



## Cantor's Message

Cantor Claire Franco



Since my return from Rome only two weeks ago, people have asked me about the experience. But, words are hard to find. It is difficult to find the right language to describe a concert where the sound literally hung in the air surrounded by an endless expanse of marble. It is nearly impossible to describe breathtaking views of a holy city both in the day and in the glow of moonlight. But most of all, it is difficult to describe the incredible enormity of an experience that could possibly change the face of history in some small way. To begin, I would like to offer some background in the words of Jason Boxt, the husband

of Rosalie Boxt, one of the Cantors who sang in the concert. As a political writer and historian, Jason's perspective is different from my own.

"Two millennia. For nearly two thousand years, Jews were personae non-gratae in the Catholic world, vilified and demonized as the killers of Christ. In the Jewish ghetto in Rome (what's left of it), there's a painting on a church directly across from the Great Synagogue that essentially calls out the entire Jewish people for "making a very poor collective choice."

Even prior to the establishment of Catholicism as a great religion and the faith of local designation, Romans took great pleasure in torturing the Jewish people. The Arch of Titus, which greets tourists as they enter the great Roman Forum, was built in 82 AD and was used in later years by the Pope as the choice location to force Jews to

submit to the authority of the Church.

All of that began to change, however, in 1965, with the meeting of the Second Vatican Council in Rome. From that meeting emerged the *Nostra Aetate*, a document that effectively absolved the Jewish people of the death of Jesus. This was followed shortly thereafter by the establishment of the internal International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee in 1971. And those efforts toward reconciliation have continued since, culminating last week in an amazing journey of 20 American Reform Cantors to Rome."

My journey to Rome began nearly a year ago when Gunther Lawrence walked into my office and asked me if I was interested in putting a concert together for

performance at the Vatican. I responded of course, we talked about it a bit and Gunther left. Quite frankly, the idea went to my "in the future" pile and I didn't give it too much thought until about a year ago when an email popped up in my inbox congratulating me on the potential concert with a location and some suggestions of a date. From there the project took on a life of its own. With the help of the American Conference of Cantors, I set up an audition process and began selecting Cantors to join me in this historic concert. Cantor Roslyn Barak of San Francisco connected us to a documentarian that was excited to use our concert as the springboard for a film about Catholic-Jewish relations. So hundreds of emails later, hotels were booked, a piano was

rented, rehearsal space procured, music was mailed and we were ready to embark on what we all hoped would be a once in a lifetime experience.

We arrived in Rome on Sunday, did a quick change at the hotel and headed off to a monastery with roof top views of Vatican City. The excitement was palpable. We were excited to see each other, excited to meet the congregants and family who had travelled with us and floating with the joy of finally having made it to Rome. Some introductory remarks from Gunther, Rabbi Mark Weiner of London and myself and we headed up to the roof. The views were surreal-something right off of a postcard.

Monday morning we headed

*See Cantor continued on page 3*



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*Oneg Shabbat*

**JANUARY 7** Keith & Nancy Baltimore and family and friends of David on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*. Mark Feldman and Carol Feldman and family and friends of Daniel on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*.

**JANUARY 14** Mark & Lori Spier and family and friends of Matthew on the occasion of his becoming *Bar Mitzvah*.

**JANUARY 21** Marc & Stephanie Grossman and family and friends of Alexander on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*. Matthew & Laura Siegal and family and friends of Chelsea on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

**JANUARY 28** Jeffrey & Jill Segal and family and friends of Samantha on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. Craig & Michelle Sanders and family and friends of Rachel on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

*Shabbat* • תפילות (Worship Services)

**SHABBAT BO • בא**

**Friday, January 7**

Erev Shabbat . . . . . 8:00 pm

Rabbi Zeplovitz: The Enduring Message of Freedom

**Saturday, January 8** Exodus 10:1-13:16; Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) . . . . . 10:30 am

B'nai Mitzvah: David Baltimore & Daniel Feldman

Havurah - Informal Worship (Beit T'filah) . . . . . 10:30 am

**SHABBAT B'SHALACH~SHIRAH • בשלח~שירה**

**Friday, January 14**

Erev Shabbat. . . . . 6:30 pm

Worship for the young and young at heart with lots of music, spirit and energy!

