

The Community Synagogue is a vibrant, caring and inclusive Reform congregation that inspired meaningful relations with one another, the larger community and with God.

■ THE RABBI'S STUDY WITH RABBI IRWIN ZEPLOWITZ

That The *Torah* May Live



As the Nazis were murdering the Jews of Europe, they also confiscated books and documents—everything from *Torah* scrolls to modern Yiddish writings. As part of their program of dehumanization and humiliation, confiscated *Torah* scroll parchments were used for making purses, wallets, and other leather products. At the Jewish museum connected to the Dohany Synagogue in Budapest I, along with members of our congregation who went on a synagogue trip to Central Europe, saw a drum made from a *Torah* scroll (see photo at left)—a not-so-subtle metaphor for how our enemies sought to “beat” us down.

One of the great ironies of the *Shoah* (Holocaust) is that at the same time that the Nazis were annihilating Jews and destroying so much Judaica, they also collected many items for a planned “Museum of the Extinct Jewish Race.” These scrolls were carefully documented and stored, among other places, in the Czech city of Prague—in the Pinkas Synagogue, which was built in the 15th century. Sadly, after the war they began to deteriorate because of poor storage and inadequate funds for repair. Eventually, they were transferred to the Memorial Scrolls Trust in Westminster Synagogue (London, England). Those that were in good condition were then made available to thriving Jewish communities throughout the world. In July 1968, our synagogue was honored to receive one of those scrolls on permanent loan, given by the Weston family in honor of their children Evan, Joyce and Risa.

Our *Shoah Torah* rests on the far left of the Ark, covered with a *Torah* cover that represents the tree that is the symbol of our synagogue (and a reminder of the

Torah as a “Tree of Life”) in the winter. The reason it is covered with this particular mantle is to remind us that the *Torah* has sustained us as Jews during generations of darkness and despair, as it has in times of bounty and blessing. When our oldest students—our high school seniors—speak at *Kabbalat Torah* it is *this Torah* scroll that they are given, a reminder of life, hope and Jewish strength. While the scroll is not *kasher* (“kosher” or fit for reading), it remains a symbol of Jewish fortitude and faith.

On **Friday, November 1 at 8:00pm** we will re-dedicate this *Shoah* scroll and remember *Kristallnacht*, the night of “broken glass” that occurred on November 9–10, 1938, the

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Celebrating Sukkot

The Festival of Sukkot is always joyfully celebrated by our congregants of all ages. Brotherhood and friends raising the Sukkah. Sisterhood coming together with women from the Islamic Center for a festive dinner. Rabbi Z in the Sukkah with religious school students showing off the biggest Etrog ever!





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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel & Sloane Ackerman
 Benjamin & Marissa Allen
 Adam & Lauren Alter
 Scott Bercu
 Danny Blumkin & Jillian Nichols
 Jonathan & Julie Boyar
 Scott & Allison Corn
 David & Lindsay Dayan
 Yasha Dyatlovitsky & Karen Berg
 Josh & Lindsay Farhadian
 David & Lisa Feiner
 Ross & Michele Gabel
 Dereck & Shana Gelb
 Justin & Jennifer Glenn
 David & Christina Goldberger
 Seth & Talia Grossman
 Graig & Kim Guggenheim
 Drew & Sue Hershkowitz
 Matthew & Allison Jacobs
 Sam & Ashley Jaffe
 Greg & Alison Kalikow

Ross & Jessica Kanarek
 Gregory & Rikki Kien
 Jordan & Allison Kreisler
 Scott & Beth Levy
 Joshua & Sara Little
 Jordan & Beth Messinger
 Sasha & Meredith Moses
 Patrick & Sabrina Romanello
 Scott & Stephanie Rubin
 Andrew & Lexie Sachs
 Joel & Rachel Segal
 Andrew & Tiana Simon
 Elliot & Loryn Sperber
 Helena Tarasow
 Bernard & Taryn Tsepelman
 Randy & Sandi Udell
 David & Sloane Weiner
 Marlene Winder
 Amanda Wolfe
 Matthew & Samantha Wolpert

**Looking For the
 Tzedakah Donations Listing?**
IT'S NO SMALL CHANGE!

All *tzedakah* donations that would normally appear in each issue of Connections can now be found in the online version of our bulletin. They can be viewed at www.commsyn.org/about-tcs/connections-newsletter. In addition, all donations will be acknowledged in a beautiful new Annual Philanthropy Report to be distributed at the Days of Awe next year.

A Big Thank You...

...to the office, custodial and security staffs of the synagogue for all your hard work before, during and after the Days of Awe. It's no easy task sending out over 3,500 tickets, setting up 1,200 chairs inside the sanctuary, 600 chairs in the tent and putting out 3,600 total prayer books for all services. All our Days of Awe services ran smoothly and they could not have been possible without you!

Rabbi continued from page 1

beginning of the phase of violence against the Jews of Germany and then elsewhere during the Second World War. I hope that you will come that evening, your presence symbol of our people's resilience and resolve.

To learn more about the *Torah* scrolls saved by the Memorial Scrolls Trust go to: www.memorialscrollstrust.org.

