Purim’s Lessons

Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz

Purim, at least at first glance, seems like the Jewish Mardi Gras or Carnival. While the observance today is often fun, even “child-friendly,” Purim is anything but childish. The messages of Purim were so challenging to Adolf Hitler that he banned the observance of the holiday, and several times Nazi attacks were planned to coincide with Purim. In January 1944 the dictator gave a speech, declaring that if the Nazis were defeated, Jews could celebrate a “second Purim.”

The Nazi leader took Purim seriously – and so should we. It teaches important lessons:

LIFE IS CAPRICIOUS

The term הָרְשָׁע Purim comes, the book of Esther explains, from the word meaning “lot.”

Continued on page 10
WORSHIP SERVICES

T’fillot

SHABBAT VAYAKHEL-SHEKALIM

Friday, March 4
Erev Shabbat (Main Sanctuary)............................................................................... 8:00 pm
Rabbi Zeplowitz – “Why Israel Does Not Need Our Charity”

Saturday, March 5 (Exodus 35:1-28:20 and Exodus 30:11-16; Haftarah – 1 Kings 7:40-50)
Havurah – Informal Worship (Beit T’filah)..............................................................10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Tuthill

SHABBAT PIKDUERI

Friday, March 11
“Second Shabbes” - Family Services (Main Sanctuary)......................................6:30 pm
Worship for the young and young at heart with lots of music, spirit and energy!
With the participation of our 4th grade students.

Saturday, March 12 (Exodus 38:21 – 40:38; Haftarah – I Kings 7:51 – 8:21)
Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary).......................................................................10:30 am
B’nai Mitzvah: Nicole Kessler and Ryan Kessler
Havurah – Informal Worship (Beit T’filah)..............................................................10:30 am

SHABBAT VAYIKRA-ZACHOR

Friday, March 18
Erev Shabbat (Main Sanctuary)............................................................................... 8:00 pm
“Shabbat Rocks” - A new, unique musical Shabbat experience

Saturday, March 19 (Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Haftarah – Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17)
Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary).......................................................................10:30 am
Bat Mitzvah: Rebecca Snaider
Havurah – Informal Worship (Beit T’filah)..............................................................10:30 am

PURIM

Wednesday, March 23
Purim Carnival.......................................................................................................3:30 pm
Megillah Reading.....................................................................................................5:00 pm

SHABBAT TZA V

Friday, March 25
Erev Shabbat (Main Sanctuary)............................................................................... 6:30 pm
Meditation Service - prayer through song, silence and guided imagery

Saturday, March 26 (Leviticus 6:1 – 8:36; Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21 – 8:3; 9:22-23)
Havurah – Informal Worship (Beit T’filah)..............................................................10:30 am

Oneg Shabbat

MARCH 4
Gail Tuthill & family and friends of Matthew on the occasion of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

MARCH 18
Ron & Lilia Snaider & family and friends of Rebecca on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

MARCH 11
Mitch & Susan Kessler & family and friends of Nicole and Ryan on the occasion of their becoming a B’nai Mitzvah.

The Community Synagogue
Making Sacred Connections

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Making Sacred Connections in North America
Hester Street

Hester Street on the Lower East Side was where I spent my early childhood. We moved there from Williamsburg, Brooklyn, when I was five years old and lived there until I was fifteen. It was a neighborhood composed of Jews and Italians. At that time I never realized what “Little Italy” was and I knew nothing of Chinatown, both of which were so very close in proximity to my little world. My exposure to food was limited to Jewish cuisine and I never knew until I was 16, that one is not supposed to have spaghetti with cold ketchup but rather with a hot marinara sauce. Chicken with cashews? I had absolutely no idea that chicken could be served in ways other than just boiled.

And what about Guss’ Pickle stand on Hester? Barrels were lined up in a row and you could select half sour or sour. For some strange reason, I have always remembered the sound that Guss made when, in winter, he reached into a barrel of brine to retrieve a pickle. It was like a swooshing sound. Guss always gave this little kid a break, never charging me more than one penny for a sour.

I still go downtown to buy sour pickles, only now they have a huge variety of not only pickles, but olives, sauerkraut and so many other wonderful ethnic things. Times change, and so did the ownership of Guss’, which is now called “The Pickle Guys.”

Gertel’s bakery was just across the street from Guss’s. Their cakes were wonderful. And then there was Isaac Gellis whose delicatessen was always packed with customers. You could die for their pastrami!

The Lower East Side contained another treasure which for many, many years was left neglected and unused. The Eldridge Street Synagogue, built in 1887, began its decline in the 1940s and ’50s, but was finally completely restored in 2007. Google it, then take a trip downtown to see this marvelous, wonderful synagogue and don’t forget to pick up some pickles from Guss’s before you leave.

What point was there to this article? Well really none, other than to remember where one came from. To me, that puts things in perspective…..

THEATER COMPANY
Connections

Written by Lori Zlotoff

By the time you are reading this article, the inaugural production of The Community Synagogue Theater Company will be long over. The costumes will have been returned, the sets stored in the basement, and the tunes a sweet memory in our ears. But the connections, friendships formed and memories made will last a lifetime.

