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

continued on page 2
NEW MEMBERS

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.
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 | 12:30–1:00 pm
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.
THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

DON’T MISS THESE UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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.

Shelley’s Corner

ה파נה שליה
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.

TCS THEATRE COMPANY

“Once upon a mattress”

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.
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

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.

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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.

Friday, December 27 • 6:30pm

THE DEAD OF WINTER

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THE DEAD OF WINTER
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.

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 Kadosh, 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

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@commysn.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.
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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:

YEARLONG MITZVAH PROJECTS

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

SYNAGOGUE SECURITY

WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR THE #GIVINGTUESDAY APPEAL

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