



## From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz



### Efshar—How Children of Special Needs Teach Us Torah's Greatest Lesson

them from the opportunity to connect to a synagogue and/or Jewish education in a formal way. Called *Efshar*, meaning “possibility,” this class gives

We recently began a class for young people with special needs, whose cognitive, physical or social abilities have kept

those too often on the fringe of Jewish life a chance to know they are valued, wanted and important. Whatever we give to these students, I suspect that we as a community will gain much more. *Efshar* teaches that our reach should be broad and that we ought to eagerly embrace all who seek a connection to Jewish life. It is a worthy expression of the Jewish teaching that every person is honored and loved for who they are – and

simply that they exist. In fact, a claim can be made that this is the most important teaching in the *Torah*.

Rabbi Akiva once argued that all the commandments of the *Torah* could be distilled into the admonition to “love your neighbor as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18). Ben Azzai, however, disagreed. He taught that the most important verse is “When God created humanity, God made that being in the Divine

image.” (Genesis 5:1) Why? This, he explained, is so that no one should say because I have no self-worth (literally, “been dishonored”), I can regard others unworthy.

The debate between Akiva and Ben Azzai is not just philosophical. It goes to the very foundation of what we are about as a Jewish community and the nature of Jewish faith. Akiva

*Rabbi continued on page 10*



## Hanukkah Service



*With  
Communal  
Candle  
Lighting*



*Friday,  
December 23  
6:30 pm*



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*Fiilat* • תפילות (Worship Services)

**SHABBAT VAYETZE • ויצא**

**Friday, December 2**

Congregational Dinner . . . . . 6:30 pm  
 Erev Shabbat . . . . . 8:00 pm

Guest speaker: Rabbi David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (in honor of our 'Etz Chaim' - 60th Anniversary)

**Saturday, December 3** (*Genesis 28:10-32:3; Haftarah-Hosea 12:13-14:10*)

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

**B'nai Mitzvah: Jenna Hecht & Zachary Hersh**

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

**SHABBAT VAYISHLACH • וישלח**

**Friday, December 9**

"Second Shabbat"-Family Services . . . . . 6:30 pm

Join our early services with lots of music, spirit and energy, with the participation of our 5th Grade students!

**Saturday, December 10** (*Genesis 32:4-36:43; Haftarah-Hosea 11:7-12:12*)

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

**Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Weitzner**

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

**SHABBAT VAYESHEV • וישב**

**Friday, December 16**

Erev Shabbat . . . . . 8:00 pm

Rabbi Burkeman - New Year, New Opportunities

**Saturday, December 17** (*Genesis 37:1-40:23; Haftarah-Amos 2:6-3:8*)

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

**Bat Mitzvah: Madelyn Reiter**

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

**SHABBAT MIKETZ~HANUKKAH • מקץ~חנוכה**

**Friday, December 23**

Erev Shabbat . . . . . 6:30 pm

Worship for the young and young at heart with lots of music, spirit and energy! Come experience and join in our popular communal Hanukkah candle lighting

**Saturday, December 24** (*Genesis 41:1-44:1; Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7*)

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

**SHABBAT VAYIGASH • ויגש**

**Friday, December 30**

Erev Shabbat (Beit T'filah - Old Sanctuary) . . . . . 6:30 pm

Early Shabbat services

**Saturday, December 31** (*Genesis 44:18-47:27; Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28*)

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



## What Is A Disability?



I read three newspapers every day. Usually, all I focus on are articles having to do with politics, the international scene, the stock market and sports. However, a few weeks ago I read two articles that were so uplifting that I feel compelled to share them with you. The first

article was an obituary for Theresa Brinsley of Long Beach who died at the age of 55. Theresa spent the last fifteen years of her life in a nursing facility, paralyzed from the neck down, but still able to use the twitch of an eyebrow muscle hooked to an electronic device to write a book, letters and blog posts about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the disease that crippled her and eventually took her life. The book she wrote, *Living with ALS*, was written letter by letter using the eyebrow twitch. In her first blog post she said "I believe that this disease has changed me for the better. I have a greater appreciation for life now and I don't take anything for granted anymore."

