jacob, and the willows correspond to Joseph, "for just as the willows decay and dry out before the other three species, so did Joseph die before his brethren." (PdrK 28) A similar midrash connects the Four Species to the Four Matriarchs, and the willows correspond to Rachel, because she died at an early age, as do the willows. Of all the Four Species, the willows are a symbol of decay and loss.

In fact, this understanding of the willows can help us understand the mystifying role of the bundle of willows on Hoshana Rabbah, the final day of Sukkot. After seven processions with the Lulav and Etrog, it is traditional to put down the Lulav and Etrog and pick up a bundle of five willow branches, which -- after the recitation of several prayer-poems for the occasion -- are beaten on a hard surface until the leaves fall off.



Dance with the torah scrolls

see an entire torah scroll unrolled

> For all ages! Free! www.hobokensynagogue.org



There are diverse explanations for this unusual ritual. Some traditional commentaries see the leaves as representing the sins that have fallen away at this conclusion of the penitential season. Some academic scholars note that some other Near Eastern cultures had willowbeating ceremonies that were fertility rituals, and Hoshana Rabbah may be the Jewish version of these rituals. While I am not qualified to weigh in on why this ritual originated, I do know what invariably has gone through my mind when I have participated in it: I have considered it as a dramatization of what is soon to happen in nature around me. The leaves will fall off the trees, winter is coming, and time marches on. Like the more gradual decay of the willows over the course of the Sukkot holiday, like dwelling in the sukkah at exactly the point when the weather is likely to turn, the beating of the willows makes me maximally aware of the passage of time, arousing in me a bundle of diverse feelings including wistfulness, urgency, and hopefulness for the future.

Writer and educator Parker Palmer wrote in a collection of essays about the seasons: "My delight in the autumn colors is always tinged with melancholy, a sense of impending loss that is only heightened by the beauty all around. I am drawn down by the prospect of death more than I am lifted by the hope of new life." Palmer notes, though, that autumn is also the season when seeds are scattered to ensure the renewal of life after the winter, teaching the "hopeful notion that living is hidden within dying." So too, Sukkot reminds us of the natural processes that are winding down to set the stage for rebirth in the coming year. Just two days after Hoshana Rabbah steers us to confront loss, we begin the Torah reading cycle anew on Simhat Torah: "And God said: Let there be light, and there was light." How can I ensure that these willow leaves, decayed and broken, will help me to seek and guard God's light in the coming year? \$\phi\$

(continued from page 1)

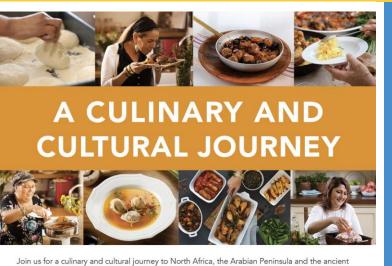












city of Buchara in Uzbekistan. Four Israeli women cooks with roots in these lands will conduct cooking workshops and serve a delicious dinner during this event. We will also hear stories about their communities and together enjoy dancing their traditional dances.

"Women Cook" / "Nashim Mevashlot," a social initiative established to help create a source of employment for women from disadvantaged Israeli communities, will be sharing some of their fantastic cooks with us for this event.

We are thrilled to be hosting this very unique happening. Seating is limited - buy your tickets today.

Sun., Oct. 27, 2019 4:00 - 7:00 PM \$40 includes cooking workshops, dinner, etc.