**Saturday, January 15** Exodus 13:17-17:16; Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) . . . . . 10:30 am

Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Spier

Havurah - Informal Worship (Beit T'filah) . . . . . 10:30 am

**SHABBAT YITRO • יתרו**

**Friday, January 21**

Erev Shabbat . . . . . 8:00 pm

Torah Study & Discussion (Rabbi Zeplovitz)

**Saturday, January 22** Exodus 18:1 - 20:23; Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) . . . . . 10:30 am

B'nai Mitzvah: Alexander Grossman & Chelsea Siegal

Havurah - Informal Worship (Beit T'filah) . . . . . 10:30 am

**SHABBAT MISHPATIM • משפטים**

**Friday, January 28**

Erev Shabbat . . . . . 8:00 pm

Rabbi Sternman speaks

**Saturday, January 29** Exodus 21:1-24:18; Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) . . . . . 10:30 am

Bat Mitzvah: Samantha Segal

Havurah - Informal Worship (Beit T'filah) . . . . . 10:30 am

Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Sanders

## The Four Legged Stool



When I think about the roles that Synagogues play in our lives, I cluster them into four areas or four legs of the Jewish stool that supports us. The first area is Spiritual Support. Helping to facilitate our connection to the Almighty through the leadership and guidance of our

clergy, creating an inviting and welcoming space to pray and contemplate alongside our friends and fellow congregants. Being there to hold our hand in times of need or in times of joy makes us appreciate the spiritual role of our temple.

The second important role is Jewish Education. To better enable us to connect with the One above, the thousands of years of Jewish history, to Israel, and to contemporary Jewish issues, a strong grounding in Jewish history and the Hebrew language is important. While this starts with our children, it is even more important that we all have a strong educational foundation to help us lead Jewish lives and to assist our children on their Jewish journey. Our clergy, the ECC, the Religious School, *Havurat Noar* and our Adult Education programs all work in lockstep to help us achieve this goal.

The third leg is *Mitzvot*, or helping those in need. Whether the needy are in our families, our congregation, our community, or the world at large, doing good deeds is an important way to serve the Almighty, nourish our souls, and to provide an example for our children of how

important it is to help other in need. Many of us have been blessed financially and we have been able to help others that are less fortunate. However, most good deeds do not require financial resources, merely a desire to help others. The work of our *Mitzvah* Corps, our *Mitzvah* day projects, the community dinners sponsored by our Social Action Committee, the *Mitzvah* projects of our *B'nai Mitzvah* students and the huge outpouring of membership involvement in the Family Promise program are shining examples of how our Synagogue has helped to unite and encourage our members around the carrying out of good deeds.

The fourth important leg of the synagogue is Social Connection. The six hundred families of our congregation cover the range of demographics, economics, family status, age, etc. However, one thing that unites us all is the desire to preserve our connection to Jews and Judaism. The number of multi-generational friendships that the Synagogue has facilitated and sustained is amazing. The social connections that have been created through Brotherhood, Sisterhood, *Torah* Study, our Committees and the Temple Board are good examples of this.

When we think about the Synagogue and its role in our lives, let us think about each of the four legs of the stool – Spiritual Support, Jewish Education, *Mitzvot*, and Social Connection, and how each leg helps us and our families to stand taller and straighter.

Best regards,

Larry Helft, President



*Cantor continued from page 1*

off to the North American Pontifical College for the Cantors to rehearse and for everyone else to begin a dialogue. The College reminded me of the Hebrew Union College campus in Jerusalem with lots of marble and a courtyard full of orange trees. The difference was obvious. Instead of casually clad Jewish students, the halls were filled with young men dressed in cleric clothing. They were without exception some of the warmest, welcoming young people I have ever met. Just before lunch, we re-dedicated the menorah in their courtyard—a replica of the menorah that stands in the lobby of our synagogue. We had lunch with the seminarians and the Sisters who work there. Our family had the unique



pleasure of spending time with Rebecca, a Benedictine Sister from Indiana who has been the librarian at the college for the past 15 years. She was funny, kind and quite forthcoming in her opinions of The Church and her religion. She was surprisingly progressive in her beliefs that the Catholic Church needs to move into this century and “let these boys get married.” She went on to say that, “then maybe in 100 years, they might actually let women be priests.” It was a refreshing reminder that, despite our differences, we were very much the same.

Tuesday morning we found ourselves rehearsing in the very small hotel bar. (It's a story for another time). It was hot, crowded and we were under threat of serious repercussions if we so much as moved an ashtray. But, it was some of the most glorious music I had ever had the privilege of singing. We were increasingly aware that the concert we had been planning and anticipating for a year, was about to happen. We grabbed lunch, gathered

*Cantor continued on page 5*

**SOCIAL ACTION**

The Community Synagogue  
Sponsored

**Dinner/Dance  
for Residents of  
Port Washington**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
9 Carlton Avenue, Port Washington  
Saturday, January 22, 2011  
6:00-9:45 PM**

Volunteers from The Community Synagogue are needed to help residents of Port Washington who could use a little help. We are providing a free, relaxing evening of dinner and dancing at St. Stephen's Church. Supervised activities and dinner for children will be available.

We need help with preparing food, setting tables, taking orders, supervising young children and more!