The second article was about Nicholas Masi III, the paraplegic skipper of a pleasure boat in Biddleford, Maine. Despite being paralyzed, Nicholas was credited with taking actions that saved the lives of four

of his friends and fellow passengers when their boat rolled over in rough seas. Barking instructions on what the passengers should do while sending out a mayday signal surely helped them survive in the cold water.

Both articles taught me two important lessons. First, having a disability can sometimes be as enabling as it is disabling. Second, the spirit is so much stronger than the body. With a positive perspective on life, we are able to find joy and meaning in even the most difficult circumstances. While these are moving stories, one might ask what they are doing in a temple bulletin. What does this have to do with Judaism? Some years ago, when I was wrestling with some challenges of my own, a friend gave me a copy of Rabbi Harold Kushner's book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. This amazing book reminded me that God doesn't make bad things happen. Rather, he gives us the strength to deal with difficulties when they occur. Theresa and Nicholas serve as powerful reminders of this important lesson. They both found a way to make a positive difference in the world despite what many of us might think to be an insurmountable barrier.

Happy *Hanukkah* to all,

Larry

## "Traveling Mitzvah Bear": It came, it visited, it left, and it will return!

Shelley Roff, ECC Director



Twelve adorable bears departed from the Union for Reform Judaism's (URJ) New York offices on Wednesday, September 28th to launch a new

program, "Traveling Mitzvah Bears." They began a journey to over 100 early childhood centers in Reform congregations located throughout the United States and Canada, helping young children learn about the importance of doing *mitzvot* and the Jewish value of *hachnasat orchim*—hospitality and welcoming guests.

Each of the bears—Bernie, Benny, Goldie, Hannah, Herbie, Izzy, Lily, Moishe, Rose, Sadie, Saul and Sylvia—will travel this 2011-2012 school year to six or seven early childhood centers in the Northern Hemisphere, accompanied by a journal in which each school can record the bears travels and experiences at that school, and also with the book *Bim and Bam*, which was donated by the PJ Library organization.

The timing of this new project could not be any better with our Early Childhood Center's curriculum focusing on *mitzvot* this year. The children at our ECC eagerly awaited the arrival of "Traveling Mitzvah Bear." They warmly welcomed Hannah to our school from November 1 through November 21 who spent some time in each of our nine classrooms. Hannah was given a tour of each of the classrooms by its hosts and shared story time, snack, rest time,

*ECC continued on page 12*



## Oneig Shabbat

**DECEMBER 2** Congregational 60th Anniversary dinner. Robert & Elisa Hecht and family & friends of Jenna on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. Randi Hersh & Adam Hersh and family & friends of Zachary on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*.

**DECEMBER 9** Robert & Jane Weitzner and family & friends of Rachel on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

**DECEMBER 17** Robert & Cari Reiter and family & friends of Madelyn on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

**DECEMBER 23 & 30** Sponsored by the congregation

## Attention All Mah Jongg Lovers!



The Mavens welcome you to join us on Tuesday, December 13th at The Community Synagogue at 7:30 PM for an evening of tiles and fun ( and noshes of course!). All players are welcome. Please RSVP to Jo Beth Roberts at jbnr@aol.com or 767-8770. The event is free for Sisterhood members, \$5 for synagogue members, and \$10 for non-synagogue members. Please bring your cards and sets. See you all then!

## Brotherhood <sup>IN THE</sup> HOOD

### Sports Brunch

A great time was had by all. Parents and children enjoyed the entertaining interview of the Lacrosse Pros followed by an engaging Q&A session. Then it was time to play and learn. Following the previous night's storm, we lucked out and crisp weather greeted the children as they participated in the clinic that took place in our parking lot.

After an invigorating workout, all came indoors again to warm up with a pizza lunch.



December's highlight of the month is *Hanukkah* and all of our wonderful activities to celebrate this holiday.

Sisterhood is sponsoring our annual Family *Hanukkah* Party with dinner at 5PM on Wednesday, December 21st. Everyone will have a wonderful time celebrating with friends and family.

Come to the Judaica Shop *Hanukkah* Boutique on Sunday, December 4th and 11th from 9 am to 1 pm to see our varied selection of menorahs, decorations, gifts and more.

Please support Sisterhood's annual toy drive and remember children in hospitals this holiday season by bringing new unwrapped gifts to the bins in the lobby.