Open minds

LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

CLASS SERIES

Judaism 101

Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19 and December 3, 10, 17

8:00–9:30 pm

An introductory course on many aspects of Jewish life, approached through a Reform lens. Designed for anyone who wants a “refresher” on the basics, for interfaith couples, and for those considering becoming Jewish.



Lunchtime Online Learning

Leadership: The Potentials and the Perils

Thursday, November 21 and Thursday, December 5 | 12:30–1:00pm

The Community Synagogue’s first-ever online course, offered via Zoom. Rabbi Z explores models of leadership throughout Jewish history.

Shabbat Torah Study

Saturdays | 9:00–10:15 am

Our most regular opportunity for adult learning, and a chance to connect and struggle with our sacred texts. No background knowledge needed; all are welcome.

Sisterhood Study Group: The Ten Commandments

Monday, November 4 and Monday, December 9 | 7:30–9:30 pm

Explore how each of the Ten Commandments provides us with beliefs, principles and standards of behavior. For more information, contact Yvette Bergman at ybbergman@aol.com.

AUTHOR SERIES

Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom with Ariel Burger

Thursday, November 7 | 7:30 pm

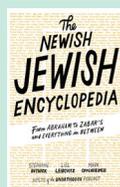


Witness opens an intimate window to Elie Wiesel’s classroom in which conversations about ethics, activism, spirituality and literature transformed the lives of students around the world. Burger, one of Wiesel’s closest students, recounts his story of meeting the Nobel laureate at age 15, becoming his student, and then teaching assistant, and eventually a teacher in his own right.



The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar’s and Everything In Between with Stephanie Butnick

Thursday, December 5 | 7:30 p.m.



From the hosts of *Tablet* magazine’s wildly popular *Unorthodox* podcast, *The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia* is an edifying, entertaining, and thoroughly modern introduction to Judaism. By weaving together the essential and the esoteric, the snarky and the earnest, the Jewish and the Jew-ish, this book allows each reader to find their point of connection with Jewish culture, tradition and religion.

SUNDAY ARTS WORKSHOPS

Create a Fused Glass Mezuzah

Sunday, November 3 | 9:00–10:30 am

Learn about the mezuzah and why we hang it on our doorframes. Make your own beautiful mezuzah of fused glass to hang in your own home or to give as a gift. With artist Sasha Kopp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR OPEN MINDS CLASSES, GO TO WWW.COMMSYN.ORG.

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING

Sisterhood Membership Dinner

Thursday, November 21 | 7:30 pm.
H on the Harbor

An evening of fun and friendship,
great food, music and Israeli auction.

Dinner is gratis with your
Sisterhood membership.

RSVP at www.commsyn.org



Shelley's Corner הפינה שלי

THE NEW ECC INDOOR PLAYROOM
DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN

Watch your mailbox for information about this
new, state-of-the-art indoor play space themed
around the Jewish holidays. This space will be
called Shelley's Corner, in memory of
Shelley Roff, ECC Director for over 30 years.



BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS

92Y RUTH BADER GINSBURG

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 13
7:30 PM

The notorious RBG in conversation with David
Rubinstein, Carlyle Group CEO, on her career
and the state of the nation.

Visit www.commsyn.org to RSVP.

TCS THEATRE COMPANY



OPEN AUDITIONS

Sunday, November 17 • 12pm-4pm

Wednesday, November 20 • 7pm-9pm

Everyone is welcome to audition for this musical
based on the fairytale "The Princess and the Pea."

Adults and kids (2nd grade and up)
are encouraged to audition

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Monday,
November 11
10:30 am

Join together to assemble Thanksgiving food baskets for families, seniors and veterans.

To donate or to participate, go to www.ujafedny.org/familieshelpingfamiliespw.

Sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York.



Come see what's new for Chanukah this year &

SAVE 25%

OFF LIST PRICE
ON EACH AND EVERY ITEM

The Judaica Shop
Chanukah Boutique

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 9:00-11:00AM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 9:00-11:00AM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 9:00-11:00AM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9:00-11:00AM

CONGREGATIONAL CHANUKAH SERVICE

Friday, December 27 • 6:30pm

Don't miss this most special Shabbat service of the year with hundreds of candles illuminating our sanctuary.

Join in the community-wide
MLK MITZVAH DAY OF SERVICE
and make a difference.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020

“Day on, not a day off”

MLK MITZVAH DAY

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

For volunteer opportunities contact:
Carolyn Abrams • abramz5@aol.com
Amy Sirotkin • amysir3@aola.com

#portmitzvahday2020

Setting Your Intentions

BY DEENA KATZ

Several months ago I was lucky to spend a weekend away with three generations of women in my family—my mother, sisters, daughter and niece. I always love it when we get together, especially laughing about the similarities and differences between the generations.

Prior to leaving on our trip, I carefully studied the hotel's activity schedule and signed up for daily art classes rather than my typical fitness classes. Even though I am a terrible artist, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and try something new. I also read that creativity builds joyfulness and who doesn't want to be happier?