One might be wondering why a synagogue needs a theater company. As a lifelong theater lover, I can tell you in one word. In fact, it’s the same word as the name of this newsletter. Connection. The beauty of the theater is that it generates connection between the cast and their audience, between the actors on and off stage, between the director and his cast, between the music and the singers – I could go on and on. And the very mission of our synagogue is Making Sacred Connections. Inspiring meaningful relationships with one another, with the community and with God. My two young children have been a beneficiary of this experience – they treasure their time in the synagogue, and were so excited to see their new theater friends Jane and Joel Ronis and Jeff Grossman at Emory Franco’s Bat Mitzvah service. In case you don’t know, Jane, Joel and Jeff are all grownups. But my kids love and adore them and have had countless positive interactions with so many people during the rehearsal process that I can only think they are the better for it. And all of that connection takes place within the temple’s walls. With a Jewish lens. And a lifelong connection to the temple.

I hope you got to see Bye Bye Birdie, but in case you missed it, I encourage you to volunteer in some capacity next year. Come down to audition – Roy Smithheimer will tell you he never thought he would be on stage, but here he is, and is so glad he did! Bob Epstein took his choir skills and put them to good use – and made some new friends along the way. The talented

Continued on page 11
There is a lot yet to do. But can we doubt that they will be done, that the congregation which in five years built so much cannot now do this? And some day again it will all seem really so simple and right.

Years ago, Paul Simon said, “Who’ll be my role model, after my role model’s gone?” My role model is gone.

Dr. Borowitz cared about other faiths. Gene Borowitz taught us: when you present the work of a great thinker, you begin by making the best possible case for what that thinker was saying. Then, and only then, can you start critiquing his or her thinking.

He was the first Jewish thinker to talk about sexuality. It was not “how to,” but “why to”—a question that contemporary culture had systematically ignored.

He asked hard questions about being human and had no tolerance for cultural relativism.

He believed that those religionists, who are seeking the ground of an ethics that cannot be relativized, are the ones who are leading us all back to God.

Dr. Borowitz taught about the ethics of speech. Some years ago, in our community, Gene gave a lecture on God. Someone raised his hand and asked: “How do you pronounce God’s Name?” Gene noted that there were various theories about the pronunciation of the biblical YHWH — that the vowels had been irretrievably lost, leaving the pronunciation problematic. The questioner persisted: “It’s spelled yud hay vav hay. If there are theories about how to pronounce the Name, why not just do so?” Gene responded, in a typical Borowitzian manner: “Because we don’t have to say everything that we think we know.” I miss him already. There is no one in the Jewish world quite like him. And the saddest part: we will not likely see his likes again.

~Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin (Senior Rabbi at The Community Synagogue from 1997-2003)

Rabbi Borowitz was the Brotherhood’s outstanding Sunday Brunch speaker with “standing room only.” Whether it was his review of “Goodbye Columbus” with discussion of ethics regarding the temptations of sex and money, or his presentation of his latest published book, The Masks Jews Wear, we were challenged. As founder of the journal Sh’ma, introduced at one of the brunches, Rabbi challenged our intellect and helped us understand the meaning of a liberal philosophy for our daily life.

~Georgia and Ben DeYoung (Early members), Georgia DeYoung (Congregational President, 1989-1993)

When the congregation invited Rabbi Alexander Schindler (then the head of the UAHC [Note – now the URJ - Union for Reform Judaism]) to speak at a Friday evening service during the year of one of our congregation’s important anniversaries, Elaine and I had Rabbis Schindler, Borowitz and Rozenberg and their wives to our home for dinner. It was a fascinating interplay of personalities, each a giant in their respective roles. What stood out most about them was not their achievements as, respectively, the leader of the Reform movement, our leading theologian and one of our movement’s great congregational Rabbis, but the sheer beauty of their personas and how each of them, in their own way, could inspire us to be better people.

~Larry Rothenberg (Congregational President, 1983-1987)

Gene co-chaired, with his successor Martin Rozenberg, at my Bar Mitzvah in 1965 and published my essay, the first one by a college student, in an early issue of Sh’ma six years later. My own earliest memories are of Friday evening services on folding bridge chairs in the library and High Holy Day services in the green-and-white striped tent that would go up where the “new” sanctuary now stands. And I recall Rabbi Borowitz’s resonant baritone as easily as the arms that were always quick to embrace me as a boy. My love and sorrow go out to his family -- especially Drucy, my playmate on many occasions as children caught up in the mysterious byways of The Chimneys, our Jewish Hogwarts.

~Jeremy Gerard (Former congregant)

June, 1972. Rabbi Borowitz addressed (my wife) Debbie and me at our wedding on the back lawn of The Community Synagogue. He commented that it was the first time he had been in which he attended both the bride and groom’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations. He then charged us – a rabbi-to-be and potential Jewish educator – that we should engage our own students with the wisdom of maturity and the enthusiasm of youth. 1993, Prof. Borowitz convened a gathering of rabbis, alumni of the College Institute, for a seminar in post-modern Jewish thought. He distributed a text for study and began to read from it. Suddenly he stopped, and invited the group to recite with him the blessing for the study of Torah. He then added: “sometimes I fall short of the sort of Jew I wish to be.” … Years ago, Gene and I had a conversation about Jewish approaches to afterlife. He noted that to use the word “belief” with respect to a life after death was too strong. Belief implied action, and there was really nothing one could do in the face of mortality. He preferred rather to employ the word “trust.” I trust that Gene – and Estelle – are now reaping the rewards of Gan Eden (The “Garden of Eden”/Paradise).