Some of our Board members will be attending the WRJ/URJ Biennial Assembly in the Washington, DC area on December 14-18. We'll return with new ideas for an even better Sisterhood for The Community Synagogue!

Many, many thanks to Stephen DeAngelis, Robyn Beebe, Jodi Okun-Alfano, Bari Ziegel, Robin Ziegelbaum and everyone else who helped make Broadway Spotlight such a huge success. It was an amazing evening!

*Helen Berkun and Diane Heiman*



## Come To Chaverim Hanukkah Party!

*Hanukkah* is not just for children! Join CHAVERIM on Thursday, December 15, at 11 AM to learn the history of the Festival of Lights, share your family's *Hanukkah* traditions, learn the music and dances of the holiday, enjoy homemade latkes—and have fun. Bring your *dreidel* collection, if you'd like to share it, or just look at the interesting *dreidels* that others will display. Call Mira Barufka for details: 621-0867.

## Learn Yiddish

Everyone is welcome to CHAVERIM's weekly Yiddish classes on Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 AM. The course will cover Yiddish literature and humor and will emphasize conversational Yiddish, using transliteration, not the Hebrew alphabet. The class, open to all, young and not-so young, is taught by Cecile Upadhyay, PhD in Comparative Literature, who is a fluent Yiddish speaker. Dr. Upadhyay's mother is a published Yiddish poet; her father was on Yiddish radio and wrote for the *Yiddish Forward*. The course is free for Chaverim members; a \$10 registration fee will be charged to non-members and a materials fee will be collected from all participants. For additional information, contact Evie Schonbrun, 767-0599 or [evieschonbrun@gmail.com](mailto:evieschonbrun@gmail.com).

## Tenement Museum Lower East Side Tour

The Chaverim trip to the Lower East Side was a wonderful adventure and a chance to renew friendships and make new ones. Even with terrible weather and a late start due to a lost bus, it was a delightful experience. Kudos to Janet de Winter who organized the entire day.

At the Tenement Museum, we were divided into small groups in order to fit into the tiny apartments at 97 Orchard Street. Many of our parents and/or grandparents lived in just such buildings. But there is nothing like actually seeing a three room apartment (total size no larger than a bedroom in many of our homes today) with no electricity, running water or indoor plumbing in which a family of 7 lived and, in many instances, worked at making clothing to sell to the garment factories.



We had lunch at the famed Katz's Deli, corner of Houston and Ludlow Streets, serving traditional Jewish deli since 1888. The restaurant was filled to capacity, even at 2 PM, with tourists from all over the world. Rabbi Burkeman even bumped into a woman he knows from London! The waiters call everyone "darling" as they serve copious amounts of soup, sandwiches, pickles, more pickles,

blintzes and, oh yes, giant black and white or chocolate chip cookies.

Our day concluded with a guided tour of the Eldridge Street Synagogue, which has had services continuously since it opened in 1887. The main sanctuary was not used for most of the past century because the congregation diminished and it fell into terrible disrepair. Fortunately, it became a National Historic Landmark and has been beautifully restored to its original grandeur with much of the stained glass and wood saved, including an exquisite Ark.

## Save the Date: Movie Night

Start the new year with an enjoyable movie evening, sponsored by Chaverim.

On Thursday, January 5, at 7:30 PM, come see "The Band's Visit" and partake of dessert and coffee.

## Chaverim Dues Are Due—Don't Be Left Out!

Chaverim dues (\$18 per person; \$36 per couple) are due now for the 2011-12 year. Some Chaverim events are free only to paid-up members; additionally dues pay the expenses of activities. Your check, payable to The Community Synagogue, should be mailed or dropped off at the synagogue, marked to the attention of Les Schonbrun, Chaverim Treasurer.

## Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga is every Friday, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. For one hour, focus on YOU. Forget your aches and pains and anything troubling you and allow Beth Mohr (synagogue member and certified yoga instructor) to lead you in breathing and gentle stretching.

The \$50 fee (for 6 sessions) is payable to The Community Synagogue. Call Joyce Rudnick, 883-8314, or email her at [joycerudnick@gmail.com](mailto:joycerudnick@gmail.com)

## Tai Chi With Chaverim

Once considered a martial art, today Tai Chi is recognized as a form of alternative medicine that may alleviate arthritis and osteoporosis. It helps achieve balance, calmness and flexibility.