We also need volunteers to help with cooking for the dinner.

**Synagogue Kitchen  
Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 7:15 PM**

Contact Jessica Wigdor at 516-883-1979 or Sandy Cobden at 516-627-0581 to volunteer.

**Another Successful  
Hanukkah Toy Drive**

Sisterhood's annual "children to children" *Hanukkah* toy drive was a major success, with hundreds of toys donated by our congregation. Janet Dankowitz and Jill Fishbin, co-chairs of the program and our POWTY teens sorted and delivered toys to North Shore-LIJ, The Alexandra and Steven Cohen Children's Medical Center of NY at LIJ, Winthrop Hospital, and other local organizations serving children. Thank you to everyone who participated—especially the children of our congregants who helped other children not as fortunate as are they.

Our December highlight was a wonderful *Hanukkah* LEGO event enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of children with their families. See photos on page 9.

We look forward to Women Joining Women, an antidote to the winter blues as we get together with other local synagogues and Hadassah for an evening of belly dancing, music, wine and laughter, on Thursday, January 27th.

Save the date: Mini *Mitzvah* Day will be Sunday, February 6th. Another cure for the winter blues is doing good deeds to help others!

Sisterhood members: watch for an exciting e-mail offering a rare opportunity to hear the great Debbie Friedman, in person, leading a Women's Seder at Temple Sinai in Roslyn on April 6th. This will be a gala evening, concert and dinner, shared with several other temples in our area. A limited number of tickets will be available to our members on a first come, first served basis for this not to be missed evening!

**Mah Jongg Mavens**

The Mah Jongg Mavens will meet for the first time in the new year on Wednesday, January 19th at 7:30 in the Multi-purpose Room. We will have noshes and coffee and lots of laughs. The event is free for Sisterhood members, \$5 for Synagogue members and \$10 for non-Synagogue members. RSVP's are essential to Jo Beth Roberts- jbnr@aol.com or 767-8770.

**Save The Date**

The Women of Hadassah, The Community Synagogue, Temple Beth Israel, Port Jewish Center, and The Reconstructionist Synagogue invite women to join together for:

**Belly Dancing**

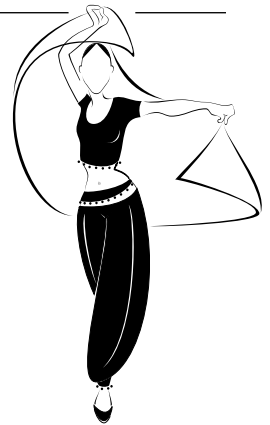
**Thursday, January 27th at 7:30 pm**

Participate or Just Socialize

A Night For Women to Eat, Drink, & Connect!

Instructor Provided by The Sid Jacobson JCC

RSVP To Leslie Lifson at 767-3886 or leslif@aol.com



**Adults Only Purim Celebration**

**Saturday evening, March 19th**

Watch For The Details

Sponsored by The Sisterhood of The Community Synagogue

**SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 6TH, 2011**

**AN EXTRAORDINARY  
Women's Seder**

Featuring Debbie Friedman

Sponsored by The Sisterhood of  
The Community Synagogue

Look for your invitation in January

our clothes and boarded the bus to go to the Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Matriri. We were tense but giddy with excitement. By this time, we knew that the Pope would not be at the concert and, in fact, weren't sure who would be there. But we also knew that regardless of the circumstances, we were about to do something that had never been done before.

We entered the Basilica and that is where the words fail me. For those of you who have been in some of the great churches of Europe, your visual memory will serve you well here. The place is awe-inspiring in its scope and scale. This Basilica is the State Basilica. It is the



place where government ceremonies are held and state funerals occur. It houses the largest pipe organ in Europe, which was a gift to the Basilica from the Italian government. The organ is so complicated and valuable that Vladimir, our organist, wasn't able to touch it until one of the two people who are allowed to play it came to set the stops (the buttons that determine the sound). We put our belongings away and proceeded to the altar where we would sing later that evening. We began to sing and within seconds we knew that this would be a concert like no other we had ever performed. The sound literally hung in

the air when we finished singing. There was a full 15 second delay. People who had come into the Basilica to pray or sightsee, were drawn to the side of the church where we were singing. Our rehearsal became an impromptu concert itself.

Rehearsal finished, we began to get ready for the concert. Press started to arrive and we were interviewed. Seats started to fill. While the Pope wasn't there, the American Ambassador to the Holy See, Dr. Miguel Diaz was there. Also in attendance were Reverend Norbert Hoffman, the secretary of the Vatican's commission on religious relations with the Jews and the rector and Maestro of the Basilica. But we were happiest to see some of our new friends from the seminary in the audience. Their presence at the concert proved that the bridge between Catholic and Jewish clergy is being built. The concert was spectacular with truly the finest choral singing of which I have ever been a part. The concert has been recorded both on DVD and on CD and I look forward to sharing it with you in the near future.