~Rabbi Paul Golomb (Former congregant)
**SISTERHOOD**

**Purim Shalach Manot Basket**

**DON'T MISS THE MARCH 2 DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE!**
Please remember to submit your order for Purim Shalach Manot Baskets either online at www.purimproject.com (with the user name and password that you received in the recent Purim Shalach Manot Basket mailing/email personalized letter and list of congregational and ECC families) or mail the hard copy list with the names checked off, along with your check. If you submit the hard copy list, please include a check made payable to The Sisterhood of The Community Synagogue and mail it to Bari Ziegel, 37 Lewis Lane, Port Washington, NY 11050. If you misplaced your letter or can't locate the email with your user name and password or have any questions, please call or e-mail Bari at 816-1082 or bziegel@aol.com.

**SISTERHOOD BOARD MEETING**
**March 10, 7:30 pm**

**TORAH STUDY WITH WOMEN’S COMMENTARY & LUNCHEON HONORING BARI ZIEGEL - LED BY RABBI Z**
**Saturday, March 12, 9:00 am** - Torah Study led by Rabbi Z
**12:15 pm** - kiddish Lunch honoring Bari Ziegel. Speaker Vivian Blumstein from WRJ speaking about the WRJ YES (Youth, Education and Special Projects) Fund. Advance registration requested at www.commsyn.org, a minimum donation of $18 to be donated to the YES Fund.

**INTERMEDIATE MAH JONGG LESSON SERIES**
**Tuesdays- March 15, 22, 29 at 10:30 am**
A Great Opportunity to Improve Your Game in 3 Easy Lessons
Sisterhood is pleased to offer a series of 3 Intermediate Mah Jongg lessons.
$70 per series - RSVP online at www.commsyn.org. Any questions, please contact Bari Ziegel at 516-816-1082 or bziegel@aol.com.

**PURIM SHALACH MANOT BASKETS PICK-UP/Delivery**
**Sunday, March 20, 9:00 am - 10:45 am**
Please remember to stop by the synagogue on Sunday, March 20, between 9:00 am and 10:45 am to pick up a basket to deliver to another participating family on the same day.

Thank you for participating and for performing the mitzvah of sending mishloach manot to members of our congregation and to our ECC families!

**JOIN SISTERHOOD**
To become a member, go to our synagogue's web page www.commsyn.org, click Programs and then click Sisterhood. Whether you have time to be involved or not, you can support Sisterhood's activities by becoming a member. We are “Stronger Together.” Like our Facebook page Sisterhoodcommsyn and/or follow us on twitter: @commsynsisterhd.

**CHAVERIM**
Senior Friendship Group

**HOW DO YOU DEFINE SENIOR?**
Are you the kind of person who fits the following description? “Loves people, enjoys reading, watching movies, traveling to interesting places and discussing books.” If so, why don't you join us for stimulating activities and just plain fun? We run groups studying Yiddish and practicing Yoga. We only charge $18.00 as a yearly fee.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
**ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY DEEDS—HOLOCAUST RESCUE**
Presented by Gloria Glantz
**Thursday, March 31, 7:30 pm**

**CHAVERIM SHABBAT SERVICE**
**Friday, April 1, 8:00 pm**

**ONGOING CLASSES**
**CHAIR YOGA**
Join us every Friday at 10:30 am. The instructor, Beth Mohr is a mechiyeh – oops! this isn't the Yiddish class. Take one hour just for yourself, to unwind, relax, rejuvenate with gentle stretching and balancing. Try it (first session is a free trial) and you will probably love it. The fee is $60 per 6-session series or $12 per session. For details, contact Joyce at 883-8314, jld.rudnick@gmail.com.

**YIDDISH CLASS**
This free class meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Join the group for fun as well as learning! Contact Evie Schonbrun for more information: Evieschonbrun@gmail.com or call 767-0599.

**DUES**
To join Chaverim for education opportunities and inspiring trips, please pay your Chaverim dues. Send your check, $18 per person, made payable to The Community Synagogue, “Chaverim” marked on memo line, to the synagogue. Thank you!
UPCOMING EVENTS
MARCH MADNESS 2016
Open to all Community Synagogue members. Players can enroll and then fill in a bracket (pick teams) once ESPN makes them available.

50% of the proceeds will be going to Mazon (a Jewish response for hunger) and 50% will go to a charity selected by the winner. There will also be a prize for the winner, and of course bragging rights around the synagogue.

MEMBERSHIP
Becoming a member and supporting Brotherhood activities is easier than ever. Just go to the Brotherhood page on The Community Synagogue website: https://www.commsyn.org/brotherhood.

We Are Going to ISRAEL
BREAKING NEW GROUND IN AN OLD LAND
Israel Adult Study-Trip with Rabbi Z
April 26-May 7, 2017

FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL
led by Cantor Claire Franco and Shari Isserles
February 14-25, 2018

“Hungry Girl” is Coming
Wednesday, April 6th at 7:15 pm

Sponsored by Sisterhood

Volunteers Needed!
THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE SPONSORED DINNER/DANCE FOR RESIDENTS OF PORT WASHINGTON

Saturday, March 5, 2016, 6:30 - 9:45 pm
St. Peter’s of Alcantara Church
1327 Port Washington Blvd.

We are providing a free, relaxing evening of dinner and dancing for our neighbors. Supervised activities and dinner for young children will be available.