One of my favorite art classes was titled, "Setting an Intention." Participants were asked to create vision boards while answering the following questions: *What are you striving for? Where do you want to be in 5 years? What is your purpose?* While surprised by the unexpected deep questions, I immediately got to work.

Armed with scissors, a glue stick and lots of magazines, I cut pictures and words and made collages of my hopes and dreams for the future. After an hour we all shared our intention boards and I was shocked to see how similar they were.

Participants ranging in age from age 16 to 60 years created intention boards displaying pictures of nature, travel and fitness, and words of strength, love, family, and peace. I was surprised to see that regardless of age, we all had similar intentions – seeking inner peace, becoming closer to nature, finding opportunities to slow down, being more



mindful and appreciating our many blessings.

Like me, I hope that during the Days of Awe, you had time to reflect and set your intentions for the coming year. Whatever they might be, I wish you success in your journey and that you find meaning, peace and much joy in the coming days.



■ EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

ECC Starts the School Year

BY GAIL TUTHILL, INTERIM DIRECTOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



It is such a pleasure to be serving as the Interim Director of the ECC. Jen Schiffer, our new Assistant Director and I have been thoroughly enjoying getting to know the staff, parents,

and, of course, the children!

Our school year is off to a great start. There is a wonderful energy in the building which is evident when you enter our hallways, classrooms, and playgrounds. They are filled with laughter, high fives, and hugs. Children and adults are excited to see familiar faces and also welcome some new friends.

Our exceptional staff has a keen understanding of the needs of our young children and provides them with a safe, nurturing environment which allows them to grow and learn. The children are beginning to follow the routines of the classrooms, discover

how to cooperate and work independently, and trust that when their parents or caregivers leave, "they always come back."

For our first *Shabbat*, the 3's & 4's joined together in the Main Sanctuary with Rabbi Z. As a special treat, he blew the shofar for us! The 2's enjoyed a beautiful celebration with their individual classes in the *Beit T'filah*.

The ECC vegetable garden has proven to be a highlight of our program. Children use their fine motor skills as they squeeze the hose to water the vegetables. They observe how the vegetables grow, discuss their differences in size and color, and delight as they harvest them for snack. In addition, the children are learning the important meaning of *tzedakah*. The ECC has teamed up with Plant-a-Row for the Hungry and will donate some of the vegetables to families in need. More information about this wonderful organization can be found at www.plantarowforthehungry.org.

It is going to be a fabulous year at the ECC!



Off to a Fabulous Start!

BY SHARI ISSERLES, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



It was an incredible Sunday morning in September when our school community came back to life with the sounds of children's voices, laughter in the air and smiles all around.

I love to see those smiling faces in our religious school. Watching as children and teachers and parents all greeted each other and caught up with one another, it was clear that our special community was together for an exciting year ahead.

Each year, my goal is to foster a *Kehillah K'doshah*, a sacred community, within our school where our students feel valued, feel a sense of belonging and have an excitement to be engaged in Jewish life. Our teaching staff

works hard to create special communities in each our classrooms, and we have many opportunities for our entire school to share celebrating and learning together. We have so many exciting plans for the year ahead, and after such an inspiring opening day, I can't wait for another year together with our incredible school community here at The Community Synagogue Religious School.



■ POWTY PORT WASHINGTON TEMPLE YOUTH

POWTY Revs Up Tuesday Nights

BY ALLISON MERIMS, YOUTH COORDINATOR



JPOW

Our 4th–6th graders started the new year on Oct 22nd with our Minute-to-Win-it Game Night. It was a night of food, fun, and friends to kick-off an amazing year together. Interested in registering for JPOW or looking for more information? Contact Allison Merims at amerims@commsyn.org. Mark your calendar for our upcoming JPOW events!

2019–2020 JPOW Events

- November 19th – Packing Boxes for Change
- December 10th – *Chanukah* Food Truck Festival
- January 21st – Indoor Field Day
- February 11th – Chinese Food & Changing the World
- March 17th – Scavenger Hunt
- April 7th – Chopped: Chametz Challenge
- May 5th – End of Year Olympics

POWTY

Our 9th–12th grade students kicked off the year with our Mystery on Main event on September 24th. Sixteen teens joined us for a night of surprises and delicious food on Main Street right here in Port. After we enjoyed breakfast for dinner at the Port Diner, our teens were divided into teams that raced through a scavenger hunt down Main Street. We ended the night with ice cream and laughter at Douglas & James.

**JPOW, MPOW & POWTY
FOOD TRUCK
FESTIVAL**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
7:00PM**

All 4th–12th grade families are invited to this festive night of food truck goodies. All proceeds will support the youth activities of the synagogue.



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 TCS Blog — Read and Comment
commsyn.org/blogs/tcs

SUPPORT OUR SYNAGOGUE WITH A #GIVINGTUESDAY DONATION. **tuesday, december 3**

**YOUR DONATIONS WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT
OUR SYNAGOGUE'S OPERATION INCLUDING:**



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MITZVAH PROJECTS**



**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
PROGRAMMING**



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Double your impact if your employer offers a matching gift program.