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030 201.659.4000 **SEATING IS LIMITED!** Tickets are only available in advance, at hobokensynagogue.org or at 201-659-4000

Judaism: What's it all about? Journey around the Jewish world in just 24 weeks

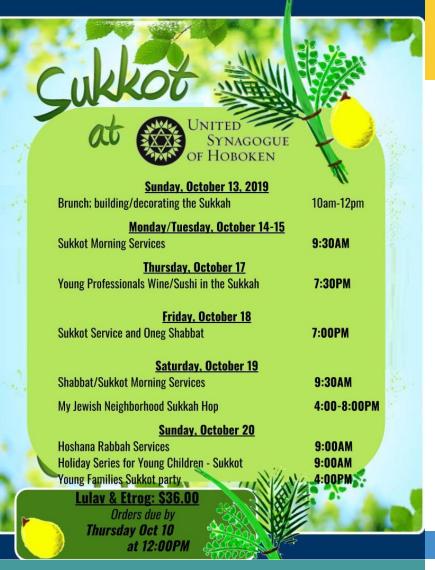
www.IntroJudaismNJ.com

Always wondered about your religion?
Thinking about converting to Judaism?
Thinking about being part of a Jewish family?
Or just curious?
Then this Introduction to Judaism class is for you



3 locations in New Jersey, including
United Synagogue of Hoboken
Wed eves starting Oct 30, 2019, 7-9:30pm
instructors: Rabbi Robert Scheinberg;
Shana Lee; Noam Kornsgold
See www.IntroJudaismNJ.com for registration info

All classes meet for 24 sessions. This class fulfills many of the educational requirements towards conversion to Judaism, but interest in conversion is not a prerequisite for the class. A project of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly, NJ Region





A workshop for couples:

Planning a Jewish Wedding

rings... chuppah.... ketubah.... witnesses.... blessings.... breaking the glass... what's it all about?



Learn about Jewish traditions and customs for your special day; ask your questions; meet other couples who are soon to be married!

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
7:30-9pm
led by Rabbi Rob Scheinberg
Free for USH members;
\$25/couple for non-members
United Synagogue of Hoboken,
115 Park Avenue
RSVP: 201-659-4000 or
office@hobokensynagogue.org

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Know Your Rights: Immigration Enforcement

On October 23rd, Brian Lozano (of Wind of the Spirit) will conduct a "Know Your Rights" training program, organized by the NJ Jewish Coalition for Refugees, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at USH.

This interactive workshop will prepare participants with best practices for dealing with immigration enforcement and will include information about constitutional rights and the history of immigrant enforcement in the U.S. Using role-playing exercises (and other techniques), participants will learn how to safeguard their legal rights and the legal rights of others when responding to the sometimes intimidating approach of immigration enforcement. Immigrants, their allies and interested others are welcome to attend.

Space is limited.
Please register for the event by October 21.



CONNECT TO ISRAEL AND THE COMMUNITY THROUGH REAL CHALLENGES

WORK WITH PEERS, MENT®RS AND EXPERTS

DONATIONS:

General Fund

- Johnathan Zaid
- Scott Cooper, in honor of his daughter's baby naming
- Bill Wisneski, in honor of Donald Shachat
- · Beatriz and David Bernal
- Lisa Hirshfield
- Jeremy Fishbein
- Jennifer Gates

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Kitty Bateman
- Arnold and Joan Frankel, in honor of Simone's baby naming
- Hope Koturo, in honor of her father, Joseph Koturo
- Ceil Chait, in honor of her husband, Don Chait
- Denise Ajiri, in honor of her conversion
- Jessica and Michael Pollack
- Monique and Gordon Haas

Learning Center Fund

Carol Epstein, in honor of Jack's baby naming

Refugee Fund

- Vivian Greene, in memory of Ellie Forman
- Zalman Newfeld and Jenny Labendz, for the legal defense of the family in Jersev Citv
- Hope Koturo, in honor of Joseph Koturo, Eleanor Greenwald, and Mazie and Charles Greenwald

PJ Library Fund

• Jessica and James Charatan, in memory of Dr. Phillip Mark Stern

Thank you for sponsoring Kiddush:

September 7th: Rachel Behar in honor of her daughter Sophia's bat mitzvah

September 14th: The Ohring Family, in honor of Rochelle's retirement

September 21th: Mimi Lavine

September 28th: Dina Rose and Todd Clear in honor of Rabbi and the congregation

Congratulations to:

Sophie Behar on her bat mitzvah, and to her mother Rachel

Lauren and Daniel Braun on the birth of their daughter Rachel Julianna

Condolences to:

Sharon Stern on the loss of her brother Dr. Philip Mark Stern and to her daughter, Rachel and her parents Carmel and Milton.