We need help with preparing food, setting tables, taking orders, greeting guests, supervising young children, baking (nut free) desserts. Please contact Jessica Wigdor at jhwigdor@gmail.com or 516-321-9797 to volunteer.

The Social Action Committee is grateful for the generosity of its Community Dinners sponsors - Comfort Dinner, Grace’s Table and the Manhasset Greentree Foundation

IDENTITY CRISIS?
The Arab – Israeli Citizen’s Position in the Current Situation
TUESDAY, MARCH 29
@ The Community Synagogue

7:00 - 8:00 pm • VIP Wine & Cheese Reception
8:00 - 9:30 pm • Program Followed by Dessert

Sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York

ERAN SINGER
Mr. Singer is a correspondent for the Israeli Public Radio show “Reshet Bet,” reporting on issues pertaining to the Arab world. He reports and follows up on the significant events in the Arab world that are of importance to Israel, and the rest of the world.

VIP Reception
Donors of $1,000 or more to UJA-Federation’s 2015 Annual Campaign are invited to join us for the exclusive opportunity to meet Eran Singer at our VIP Wine & Cheese Reception. Dietary laws observed.

For more information, please contact Bari A. Ziegel at 516.677.1830 or ziegelb@ujafedny.org.
March is going to be a marvelous month packed with POWTY programs for all of our members! Be sure to save the date for all our events this month, 4-12th graders!

UPCOMING EVENTS / PROGRAMMING

TIKKUN OLAM WITH LINDSAY
Tuesday, March 1 – All 4th graders will spend part of their day during religious school in a special program with Lindsay focusing on *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)! We’ll be learning about the commandment *bal tashchit*, which means “do not destroy,” and doing our part to care for our earth by decorating reusable canvas bags that each participant will get to take home! No RSVP required.

POWTY SHABBAT SHA-PAINT NIGHT
Friday, March 4 - 5:30 -10:30 pm
POWTY’s taking Shabbat on the road for this special, spiritual, creative evening together! We’ll depart TCS at 5:30, enjoy a fun Shabbat dinner at Grimaldi’s pizza in Garden City, and then head to Muse Paint bar for a private painting class focusing on connecting spiritually through artistic expression! This special event is free for all POWTY members in grades 8-12.

NFTY-NAR ALBANY ADVOCACY DAY
Sunday, March 6 – POWTY’s teen philanthropists are heading to Albany with NFTY-NAR for two incredible days of learning, lobbying, advocacy and fun.

JPOW’S END OF THE YEAR PARTY
Tuesday, March 8 - 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Please RSVP to join us for a special, fun evening with friends in 4-6th grades.

POWTY TIKKUN TEAM TRIP TO HOPE LODGE, NYC
Saturday, March 19 – POWTY’s Tikkun Team members (8th and 9th graders) are heading to the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge in NYC for a meaningful day of service. We’ll be preparing, cooking and hosting a delicious, healthy and fun brunch and bingo program for the residents there. No RSVP required.

POWTY FOUNDATION MEETING 6
Monday, March 21 – 6:30-8:30 pm
POWTY’s teen philanthropists will come together for our 6th meeting of the year.

NFTY-NAR’S JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP KALLAH
April 1-3, All of POWTY’s 6th and 7th graders are invited to attend NFTY-NAR’s Junior Youth Group Kallah, being hosted at URJ Kutz Camp on April 1-3, 2016! For more information about this great opportunity to participate in a Jewish youth Shabbaton weekend with friends from across our region, or to register, contact Lindsay.

For more information about POWTY Youth Programs or any of our upcoming events this month, please be in touch with me!

I’m looking forward to a wonderful month with POWTY!

Love & POWTY,

Lindsay
Why do we put a mezuzah on our door posts?

**ANSWER:**
In the first year that we were living in Port Washington my parents came for a visit and we took them on a drive around some of the surrounding neighborhoods. In the car my dad enjoyed playing one of his favorite games of spotting the mezuzot on the houses we passed. For him, the game was about identifying the Jewish neighborhoods and getting a sense of where the Jewish communities are based. Needless to say he was impressed by the number of mezuzot that we saw, and the consequent size of the Jewish population on the island.

When we ask the question of how to identify a Jewish house, there are a variety of things we might look for once we are inside, but from the outside the single identifying feature is the mezuzot that one will usually see on the door post of the home.

In our Torah, the first example we have of identifying a Jewish home by an outward marking, comes when the Israelites were in Egypt. On the eve of the tenth plague the Israelites were told to take a lamb, to kill it, and to take the blood “and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door posts of the houses” (Exodus 12:7). This marking would allow God to identify the Israelite houses and to pass over them, so that their firstborn children would be saved.

The actual commandment to have a mezuzah on the house comes later on in the Torah. The first occurrence may be familiar as it forms part of the Shema. We read: “These words that I command you this day … you shall write them upon the door posts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). The commandment of writing them upon the door posts of your house and upon your gates is restated in Deuteronomy 11:20, which is part of the traditional second paragraph of the Shema.

In this way the mezuzah has come to refer to the case and the parchment within it that are affixed to the doors of our homes. The parchment contains the first and second paragraphs of the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21, so that the words of the commandment are actually part of the mezuzah itself.