Tai Chi, led by David Chin, who has been teaching Tai Chi, King Fu and karate for more than 25 years, will meet on Wednesday mornings. For additional information, call Sylvie Heyman at 510-4986 or email her at [heydrsylvie@aol.com](mailto:heydrsylvie@aol.com). The fee is \$60 for five classes, checks payable to The Community Synagogue.





## M'Dor La Dor - "From Generation to Generation" 60th Anniversary Torah Project FAQs

### Why are we writing a new Torah scroll?

It is a *mitzvah* (religious obligation) to write a *Torah*, and just helping a scribe (סופר ריקבד) is a means of fulfilling this *mitzvah*. Just as the *Torah* is actually composed of individual sheets of parchment stitched together, so with the writing of this scroll will we link our generation with those who founded our synagogue 60 years ago and with those in the future. Our new *Torah* scroll will be physically lighter than any of our current scrolls (many of which are unusually heavy because they are written on thicker parchment). This scroll will be easier for many to carry – allowing those of every age and ability to more easily handle the scroll.

### Who is writing it and where is it being written?

We have contracted with a סופר *sofer* in Israel who is actually scribing our *Torah* scroll.

### Who/what is \Sofer on Site?

Sofer On Site is the name of a family of סופרים *soferim* (scribes) who have coordinated the writing of many new *Torah* scrolls for congregations across North America (see [www.sofersonsite.com](http://www.sofersonsite.com)). Our connection to these סופרים *soferim* began when the most experienced *sofer*, Rabbi Gadaliah Druin, came to our synagogue several times to care for our "Holocaust *Torah*".

Sofer On Site was chosen because of their experience and expertise, as well as their commitment to the writing of the *Torah* as an educational opportunity for everyone in the community. They are working closely with us to create a number of meaningful events. Rabbi Moshe Druin (or one of the other סופרים *soferim* from Sofer On Site) will be with us for five separate visits in the coming year.

### When will the Sofer (Scribe) be at The Community Synagogue?

One of the סופרים *soferim* from Sofer On Site was with us for our beautiful Opening Ceremony on November 6, and they will again be joining us during three sessions when you and/or your family can learn about and participate in the *Torah* writing, as well as during our Closing Ceremony and Dedication when our new Scroll is completed. We have scheduled times to allow those of every age –from our Early Childhood Center and Religious School students, to those in Chaverim (our seniors group) – to have time to learn and participate. The three sessions when you and your family will have an opportunity to fill in a letter of *Torah* with the *Sofer* are:

December 21-22 (coinciding with the beginning of *Hanukkah* and our Sisterhood *Hanukkah* dinner)

February 6 -7 (at the same time as our Brotherhood Blood Drive and the week of Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees), and

April 29 -30 (coinciding with our community-wide Mitzvah Day)

After you make a donation, someone from the *Torah* Project committee will contact you to set up a time during one of these scribing sessions.

### How can I and/or my family support this project?

There are donor opportunities to support our 60th Anniversary *Torah* at every financial level. Options for donations range from dedicating the entire *Torah* to dedicating a single letter. When, in Biblical days, our people were asked to build a place to worship God, each was asked to bring as their "heart so moved them." Each and every gift mattered, just as every single letter and portion in the *Torah* is important. We hope you will be as generous as possible, and every gift will be cherished. Specific information

about donor opportunities can be received from the synagogue office.

### Will I be able to write part of the new Torah scroll?

Those who make a donation and dedication to this project will have an opportunity to fill in a single letter with a סופר *sofer* at one of the scribing sessions. Each family will be able to join as one, holding the arm of the סופר *sofer* as he writes in the *Torah* as your "agent" in fulfilling this *mitzvah*. Whether a family has dedicated the whole *Torah*, a Book of *Torah*, a Verse of *Torah* or just a single letter of *Torah*, they will have the same experience of filling in a single letter of our most sacred text.

### What will happen when I (or we) help a letter be filled in?

The letter that you (or you and your family) fill in will depend upon the scribing session you choose to be scheduled for, and will not be connected to your particular dedication or donation. Many say that the letter of *Torah* "chooses" those who write it. When you come you will be moved by finding the connection you have to what at first may seem like a random choice of a letter.