Dylan Pollack on the loss of his wife Shirael Pollack and their daughters, Gabby and Dahlia

Mitzvah opportunity:



Family Promise,
Hudson County's shelter for homeless
families, needs your help, October
20-27, at
Temple Beth El, Jersey City

Family Promise is a shelter for homeless families that is hosted by a number of houses of worship in our area for a week at a time. USH does not have enough space to be a host - but we are helping to provide volunteers for various roles (providing food, spending time with the families and kids, and sleeping overnight) when Family Promise is hosted at Temple Beth El in Jersey City on August 11-18, 2019.

Sign up at http://bit.ly/FamilyPromiseBethElOctober2019 for a volunteer slot!

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A one-session workshop for expectant parents:

SHALOM BABY: Welcoming a Jewish child

Enhance your preparation for welcoming a new child into your family and the Jewish community Learn about values, customs, rituals and community resources available to help as the family grows.



Thursday, Nov 7 (note revised date)
7:30-9pm
led by Rabbi Rob Scheinberg
Free for USH members;
\$20/couple for non-members
United Synagogue of Hoboken,
115 Park Avenue
RSVP: 201-659-4000 or
office@hobokensynagogue.org



PJ Library of Hudson County sends, free of charge, Jewish children's books to families in our community. A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help your family talk together about values and traditions that are important to you. Jewish families with children ages 6 months - 8 years are welcome to sign up, regardless of their Jewish background, knowledge, or observance. To sign-up, please visit www.pjiibrary.org.

PJ LIBRARY STORIES & SONGS of

2x a month on Tuesdays 11:00-11:45 am

Children under 24 mos

Join us for Jewish stories and songs for children under 24 months old and their caregiver. Free and open to the community.

Dates: 2019 2020 September 17 January 14, 28 October 29 February 11, 25 November 12 March 10, 24 December 10 April 7, 28 May 12, 26

To sign up for programs or more information, please contact:

Kaplan Cooperative Preschool

115 Park Avenue Hoboken, NJ 07030 201-653-8666

office@kaplanpreschool.org kaplancooperativepreschool.org

Rachelle Grossman, Director ◆ Robert Scheinberg, Rabbi

Facebook

@kaplancooperativepreschool @KaplanYJFP

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS The Kapian Cooperative Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities penerally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of raccolor, rational and ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, administorary policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs









Early Childhood Programs for Children 5 and Under and their Families

2019-2020



Kaplan Cooperative Preschool

Where the love of learning and the joy of Judaism begin

We are a Jewish preschool open to families of all faiths, and committed to providing play-based, high-quality early childhood education to all children. The Kaplan Cooperative Preschool is licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families as a child care center. We offer the following flexible options for children 2.5 and over that allow you to tailor your child's school hours to suit your family's needs throughout the week. Our first open house date is November 3, 2019 at 10am

Monday-Friday Full-day 8:00 am-6:00 pm Half-day 9:00 am-12:00 pm Early Morning Drop-Off 8:00-9:00 am

12:00-3:00 pm Afternoon Enrichment Aftercare 3:00-6:00 pm

GAN KATAN D

2-hour drop-off program

2 year olds

United Synagogue of Hoboken:

Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00 am (choose any amount of times per week)

54 Coles Street, Grassroots Community Center:

Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00 am (choose any amount of times per week)

Gan Katan is an introduction to preschool for 2 year olds. Children will learn Jewish songs, stories, holidays, Shabbat and values. We have circle time, snack time, outside time plus art, music and movement! Gan Katan is led by our experienced, talented and loving teachers.

SUMMER CAMP D

Campers split their time each day between our bright, air-conditioned classrooms and fantastic, enclosed back and side yards. We have a sprinkler park, lots of art, music, story time and friends. We offer the same flexible schedule as the preschool.