We concluded our visit in Rome with VIP seating at the Papal audience, a tour of the Vatican museum and Sistine Chapel and a final dinner. We were not presented to the Pope as planned, but it was still a thrilling experience for those who attended. In the end, there were definitely some highs and lows during the trip. Some things did not go as planned and others far exceeded our expectations. But, in the end, it was a once in a lifetime experience.

I cannot finish without expressing my deepest thanks to those of you who made this experience possible with your generosity. Many of you donated to make this dream a reality and all of you offered your encouragement and shared our excitement.

*Grazie*

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Jessica and Craig Miller  
Cantor Judi Rowland  
Rabbi Jonathan and Susan Stein  
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Susan and Hank Salzhauer

**SOCIAL ACTION**

**Families Helping Families,  
UJA-Federation of New York's  
Thanksgiving  
Mitzvah Program**



Thank you to all of our congregants who participated in UJA-Federation's Families Helping Families Thanksgiving *Mitzvah* Program. As you may know, UJA-Federation is committed to caring for people in need, here on Long Island, in New York, in Israel and around the world.

We assembled and delivered close to 60 beautiful Thanksgiving baskets through FEGS Health and Human Services and made sure that some families who are less fortunate than our own had a great Thanksgiving Day!

Special thanks to our chairpeople, Dori Fishbin, Susan Israel and Amy Rosenberg and to the following people who assembled and delivered the baskets:

- Erika, Jake and Sylvia Ades
- Molly Alstodt
- Lisa and Anna Asnis
- Lisa and Seth Barshay
- Liz, Jolie and Dalia Bercow
- Desiree, Ethan and Bennett Bookstein
- Lisa, Brandon and Anabelle Caslow
- Evy, Adam, Morgan and Tyler Cirker
- Charlotte Cohen
- Ellen and Bari Cohen
- Mara and Ellie Davis
- Nadine and Baylee Delmonte
- Dori Fishbin
- Pamela Flash and Tori Finkle
- Annie and Benny Floch
- Cami Friedman
- Ariana Gabriel
- Ruth and Jack Geismar
- Nancy, Izzy and Charlotte Gold
- Sherri Gold-Bresowsky, Ian Bresowsky, Paige Leeds, Alana Leeds, Lee Sharon and Clara Lacorte
- Emma and Jamie Goldman
- Susie, Max and Samantha Goldman
- Suzanne and Ilana Grabiner and Lauren Seidman

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Lynn and Mel Sreiber  
 Felice and Alan Schwartz  
 Jane and Marty Schwartz  
 Rachel Schwartz  
 Karen and Steven Seltzer  
 Maddie and Allen Siegel  
 Andrea and Steven Siegel  
 Denise and Stephen Silverstein  
 Amy and Andy Sirotkin  
 Elaine and Leonard Wurzel



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 Phyllis and Harry Manko  
 Shirley Marblestone  
 Lou Seeger  
 Gail Tuthill



**Ongoing Classes**

**“Please Stop the Rollercoaster”: Parenting Teens**

Is your teenage son or daughter puzzling you? Do you wonder what kinds of rules you should be promoting? Are you trying to figure out if her/his behavior is within “normal” bounds? Parents do better when you don’t do this alone ... let us help. Group discussion, facilitated by our clergy and director of education, will help you learn tips and tools to deal with your teenager.

Tuesdays, 7 – 8 pm  
 January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8  
 \$25 for books and materials  
 Teachers: Rabbis Zeplovitz and Sternman, Cantor Franco and Shari Isserles

**Hebrew Crash Course**

There’s no excuse ... it’s a breeze to learn Hebrew with The National Jewish Outreach Program’s innovative introductory Hebrew program that teaches participants to learn to read Hebrew in only five 1½ hour weekly sessions. Join the more than 200,000 who have learned the language of our history and faith with this proven program.

Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
 January 6, 13, 27, February 3, 10  
 Teacher: Rabbi Sternman

**“One Shot” Programs**

**Bringing the Holidays Home**

Come learn about Jewish holidays and how to bring holiday celebrations into your home. These sessions will be sure to inspire you to celebrate the holidays in new, fun ways with your family.

Thursday, January 13  
 9 to 10:15 am  
 Tu B’Shevat  
 Teacher: Shari Isserles

**Torah and the Headlines**

What does Jewish tradition have to say about the most engaging issues of the day? We will review the most controversial, engaging topics in the news the week or two before each session and look for the “Jewish connection.” The focus will be on informal and open discussion. Come to any one or all sessions, as each will deal with a different topic.