At the scribing session your family will have an opportunity to learn about the process and the ritual of writing a *Torah*. Our סופר *sofer* will spend time with each family discussing and teaching about the letter they are about to fill in, how it connects to their lives, as well as the meaning of the dedication they may have made to the *Torah* project.

### When will our new Torah be finished?

It is expected that this project will take about one year to complete and we are hopeful to have a dedication celebration sometime around Simchat *Torah* next year (early October 2012).



## Tzedakah Collection for Our 60th Anniversary

As part of our continued celebration of Community Synagogue’s 60th Anniversary, the *tzedakah* we collect over the next several months will be donated to a worthy cause. Historically, the seventh graders in our Religious School have selected an organization to which to donate the *tzedakah* gathered throughout the school year. This year, those students will again select the recipient, with a special effort to honor a cause that reflects this milestone in our history.

For your convenience, we have placed a new lucite *tzedakah* box with our 60th Anniversary logo in the lobby of the Synagogue. Please keep filling up our colorful cardboard *tzedakah* box designed with Jewish stars that was sent home to you and bring in its contents whenever you are at the synagogue. Place the contents in the new lucite box in the lobby and watch the *tzedakah* box fill up!

If you have lost or misplaced your *tzedakah* box, feel free to stop by the synagogue office to pick up a replacement.

## Etz Chaim 60th Anniversary Kick-Off Festivities

The November 6th *Etz Chaim* kick-off festivities were a great success! Thank yous are in order to...

- Aaron Morgan, Daniel Kohs and Ann Axelrod for the informative PowerPoint presentation on *Tikkun Habayit* – Restoring the House, outlining the plans for our beautiful and needed sanctuary upgrades

*Etz Chaim Thank You continued on page 8*

### Where will our new Torah be kept? Who will use it?

The new *Torah* is “ours” ... though it is a gift we give for generations to come. The *Torah* will be in the Main Sanctuary. In the years to come, our congregation will be able hear the words of the *Torah* chanted from the scroll that they helped create. In addition, as our children become *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*, we hope they will be inspired by knowing that the *Torah* they helped write will be the one they chant from when they are called to the *Torah* for the first time.

For more information, please be in touch with us:

*Yvette Bergman*  
*Nina Bernstein*  
*Charlotte Cohen*  
*Mark Eisenberg*

*Etz Chaim Torah Project Co-chairs*

*Connect,*  
*Inscribe,*  
*Rejoice*

## Donor Opportunities

*“The Eternal spoke to Moses, saying: Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is so moved.” EXODUS 25:2*

Please give the most you can, letting your heart be your guide—in a way that you (and your family) feel good about—and we thank you in advance for your generosity. Opportunities for giving represent a wide range, and your gift of whatever amount is important in helping us reach our goal.

DONOR	GIVING LEVEL	DESIGNATION	ITEMS
David & Sylvie Heyman	Contributor	<i>Etz Chaim</i>	
Kabbalat Torah Class of 5771	Subscriber	<i>Torah</i>	1st of the Ten Commandments
Debbie & Howard Schiff	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	11 Letters
Karen & Steven Seltzer	Subscriber	Sanctuary	
Shlafmitz Family	Sponsor	<i>Torah</i>	3 <i>Torah</i> Portions

Benefactor . . . . .	\$250,000 & above
Patron . . . . .	\$100,000 to \$249,999
Provider . . . . .	\$50,000 to \$99,999
Funder . . . . .	\$25,000 to \$49,999
Sponsor . . . . .	\$5,000 to \$24,999
Subscriber . . . . .	\$1,000 to \$4,999
Contributor . . . . .	Up to \$1,000

All donations of \$5,000 or greater will be acknowledged on a permanent plaque displayed in the Synagogue.

Thank You continued from page 7

- Dorette Forman for chairing the absolutely delicious kick-off brunch, catered with the help of Debbie Daniels of Bagel Boss
- Rabbi Z and Cantor Franco for the beautiful dedication ceremony for "Joyce's Terrace," our new patio area donated by Jack Mandel in honor of the memory and spirit of his wife Joyce. Special thanks to Peter Gudz of Long Island Landscape Designs, for his exceptional help in designing and installing the patio in record time.
- Keith Baltimore and Wendy DeAngelis for chairing the moving Opening Ceremonies for M'Dor LaDor – Our *Torah* Journey, the first of many events in our congregational *Torah* Writing Project.