SHALOM CHAVERIM D

Preschoolers 3-5 yrs

Sept 2019-May 2020

This exciting drop-off program was created for children who attend other preschools. Children learn Jewish songs, stories, and holidays and explore the PJ Library books that many of you receive at home.

Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 pm USH/Kaplan 4:30-5:30 pm Wednesday 54 Coles St, Jersey City Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm Urban Jungle Cost: USH members: \$725 Non-members: \$775

HOLIDAY MINI-SERIES D

Sunday morning drop-off program

Children 3-5 vrs

Want your child to learn about the Jewish holidays? This class focuses on the stories, crafts, songs and traditions of the most celebrated Jewish holidays throughout the year.

Sept 22 Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Oct 20 Sukkot/Simchat Torah

Dec 15 Hanukkah March 8 Purim April 5 Passover

Cost: USH members: \$55/session, or \$250 for series Non-members: \$65/session or \$300 for series

FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTIES C Open to the Community

3:30-5:00 pm Sukkot Oct 20 11:00 am-1:00 pm Hanukkah Dec 15 10:00 am-1:00 pm

☆ SHABBAT ☆

TOT SHABBAT ©

Beginning September 17, 2019

Children under 3 yrs Free Trial Class Available!

Hoboken: Thursdays 4:00-4:45 pm Urban Jungle \$10/session 2 Fridays/month 11:15 am USH/Kaplan Free & open to the community Jersey City: 1 Friday/month 9:15 pm 54 Coles St. Free & open to the community

SHABBAT SHIRA ©

2019

One Saturday per month, join us for Shabbat songs and stories. Free and open to the community.

> October 5 November 2 December 14 March 14 April 4

2020 January 11 February 8

June 13

Children under 3 vrs

10:45-11:30 am

SHABBAT IN THE PARK °

Join us as we meet in local parks for song, prayer, and crafts to welcome Shabbat. Bring a picnic dinner for your family and we'll provide the music, grape juice and challah! Select Fridays at 6pm, May-Aug.

C = Caregiver attends with child

D = Drop-off program



AN IMPORTANT PROJECT

By Jeremy Morley

It has been a long-time congregational dream to install air conditioning in the sanctuary. Currently, we cannot use the sanctuary for life cycle events or for religious services for several months each year.

This project has been planned for at least the past decade but had to be shelved when the synagogue restoration work and the construction of the Kaplan Building were under way, because we just did not have the necessary funding.

With your support, the time may finally have come to say: No more shvitzing on Rosh Hashanah. No more clammy, drippy, sticky and even odiferous discomfort on Yom Kippur. (Isn't it hard enough just to eat nothing and drink not even a drop of water?). And let's use our beautiful space in comfort and year-round.

Our historic sanctuary is an air-conditioning nightmare. The ceilings are so high. The historic architecture must not be disturbed. The entire space starts a full floor above street level. The areas at the back of each floor need special treatment, especially on the upper level, which we would like to enclose with large glass doors and then to furnish. And the roof cannot support ultra-heavy equipment without installing huge iron girders and a lot more.

But the planet is warming, which we know is a trend that will surely continue. This year we had a break because the High Holidays are so much later than usual. But next year they will be ten days earlier. And in the following two years they will be another three weeks earlier, when we can expect temperatures to reach into the nineties. We really need to handle this problem now!





But we can handle it!

And so we are asking for the financial support of the entire community. The cost of the work is estimated to be \$300,000. We ask each member and each person who attends events at the synagogue to make a generous contribution to this year's Yom Kippur Appeal.

Please support this campaign generously. We have not had a capital appeal for ten years. We are asking each person or family who has provided support previously to increase their support, if that is at all possible, by 50% over last year's level. No amount is too small, and every single gift helps us to achieve our goal of modernizing our beautiful and historic home.

We will be extremely grateful for your kind support of this important work ♥

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, 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.

Shabbat Dinner Initiative

We would like to try a new approach to encouraging people in our community to share shabbat We invite you to fill out this (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.



UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF HOBOKEN
115 Park Avenue
Hoboken, NJ 07030-3703

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