Sunday, January 30  
 9 – 10 am  
 Teacher: Rabbi Zeplovitz

**Lunch and Learn - Spiritual Parenting: the Work/Life Balance**

Entertainment lawyer, mommy blogger and talk radio show host, Cynthia Litman, will lead us in exploring how to maintain your family bonds in a time of fundamental shifts. Bring your own lunch ... we’ll supply the coffee, tea and engaging conversation. Take a mid-day break and enjoy the opportunity to learn while you nosh.

Monday, January 24  
 12 – 1:15 pm

Brotherhood, together with Adult Education, is proud to announce its 92nd St Y programs for the coming Winter-Spring season. Since its inception last year, more than 1,250 people have attended the lectures. We invite you, your family and friends to turn out for any one or more of the upcoming programs. In addition to an interesting evening with great speakers, you will be able to sample excellent desserts and refreshments offered by Brotherhood. Thanks go to our committee of Roger Lifson, Sanford Lewis, Evan Goldman and Ken Standig who make this all happen. Tickets are \$10; a series of any 4 is \$35 and can be ordered from Bert Tobin at btobin@optonline.net or by calling 883-3144 ext. 343 and leaving your order request.

**The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry: Pivotal Figures from a Heroic Era**

With Elie Wiesel, Natan Sharansky, Margarita Levieva, Gal Beckerman & Richard Perle.

Moderator: Thane Rosenbaum  
Wed, February 2, 8pm

Join Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, politician and activist Natan Sharansky, political advisor Richard Perle, actress Margarita Levieva and Gal Beckerman, author of *When They Come For Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry*, as they discuss the dramatic Cold War period when American Jewry first became politicized as Jews and Jews behind Russia's Iron Curtain took grave risks in order to win their freedom and emigrate to Israel or the United States.

**Faces of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Loss and Forgiveness**

Izzeldin Abuelaish and Laura Blumenfeld with Christiane Amanpour  
Mon, March 7, 8:15pm

In 2009, Palestinian doctor and Israeli television personality Izzeldin Abuelaish lost three of his daughters during a Gaza raid. In 1986, a Palestinian terrorist shot author Laura Blumenfeld's father. Abuelaish and Blumenfeld discuss with ABC News' Christiane Amanpour how—despite such personal tragedy on both sides of the conflict—we can find common ground and political solutions. Laura Blumenfeld is a prize-winning national reporter for *The Washington Post* and author of *The New York Times* best seller, *Revenge: A Story of*

*Hope*. Izzeldin Abuelaish, MD, MPH, is a Palestinian physician and infertility expert who was born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He now lives with his family in Toronto, where he is an associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

**Shirley MacLaine: Life Lessons**

Tues, April 5, 8pm

Shirley MacLaine talks about her life lessons and what she wants to impart to the world. MacLaine is an Oscar, three-time Emmy and 10-time Golden Globe-winning actress. She has appeared in more than 50 films and has been nominated for an Academy Award six times, winning Best Actress for *Terms of Endearment*.

**Andy Borowitz's Countdown to Election '12: Only 538 Days Left**

Wed, May 18, 8pm

Award-winning satirist Andy Borowitz of the *Borowitz Report* has been called "America's satire king" by *The Daily Beast*. In what promises to be an irreverent — and certainly one of the earliest — look at the 2012 elections, Borowitz will be joined by an A-list panel of comedians and journalists. (Panelists will be confirmed closer to the event.)

**Nora Ephron in Conversation with Rebecca Traister**

Thur, June 9, 8pm

Join Nora Ephron and Rebecca Traister as they discuss the future of politics, women's issues and life. Nora Ephron is the author of the bestseller *I Feel Bad About My Neck* and most recently *I Remember Nothing*. She wrote and directed the hit movie "Julie and Julia" and has received Academy Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay for "When Harry Met Sally," "Silkwood," and "Sleepless in Seattle." Rebecca Traister is senior writer for *Salon*, where she has written about women in politics, media and entertainment since 2003, and where she covered the 2008 presidential campaign from a feminist perspective. She has also written for *Elle*, *The Nation*, *The New York Observer*, *Vogue* and *The New York Times*.

**S'MACHOT • שמחות**

*Sharing Our Lives*

**MAZEL TOV TO**

**Barbara and Harvey Fishman** on the birth of their granddaughter, **June Eleanor Fishman**, born November 8, 2011. Parents are **Peter & Dana Fishman**.

The **Rimerman family** on the arrival of their twin grandchildren, **Nicole and Jacob Schofield**, in January 2010. Parents are **Traci & Joe Schofield**.