UJA-Federation of New York's

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On Yom Kippur, several congregants were asked to reflect on the God they believe in. Selections from two of those reflections are below:

### Maggie Hand

Belief in God has given me a sense of understanding who I am. It helps me be me. As Hillel, a sage I identified with almost from the very beginning of my own personal journey, so aptly put it, "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" ... God has given me a foundation around which to enjoy my life. It is like the comfort of a quilt blanket on a cold, stormy night. I just feel good all over- warm and comfy ...

What difference does God make in my life? How do I describe a feeling of belonging, a feeling of peace, a feeling of tranquility, a feeling of being important? God has made a difference, a big difference in my life ...

I'm a worrier and many times in my life I've said to myself, if such and such happens, I'll never be able to handle it ... I'm sure God assisted me because He has given each of us the capability to achieve. We are taught to embrace God in our own way, each of us having a personal relation with God. We are not directed in how to love God. We are taught that God is there to love if we choose to love God.

The other meaningful observation I've made-We are taught to question. And when provided with an answer, to question that answer. The *Torah*, the *Talmud* and the *Mishnah* are replete with debate. To debate, to question, to understand I believe brings us closer to God. God lets us, God commands, God demands us to form our own destiny and when we believe we have formed a pathway to fulfill our destiny, to question that very road and work to making that road less hilly and less bumpy, and then to question that very path because it is less hilly and bumpy.

### Loretta Molk

I have been blessed with many instances of what I call "God consciousness" or "God moments."

When I was 19 my mother died suddenly of a pulmonary embolism. She was 45 years old. At the same time my father was in the hospital having suffered his fourth heart attack. The doctors had given up hope of his ever recovering. My father did recover and lived 20 more years. This was a sad and difficult time for my brother and me. I did not yet have any "God conscious" moments, but I did learn that life was precious and that each day was a gift and should be lived accordingly ...

The birth of our son was a major "God moment" for me. I was filled with gratitude and marveled at the perfection of this little person. God had certainly blessed us. 14 months later our second child, a little girl died during childbirth. I nearly died too. In spite of the terrible sadness I felt at the time, I felt lucky to be alive, to be able to have more children, and to be able to come home to our son. I remember saying aloud "God must think I'm very strong to be able deal with this loss and that of my mother eight years earlier" ... In the years ahead there were many occasions to celebrate and be grateful. There were also times of great sadness ...

In 2005, at the end of the *Yom Kippur* morning service, Rabbi Zeplovitz left the Ark open so that anyone who wanted to could stand in front of the open Ark. That moment of being so close to the *Torah* was a pivotal one for me. I felt that I was standing in God's holy place. My little girl vision of a man sitting on a throne in Heaven was changed forever. My God does not look like a man; nor is he far away and beyond my reach. I cried that day because the experience was so powerful.

If we are created in the divine image, then God exists in all of us. For me, spirituality is being able to tap into the divine spirit. How do I do this? It's taken me many years to realize that all I have to do is invite God into my heart. For me the invitation is made through prayer, but at first, I wasn't sure how to pray. What are the correct words? What if I use the wrong words? What is the right time to pray? The Nike commercial provided the answer. "JUST DO IT!" So I did it and still do. It has taken time, but I do feel comfortable praying, both in synagogue and on my own. It is through prayer that I relate to God in personal way ...

Belief in God has helped me to become a stronger, more confident and more content person.

On October 22nd, 2011 from 7-10 pm, more than 80 people came out to the Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center to *Tzedakah* Rocks, a night of music, charity, and fun. The event raised more than \$1,000 for five different charities, chosen by high school bands that played at this “battle of the bands” night for charity: Runnin on Empty played for Autism Speaks, Humantashin played for International Service Fund, The Lonely Road played for Make a Wish Foundation, The Real-to-Real played for Million Trees NYC, and Miles & Alexis played for The SASS Foundation.