The purpose of the mezuzah is to serve as a reminder of the Covenant and of our relationship with God. It is not intended to ward away evil or to serve as an outward identifier of a Jewish home. The purpose is so that when a Jewish person walks past it they remember the Covenant. In a similar way the tzitzit, the fringed garment that we traditionally wear is supposed to remind us of the commandments from God. For all of us, the question is what do we think about when we see a mezuzah? Does it serve as a reminder of the covenant or do we think about something else? And next time you see a mezuzah what will you be thinking about?

*Lama, the Hebrew word for “why.”

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**Family Events/Services**

**TOT SHABBAT** - Friday at 5:30 pm - April 8

“SECOND SHABBES” FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE - FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM - March 11, April 8, May 13

**PJ STORYTIME** - SUNDAYS AT 9 AM - March 13, April 10

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**JEWISH YOGA**

Move Your Body & Soul

February 28 • March 13 • April 3
9:15 am -10:15 am

A yoga service using elements of traditional Jewish liturgy together with yoga exercises and intentions. Led by Rabbi Danny and Yoga Instructor Beth Lipset. All levels welcome. Please bring your own mat. Questions? Contact Allison 883-3144 ext. 328.

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**THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE** **MAKING SACRED CONNECTIONS**
Keeping Busy During the Winter Months

The fall is a very busy time in the religious school. Between the start of our school year and the holidays that come one after another, it seems that we are always on the go. Whether there is a special learning activity, holiday program or family program, there is never a dull moment in the religious school. I happen to like the winter months, as things slow down a little, and we get the chance to have some less crazy days in the school. It is during this calmer time that I get more opportunities to spend time in the classrooms and watch and listen to our students…and they are amazing.

In a first grade classroom, I got to see students eagerly waving their hands in the air hoping to be able to go to the board and write all the Hebrew letters they had learned so far. In a third grade class, I took part in a Hebrew challenge where the students challenged each other to read bigger & bigger (longer) Hebrew words, and I was so impressed with their skills. And, I got to engage with a fifth grade group and hear their thoughts about the v’havta prayer.

Of course, we did still have some special events during the winter months. A group of our seventh graders took an afternoon to help serve food at the Hebrew Union College Soup Kitchen in the city, and the effort and caring that they exhibited was incredible. Our fourth graders were busy with our annual Wedding Program, and many of our FLAME students visited the Ronald McDonald House to bake for the residents there. So, even though it seems quieter to me, the students in the religious school have certainly stayed busy this winter!
Unlike the lotteries of today, which imply reward, the lottery of Haman was to choose the day on which all the Jews of Persia would be attacked. The author of the book of Esther suggests in this that life is random. Why is one generation born into a time of war, another blessed with bounty and peace? Luck.

Much of life is not in our control. We do not know what each day brings and what happens to us is due to people and forces beyond us. THERE IS EVIL IN THE WORLD AND ANTI-SEMITISM IS ITS EXPRESSION

A Jewish child’s most profound memory of the מִגְלָה megillah reading is likely the “wiping out” of the name of Haman. This is done in keeping with the Torah’s command to erase the name of Amalek (Haman’s ancestor), the people who attacked the Israelites as soon as they were saved by crossing sea. The book of Esther offers a challenge to those who offer economic or societal explanations for anti-Semitism. Haman’s hatred towards Jews grows out of a hurt ego – his upset that Mordecai does not bow down to him. Hatred is not only random. It is irrational.

In the face of moral relativism, the argument that there are no universal ethical truths, Purim makes a claim that there is real evil in our world. The response to anti-Jewish hate – from the Crusaders to the Nazis, the Inquisitor to the jihadist - is not simply to understand why it exists, but to recognize it for what it is. Anti-Semitism, in the guise of hating Jews or seeking Israel’s destruction, is an expression of immorality. It is the embodiment of evil.

GOD IS “HIDDEN”

In contrast to most other books in the Bible, in the book of Esther there is no certainty of God’s presence. Oh, sure, there are allusions and hints of God, such as when Mordecai reminds Esther that if she does not stand up for her fellow Jews, help will come “from another place.” God, however, is not mentioned – and so is either “hidden” or absent. Thus, the story of Purim makes the claim that in our lives it’s best not to rely on Divine intervention. GIVEN ALL THIS, IT’S UP TO US

Unlike other holidays, Purim rests not in God’s saving power, but in the power planted within us to be courageous. The redemption of the Jewish people of Purim comes from Esther, the most unlikely of heroic figures.

• First, that it is a woman who saves the people challenges the notion that history is based on what men alone do.
• Second, the story emphasizes her beauty, as if this was her only quality.

Instead of judging people on how they look, Esther reminds us to judge person by how they act.

• Finally, Esther marries someone who is not Jewish (the Persian king Ahashuerus). Instead of condemning her as one who abandons her people, the book of Esther shows that it is her willingness to affirm her Jewish identity, particularly in her relationship with her husband who is not a Jew, that is the catalyst for Jewish survival.

Anti-Semitism, in the guise of hating Jews...is the embodiment of evil.

Life is not what we think. What happens to us is a result of random fate. There is evil and great danger all around. God will not intervene to help.

And so, Purim teaches us - rely on yourself. Do not abandon anyone willing to be part of the Jewish people’s story. In the end we cannot control our fate, but we can determine our destiny. The power is in our hands and in what we do with our lives.