**Susanne and Ronald Fein** on the engagement of their son, **Michael Fein to Nicole Refson**.

**Michael Nierenberg** honored at the UJA Wall Street Dinner on December 15th.

If you'd like to share your joyous occasions or momentous accomplishments, please submit them to Becky Schamis at rvschamis@mac.com.

**In Times of Bereavement**

Our clergy are always available to assist you at your time of loss. At whatever time of day or night, when a death occurs, please call The Community Synagogue (883-3144). If someone is not immediately available, a message will direct you to one of our Rabbis or to our Cantor. If you would like us to officiate at the funeral of your loved one, please have the funeral home ensure our availability at the time you desire before finalizing arrangements. For additional support, counsel or questions, you may always contact any of the clergy.



# למה?\*

UJA continued from page 5

Melissa and Julia Hames  
Shelley, Dayna and Nathan Hausspiegel  
Jenna Hecht  
Susan, Hannah, Elena and Jacob Israel  
Stacey, Michael and Nina Jawitz  
Lynne, Zachary and Nicole Jimenez  
Renee and Alexis Karmel  
Deena and Dani Katz  
Mary Alice and Ian Kohs  
Hayley and Sammy Korn  
Barb, Ben and Anabelle Landau  
Julie, Samantha and Rebecca Lauren  
Lori, Dylan and Elayna Lebedin  
Janet and Maximo Lipman  
Carrie and Brian Lippin  
Beth and Bailey Lipset and Tyler Greenberg  
Lisa, Sophie and Mia Lipstein  
Juliane and Jamie Littman  
Chloe and Ethan Magun  
Wendy, Jonathan and Samantha Mizrahi  
Ethan and Chase Mundell  
Debbie and Josh Oxenhorn  
Lynn and Natasha Pelossof  
Marsha Phillips and Jenna Lipman  
Nancy and Emily Pok and Milan Sari  
Sandra Posner  
Michelle and Jonathan Roberts  
Rebecca and Sierra Robinson  
Amy, Amanda and Emma Rosenberg, Anna Fox,  
Noah Sherman and Casey Lynfield  
Lori, Matthew, Stephanie and Jared Rothberg  
Pam and Olivia Rothman  
Stacey, Adam, Julia and Aerin Satovsky  
Shanti, Leah and Ashton Sax  
Melissa Schildhouse-Welsh,  
Lily and Max Welsh  
Judy, Max and Jake Schwartz  
Debbie, Sarah, Andrew and Emily Shlafmitz  
Laura and Chelsea Siegal  
Mara, Talia, Lili and Ava Silverstein  
Irene, Alex, Emilia and Victoria Sinconegui  
Molly and Nate Solomon  
Marlo, Sydney and Dylan Spilko  
Meredith and Evan Steigman  
Talya and Danielle Tawfik  
Elise and Julia Tucker  
Bob, Scott and Rachel Weitzner  
Sheryl Zimmer and Brian Schor

**Question:** Why do we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* (The 15th of *Tu B'Shevat*)?

**Answer:** On January 20, 2011 we will celebrate *Tu B'Shevat*, the 15th day of the month of *Shevat*. It's interesting to think of why we celebrate a day whose origins were as a day to determine how much tithe you would owe. In today's terms it would kind of be like celebrating April 15th, a day which is not your typical festive occasion. Originally, the 15th day of the month of *Shevat* was the dividing line to determine when a tithe of the fruit of a tree was due. If the tree fruited before the 15th, then a tithe of the fruit was due that year. If the tree fruited after the 15th then a tithe of the fruit was due the following year. So how did a tax day become a minor festive holiday?

In the year 70 CE when the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, the system of tithes was also destroyed. The first modification to the observance of *Tu B'Shevat* was to make it a time of the year when Jews in Exile from the Land of Israel would eat from the seven species of grain and fruit biblically associated with the Land of Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs pomegranates, olives, and dates. This tradition kept alive the Jewish attachment to the physical land in Israel.

In the Sixteenth Century, the Kabbalists reinterpreted *Tu B'Shevat* as a holiday of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) and expiation for the first sin of eating from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Through eating fruit and nuts and drinking four cups of wine while reading biblical passages during a *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, the belief was that the Tree of Life, the divine source of blessing and goodness, would be strengthened.

In the Twentieth Century, modern Zionists appropriated *Tu B'Shevat* as a day to celebrate the building up of the State of Israel, especially by planting trees through donations to the Jewish National Fund. *Tu B'Shevat* took on the qualities of a Jewish Arbor Day.

In the late Twentieth Century, Jews, especially here in America, have associated *Tu B'Shevat* with the modern environmental movement.

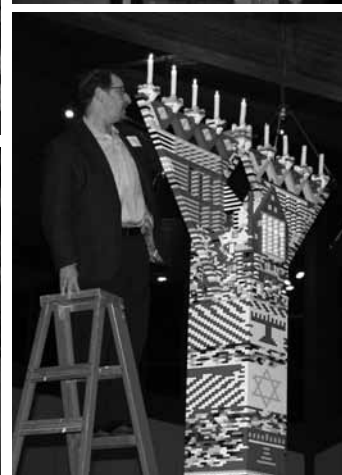
To learn more about *Tu B'Shevat*, see *The Jewish Holidays* by Michael Strassfeld.

— Rabbi Ben Sternman

\**Lama*, the Hebrew word for "why."

## Hanukkah Lego Event a Success!

Nearly 200 congregants came together on Wednesday, December 8th, the last night of *Hanukkah*, to help build a 13-foot menorah made entirely of Lego bricks. Children and their parents and grandparents worked together for two hours to assemble layers that were then stacked to form the giant *Hanukkah* menorah. Rabbi Z. led the children in songs as the layers were put together. At the end, Rabbi Z. lit the candles and everyone joined in for the *Hanukkah* blessings. It was an incredible experience for everyone who participated, especially for all the young and young at heart Lego fans in our community. This event was sponsored by the Sisterhood and was led by architect Stephen Schwartz of Building Blocks Workshops.





Norma & Leonard Ziegel

**From**

Cynthia & Michael Rubinberg

**TIKKUN HABAYIT/SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT FUND**

**From**

Georgia & Ben DeYoung

Barbara & Harvey Fishman

Dorette & Peter Forman

Bea & Larry Helft

Sylvie & David Heyman

Denise & Stephen, Dara & David Silverstein

**From**

Eileen & Stan Ronell

Elaine & Larry Rothenberg

**From**

Mildred & Herb Altman

Charlotte & David Cohen

Georgia & Ben DeYoung

Minnie Ziegel (Yahrzeit)

**Get well to**

Milly Altman

**In honor of**

Iris & Ira Rimerman on the arrival of their twin grandchildren, Nicole and Jacob Schofield; Ellen Savran & the Yahrzeit of Les Savran

Janice & Steven Friedman on the marriage of their daughter, Rebekah Friedman to Matt Gagne  
Jacob & Taylor Eisenberg for their wonderful performances in "Curtains"

Michael Nirenberg receiving UJA-Federation's Wall Street Young Leadership Award

Jane & Michael Broido on the birth of their first grandson, Ryan Harrison Rubel

Iris & Ira Rimerman on the arrival of their twin grandchildren, Nicole and Jacob Schofield

**In appreciation of**

Ellen Savran & the Yahrzeit of Les Savran

Georgia & Ben DeYoung for their gracious hospitality

**In memory of**

Dr. Robert Altman, cousin of Herb Altman; Julius Altman (Yahrzeit)

Shirley Axelrod; Leonard Weintraub

Patricia Forman; Ruth Miller; Shirley Axelrod; Allen B. Katz (Yahrzeit)

Jill & Mark Eisenberg

Dorette & Peter Forman

Ellen & Richard Fox

Randee Glass & Marc Schneider

Sylvie & David Heyman

Karen & Steven Seltzer

Bea & Larry Helft

Sylvie & Dave Heyman

Judy & Mitch Maiman

Karyn & Steven Miller

Connee & Barton Sadowsky

Debbie & Howard Schiff

Stefanie Shulman-Calem & Mark Calem

Denise, Stephen, Dara & David Silverstein

**From**

Gloria & Miles Glantz

Sylvie & Dave Heyman

Cynthia & Michael Rubinberg

**TZEDAKAH/SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

**From**

Deena & Erik Katz

Patricia Forman; Ruth Miller, Wally Green, father of Eve Koopersmith

Ruth Miller

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman; Wally Green

Shirley Axelrod

Shirley Axelrod

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman

Patricia Forman; Wally Green

Edward Ponger, brother-in-law of Edward Wenger; Eileen Ponger, niece of Edward Wenger; Fred Axelrod; Wally Green

Shirley Axelrod; Patricia Forman

**Get well to**

Aaron Morgan

Rita Eisenberg, mother of Mark Eisenberg

Stan Merjan

**In honor of**

Ari Kramer becoming Bar Mitzvah

**OUR HAVURAT NOAR STUDENTS TOOK ON WASHINGTON, DC!**

Shari Isserles, Director of Education



As part of our *Havurat Noar*, Hebrew High School, we run various trips to enhance the learning that we provide in the building. Whether it is taking students away to Camp Eisner for a weekend retreat or heading down south to learn about the Civil Rights