Now that is a holiday worth celebrating.
Shari Cohen, who graces the Long Island community theater scene with her singing chops, got to stay home and perform with her daughter! Stuart and Margaret Werner had barely signed up to be members before they were recruited into our company – and I can hardly imagine being able to do the show without them – they were invaluable prop masters, assistant stage managers and on stage talent. Micol Zimmerman Burkeman, Missy Halpern, Melissa Chernosky and I all channeled our inner actress from our high school years and got to relive those memories and create new ones.

The show would not have been complete without the cameos from Lindsay Ganci and Rabbi Z – and I know for sure that there is no other scenario in which I would be sharing my make up with the Rabbi!

And for the girls who stuck it out through auditions, Sunday afternoon rehearsals, late nights and lots of candy – well I think they’d tell you it was awesome, and they’d do it again. Alexa Cohen, Isabella Ertel, Sabrina Grossman, Charley Halpern, Nikki Mazur, Dara Stulberg, Elina Sommer and Abigail Zlotoff were all terrific. But perhaps being on stage is not for you. Diane Heiman and Sydney Ronis will tell you they had fun running the show backstage. Or perhaps you play an instrument? Dave Goldberg is having a blast in the pit with his bass guitar. Addie Ronis is lending her talents with hair and makeup in the dressing room, and Shari Isserles and Jodi Okun-Alfano ran the house and ticket sales like nobody’s business.

There were also countless numbers of volunteers that helped with ushering and ticket sales who all contributed in some way to the success of the show, and thereby created connections with one another and with the community.

Perhaps you see a place for yourself on stage, or perhaps off – but we hope you’ll reach out and find us next time … people are already asking what show we are doing next!!!

The COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE HAPPINESS PROJECT

“WE ALL LIVE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF BEING HAPPY; OUR LIVES ARE ALL DIFFERENT AND YET THE SAME.” ANNE FRANK

Be the first to hear about this exciting new project. Please like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TCSHappiness or contact Rabbi Danny.
DONATIONS

One that sows Tzedakah has a sure reward.
PROVERBS 11:18

We gratefully acknowledge support to The Community Synagogue through contributions to our many funds and sincerely thank the following:

BRICK DONATION
- The Deli Group (Dick Bram, Larry Haar, Ted Knopp, Sandy Lewis, Hank Ratner, Bob Richter, Bert Tobin, Bart Waxman, and Steve Weingrow) in honor of Harold Sokoloff, Happy 90th Birthday! A Brick has been created in your honor.
- Adrienne Lieberman in memory of Edward Waldinger, brother of Bonnie Lane
- Bill & Cynthia Magazine in memory of Edward Waldinger
- David & Donna Stricker in memory of Selma Lashine
- Howard & Sandra Lipset in memory of Edward Waldinger
- Maxine Stone in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Rich & Linda Gottsegen in memory of Eric Sonnenklar, husband of Lisa Sonnenklar
- Sherry, Jon, Lauren & Jamie Ambos in memory of Leonard Ambos (Yahrzeit)

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FUND
- Adrienne Lieberman in memory of Edward Waldinger, brother of Bonnie Lane
- Bill & Cynthia Magazine in memory of Edward Waldinger
- David & Donna Stricker in memory of Selma Lashine
- Howard & Sandra Lipset in memory of Edward Waldinger
- Maxine Stone in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Rich & Linda Gottsegen in memory of Eric Sonnenklar, husband of Lisa Sonnenklar
- Sherry, Jon, Lauren & Jamie Ambos in memory of Leonard Ambos (Yahrzeit)

ETZ CHAIM ENDOWMENT FUND
- Howard & Debbie Schiff in memory of Selma Lashine, mother of Nancy Lashine
- Howard & Debbie Schiff in memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
- Jordan & Nissa Fine in memory of Bernice “Bunny” Steinman, mother of Jill Gold
- Lawrence & B. Helft in memory of Selma Lashine
- Robert & Catherine Gutherman in memory of Helga Reznikoff, mother of Anne Bratskeir
- Stephen & Denise Silverstein in memory of Selma Lashine, mother of Nancy Lashine

LIBRARY FUND
- Julie Lewis in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Rich & Linda Gottsegen in memory of Eric Sonnenklar

MITZVAH CORPS FUND
- Adrienne Lieberman in memory of Harvey Lieberman (Yahrzeit)
- Eric & Mady Caslow in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Ilan & Brandi Tito in honor of The Community Synagogue
- Lawrence & Ali Paltrowitz in memory of Eric Sonnenklar
- Lori Herz in memory of Eric Sonnenklar
- Stephen & Wendy DeAngelis in memory of Lois Perelman

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND
- Mitchel & Arlene Maitdman in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah

MUSIC AND CHOIR FUND
- Adam & Karen Finkelstein in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Adrienne Lieberman in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Alan & Marion Suckoff in memory of Burton Cohen, husband of Joyce Cohen
- Andrew & Nancy Gordon in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Annette Rosalia & John Jablonski in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Barry & Janet Boxer in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Benjamin & Julie Kozinn in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Bill & Cynthia Magazine in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- TCS Brotherhood in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Chad & Amanda Stone in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- David & Donna Stricker in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Edgar & Mindy Salas in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Ellen Savran in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Fran Richter in appreciation of Cantor Franco for officiating at my husband’s unveiling
- Fred Renster & Linda Necrote in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Gary Geisenheimer in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Howard & Alexis Siegel in memory of Edward Waldinger
- JD & Deb Friedland in honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Giving Opportunities