Movement, we are always looking for ways to give our students hands on opportunities and make the learning experiential. One of the most wonderful programs that we take part in with our students is the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar, which is run by the Reform Movement's lobby group, the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism (RAC). Through this program, our students join together



with 250 Jewish teens from across the country to learn about social justice issues and the Jewish standpoint on these topics. After spending a weekend learning about topics such as Health Care Reform, Campaign Finance Reform, School Prayer and more, our

students actually get the chance to go to Capitol Hill and make lobby visits to our New York congressmen. This past December, Rabbi Z and I accompanied 11 of our teens for what turned out to be an amazing weekend. If you have younger students, I hope that they, too, will one day join us for this trip. Enjoy some pictures of our group in DC!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>Dec. 31</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>1</b> NO 7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE TORAH STUDY
					6:30pm Early Shabbat Service	9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Havurah Service
<b>2</b> RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
	7:30pm Brotherhood Exec. Mtg 8:15pm Brotherhood Board Mtg	7:00pm Adult Ed: Parenting Teens 8:10pm Choir Rehearsal		7:30pm Adult Ed: Hebrew Crash Course w/ Rabbi Sternman	8:00pm Shabbat Evening Service	9:00am Torah Study 9:00am 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Havurah Service 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service B'nai Mitzvah: David Baltimore and Daniel Feldman
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
9:00am Mother's Circle with Cantor Franco 9:00am PJ Story Time	8:00pm Social Action Committee Meeting	<b>ECC OPENS AT 10:00AM</b> 8:00am ECC Staff Meeting 7:00pm Adult Ed: Parenting Teens 8:00pm POWTY Meeting 8:10pm Choir Rehearsal		9:00am Adult Ed: Bring Holidays Home w/ Shari Isserles 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Meeting 7:30pm Adult Ed: Hebrew Crash Course w/ Rabbi Sternman 7:30pm Adult Ed: How Should I Know w/ Cantor Franco	6:30pm Second Shabbes Family Service	<b>NO 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TORAH STUDY</b> 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Havurah Service 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Spier
<b>16</b> RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED BUILDING CLOSED	<b>17</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY ECC CLOSED BUILDING CLOSED	<b>18</b> NO HAVURAT NOAR	<b>19</b> EREV TU B'SHEVAT	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
		7:00pm Adult Ed: Parenting Teens 8:10pm Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Sisterhood Mah Jong Mavens	<b>TU B'SHEVAT</b> 7:30 Adult Ed: How Should I Know w/ Cantor Franco	8:00pm Shabbat Evening Service	9:00am Torah Study 9:00am 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Havurah Service 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service B'nai Mitzvah: Chelsea Siegal and Alexander Grossman 6:00pm Social Action Community Dinner (St. Stephen's)
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
10:00am New Member Bunch w/ Rabbi Z. 1:00pm Grade 4 Wedding 8:00pm Adult Ed: Living Room Study (Offsite)	10:00am Adult Ed: Adult BeitBar Mitzvah with Rabbi Sternman 12:00pm Adult Ed: Lunch & Learn - Spiritual Parenting	<b>NO HAVURAT NOAR</b> 7:00pm Adult Ed: Parenting Teens 7:30pm Temple Exec. Comm. Mtg. 8:00pm Junior POWTY Meeting	9:15am ECC Parent Committee Mtg	7:30pm Adult Ed: Hebrew Crash Course w/ Rabbi Sternman 7:30pm Adult Ed: How Should I Know w/ Cantor Franco	8:00pm Shabbat Evening Service	9:00am Torah Study 9:00am 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Havurah Service 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service B'nai Mitzvah: Rachel Sanders and Samantha Segal
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					
9:00am Adult Ed: Torah and the Headlines 11:00am Grade 5 FACEFLAME 1:30pm Social Action: Darfur Awareness Film (PWPL) 4:30pm New Member Spaghetti Dinner	10:00am Adult Ed: Adult BeitBar Mitzvah with Rabbi Sternman 7:30pm Temple Board Meeting					

All dates are subject to change. Call Temple Office to verify dates for specific events or check our website ([www.commsyn.org](http://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.



THE  
**COMMUNITY  
SYNAGOGUE**

160 Middle Neck Rd.  
Port Washington, NY 11050

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# Family Fun Day

## 5th ANNUAL ECC FUNDRAISER

A great day of fun, raffle prizes, shopping and live music!

Featuring the Award Winning

**Bari Koral** *family rock band*

"Sheryl Crow for kids" - *THE NY POST*

**Sunday, February 13, 2011**

**11:30am - 1pm**

**The Community Synagogue Congregational Hall**

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door (Children under 1 are free)

For questions, tickets, CD orders, sponsorship opportunities,  
or raffle donations, please contact Chairperson,  
Cynthia Litman at [Cynthia@Kugel.net](mailto:Cynthia@Kugel.net)