SPONSOR “SHABBAT ROCKS”
Help us maintain this special Shabbat programming by sponsoring our musical, family-friendly “Shabbat Rocks.”
Donation: $750

SPONSOR TOT SHABBAT
Celebrate Shabbat by sponsoring our Tot Shabbat service geared for children six and under, which includes a twenty minute service, family dinner and craft project.
Donation: $500

DONATE TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND
Ensure this remarkable congregation for future generations by contributing to the Endowment Fund. Your gift is invested wisely with the promise of financial growth.
Donation: $ Your choice

DONATE TO SYNAGOGUE FUNDS
Your generosity to our various funds enables us to expand upon our mission to create a “kehillah kadosh”—a sacred community. To donate go to www.commsyn.org>Donate>Donate Online, or call Michelle 516-883-3144 ext. 310. You choose the fund; you choose the amount.
Donation: $10.00 or more

RETIRE THE MORTGAGE
Your generous donation to help reduce the mortgage is a powerful way to help the synagogue meet its fiscal responsibilities.
Donation: $10,000 or more.

DEDICATE A HIGH HOLY DAY PRAYER BOOK (MACHZOR - SET OF TWO BOOKS)
Take this opportunity to dedicate a prayer book set with a personalized book plate in honor of a special person; to celebrate a memorable occasion such as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, birth; or in memory of a loved one.
Donation: $54 for each dedication of a prayer book set (additional book sets, $54 each, up to 3); $180 for 4 book sets (additional book sets, $45 each, up to 9); $360 for 10 book sets (additional book sets, $36 each) To order contact Allison, 516-883-3144 ext. 328.
• Jeffrey & Joan Grant In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Joel & Leslie Fenigstein In memory of Edward Waldinger
• Jordan & Nissa Fine In memory of Bernice “Bunny” Steinman
• Larry & Elaine Rothenberg In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Lee Rosenberg In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ali Sophia Martinez
• Mace & Debbie Blicksilver In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Marcia Conescu In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Michael & Dana Blum In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Michael & Doreen Berne In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Nancy Tejo In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Neil Seiden & Janet Wolf In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Norman & Helene Scher In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Philip & Lori Roman In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Renni Altman In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Richard & Ellen Fox In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Robert & Marnie Cohen In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Robert & Susan Freire In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Stan & Eileen Ronell In honor of Cantor Claire and cantorial concert
• Susan Silverstone & Family In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Warren & Hayley Alstott In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah

POWTY FUND
• Andrew & Karen Margolin In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Annette Rosalia In honor of Genea Moore
• Annette Rosalia In honor of Lindsay Ganci’s 30th Birthday
• Daniel Tanenbaum In honor of Jacob Miller becoming a Bar Mitzvah
• David Wittels & Cindy Marks In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Deena & Erik Katz & Family In memory of Lois Perelman
• Erik & Deena Katz In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Erik & Deena Katz In memory of Selma Lashine
• Rich & Linda Gottsegen In memory of Eric Sonnenklar

PRAYERBOOK FUND
• Arthur & Marion Cohen In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Barry & Bonnie Lane In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Larry & Elaine Rothenberg In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
• Lee Rosenberg In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ali Sophia Martinez
• Mitch & Susan Kessler In memory of Myrna Pollak, Richard Pollak & David Kessler
• Mitch & Susan Kessler In honor of Nicole & Ryan Kessler becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• Paul & Audrey Elenbough In memory of Edward Waldinger

RABBI ROZENBERG FUND
• Audrey Troy In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
• Marie Rautenberg In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz

RABBIS’ DISCRETIONARY FUND
• Alan & AlisonPerlmutter In memory of Joan Perlmutter, mother of Alan Perlmutter & In Appreciation of Rabbi Zeplowitz
• Alan & Marion Suekoff In honor of Genea Moore’s conversion
• Bernard & Paula Cohn In memory of Florence Lobel, mother of Seena Lewis
• Bernard & Paula Cohn In memory of Selma Lashine
• Bill & Cynthia Magazine In honor of Donna & David Stricker for their wonderful hospitality
• Dave & Gail Colbert In memory of Lois Perelman
• David & Lisa Caslow In memory of Eric Sonnenklar, husband of Lisa Sonnenklar
• Dorothy Weintraub & Harold Sokoloff In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
• Edward & Josephine Feldman In memory of Lois Perelman
• Ed & Leslie Seidner In honor of Rabbi Zeplowitz
• Edward Seidner & Leslie Kneller In appreciation of Rabbi Zeplowitz for officiating at our wedding
• Ellen Savran In honor of Steven and Janice Friedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Sabrina Belle
• Ellen Savran In memory of Roslyn Katz, mother of Janice Lewis
• Gary & Amy Levinson In memory of Selma Lashine
• Herbert Altman In memory of Roslyn Katz, mother of Janice Lewis
• Jacob & Lori Zlotoff In honor of the arrival of Benjamin Drew Appell
• Lee Rosenberg In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ali Sophia Martinez
• Leo Ullman In honor of the clergy
• Lloyd & Michelle Lefcourt In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Maurice Mandel In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
• Miles & Gloria Glantz In memory of Roslyn Katz
• Nancy Lashine & Gary Sher In appreciation of Rabbi Zeplowitz for officiating and being there for Nancy lashine’s mother, Selma Lashine’s funeral
• Philip & Lori Roman In memory of Roslyn Katz, mother of Janice Lewis
• Robert & Denise Schreiber In honor of the marriage of Edward Seidner & Leslie Kneller
• Rudi & Janet de Winter In memory of Selma Lashine, mother of Nancy Lashine
• Stan Merjan In memory of Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
• Stephen & Margaret Hand In memory of Helen Gaston (Yahrzeit)
• Steven & Janice Friedman In honor of Denise and Stephen Silverstein on the birth of their grandson, Leo Elian
• Steven & Janice Friedman In memory of George Kraus, father of Eric Kraus
• Stuart & Jill Gold In memory of Bunny Steinman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
• Howard & Alexis Siegel In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Paul & Erica Tropp In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Scott & Valerie Hamroff In memory of Eric Sonnenklar

SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT FUND
• Mark Calem & Stefanie Shulman-Calem In memory of Selma Lashine
• Mark Calem & Stefanie Shulman-Calem In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah

SYNAGOGUE FUND
• Adam & Karen Finkelstein In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Alan & Marion Suekoff In honor of Denise and Steven Silverstein on the birth of their grandson, Leo Elian
• Brent & Lori Korn In memory of Eric Sonnenklar
• Brian Valenza & Hayley Foster In honor of Emory Franco becoming a Bat Mitzvah
• Ed & Leslie Seidner In honor of Joanne Fried for her daily, vital and passionate contribution to The Community Synagogue
• Edward & Phyllis Schieber In memory of Edward Waldinger
• Edward & Phyllis Schieber In memory of Frieda Berkowitz (Yahrzeit)
• Fran Richter In memory of Florence Lobel, mother of Seena Lewis
• Fran Richter In memory of Norman Shapiro, grandfather of Lauren Schill
• Harold & Rochelle Lipton In memory of Abraham Rosenberg (Yahrzeit)
• Harold & Rochelle Lipton In memory of Max Farberman (Yahrzeit)
• Herb Altman In memory of Julius Altman (Yahrzeit)
• Howard & April Furst In memory of Vern Hoffnung (Yahrzeit)
• Jack & Betty Schwartz In memory of Terry Weinstein (Yahrzeit)
• Jaimison & JoBeth Roberts In memory of Benjamin Nussbaum (Yahrzeit)
• Joan Brenner In memory of Everett Brenner (Yahrzeit)
• Joyce Cohen In memory of Laura Shalit (Yahrzeit)
The Port Washington Rosh Chodesh Group

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 9:30 AM
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, TEMPLE DRIVE, PORT WASHINGTON
RABBI MICHAEL MISHKIN PRESENTS
UNDERSTANDING AND CONFRONTING RELIGIOUS FANATICISM

We will look at religious fanaticism, its underlying roots and different ways of countering it. Some of the texts we will look at will come from Rabbi Jonathan Sack’s recent book Not In God’s Name: Confronting Religious Violence.

TZEDAKAH - DONATIONS
Your generosity enables us to expand upon our mission to create a kehillah k’doshah — a sacred community — in which your donation makes you an integral part. We are deeply grateful.

Your Donation is:
☐ in Memory of  ☐ in Honor of
☐ in Appreciation of  ☐ Speedy Recovery

Name:

Amount:

Donor Name:

Address:

Select the fund:
☐ ECC Fund  ☐ Rabbis’ Discretionary Fund
☐ ETZ CHAIM: Restoring the Sanctuary  ☐ Religious School Fund
☐ ETZ CHAIM: Endowment  ☐ Sisterhood Family Activities Fund
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☐ Prayer Book/Torah Fund  ☐ Youth Group Fund
☐ Pay by Check  ☐ Bill my Acct
☐ Pay online at www.commsyn.org/

Mail form and donation to: The Community Synagogue, 160 Middle Neck Rd, PW, NY 11050

The Community Synagogue MAKING SACRED CONNECTIONS
## Calendar of Events | March 2016

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### Notes:
- All dates are subject to change. Call Temple Office to verify dates for specific events or check our website (www.commsyn.org) and click “Calendar” for updates.
- Note when a Family Service is scheduled on a Friday night, that is the only Shabbat Service that night.

### Event Details:
- **March 6**: RS FLAME
- **March 7**: Social Action Committee Meeting
- **March 8**: Yiddish Class-Chaverim
- **March 9**: Synagogue Executive Committee Meeting
- **March 10**: Sisterhood Assembles Purim Baskets
- **March 11**: Purim Carnival
- **March 12**: Purim Carnival
- **March 13**: ECC Closed
- **March 14**: Purim Carnival
- **March 15**: Purim Carnival
- **March 16**: Purim Carnival
- **March 17**: Purim Carnival
- **March 18**: Purim Carnival
- **March 19**: Purim Carnival
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- **March 21**: Purim Carnival
- **March 22**: Purim Carnival
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- **March 25**: Purim Carnival
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- **March 27**: Purim Carnival
- **March 28**: Purim Carnival
- **March 29**: Purim Carnival
- **March 30**: Purim Carnival
- **March 31**: Purim Carnival
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Email: info@commsyn.org

TCS Blog - Read and comment
https://commsyn.org/blogs/tcs

The Community Synagogue presents
a Celebration in Honor of our Members of

36 YEARS OR MORE

Boogie Down
Double Chai
Dance Party

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

Don’t Miss Our Biggest Event of the Year!