Jenna Lipman (17) and Miles Kurtz (16), both students at Paul Schreiber Senior High School in Port Washington, NY, and Co-Presidents of The Community Synagogue’s Senior Youth Group POWTY (Port Washington Temple Youth), served on a planning committee for *Tzedakah* Rocks. Together with their youth advisor Lindsay Ganci, Coordinator of Youth & Informal Learning at The Community Synagogue; Ali Schulman, Youth Director at Temple Sinai of Roslyn; Becca Firestone, Director of Teen Services at The Sid Jacobson JCC; and 5 other fantastic teen volunteers from Temple Sinai and the JCC, Jenna and Miles’ hard work ensured the terrific success of the event. “*Tzedakah* Rocks was an opportunity for me, as well as the rest of the committee, to have a hands on role in giving back,” Said Jenna Lipman. “Each member of the committee had something unique and constructive to offer the event; this has taught me the importance of being involved at any level. Our combination of excited teens and devoted advisors was a combination to be beat.”

The goal of the event grew from a desire to offer people of all ages, and all religions, a safe, fun experience where we could do meaningful *tzedakah*, listen to great music, and achieve something great. *Tzedakah*, the Hebrew word literally meaning “righteousness, justice, or fairness,” has come to mean “charity” in English.

To achieve our goal of performing *tzedakah*, we asked five local high school bands to donate their musical talent to our cause, and they were more than happy to do it! “I have always been involved with music, and thought that I could be very helpful in planning the event,” said Miles Kurtz, band member and planning committee member for *Tzedakah* Rocks. “I was even able to directly donate to charities by playing in the performance as well. There is no reason to turn down an opportunity to play music and donate to various charities at the same time.”

Teens, children, and adults were invited to *Tzedakah* Rocks to enjoy live music, played by all five musical acts in our “Battle of the bands”, and together they helped to raise over \$200 for each of the charities the teens chose. Attendees paid a \$15 admission fee, all of which went directly to charity. T-shirts, raffle tickets, and other items were sold to raise even more money for the charities chosen by the teens. In the end, the event was a huge success, and a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the wonderful teens that served on the planning committee for *Tzedakah* Rocks!

## **The Community Synagogue extends a warm welcome to our new members:**

- Alex & Sheila Hay
- Seth Ader & Dawn Berkowitz-Ader
- Richard & Judith Rosenberg
- Robert & Marnie Cohen
- Leonard & Sandra Kassen
- Stephen & Sara Edelson
- Peter & Tricia Sanders
- James Gottlieb
- Linda Kulla
- John Gillespie
- Jon & Jodi Haas
- Andrew & Valerie Steinberg
- David & Kim Brodsky
- Jonathan Herman & Pamela Seiderman
- Jordan & Cori Finkelstein
- Craig & Katie Glantz
- Cory & Jennifer Sobel

## **Social Action**

**Do a Mitzvah, Help Others, Have Fun and Make a Difference at the Community Synagogue Sponsored**

### **Dinner/Dance For Residents of Port Washington**

We can use lots of helping hands!

**St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church  
9 Carlton Avenue, Port Washington  
Saturday, December 17, 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, across from the Port Washington Library. Supervised activities and dinner for children will be available in a separate room for residents who come with young children.

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

We also need volunteers to help with cooking for the dinner

**Synagogue Kitchen  
Tuesday, December 13, 2011  
6:45 PM**

To volunteer, contact Jessica Wigdor at [jhwigdor@gmail.com](mailto:jhwigdor@gmail.com) or 516-883-1979.

SAVE *the* DATE

May 5, 2012

THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

*60th Anniversary  
Gala*

Rabbi continued from page 1

claims that the key is to have compassion for our “neighbor.” But who is this “neighbor?” There is a thread in Jewish thought that restricts the understanding of the “neighbor” to just our fellow Jews. Some even go further, saying that our loving obligation only extends means to those Jews who are traditionally observant. Akiva is the voice of Jewish particularism, speaking to a responsibility we have primarily – and sometimes solely – to other Jews. This is a view that allows even the great philosopher of the medieval period, the Rambam, to teach that “do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor” does apply to “sinful” Jews or Gentiles. It is a view that I find morally incompatible with what it means to be a Jew, in general and, even more, with the openness of Reform Judaism.

In contrast to Rabbi Akiva, Ben Azzai argues for a more expansive Judaism, one that sees all human beings as equal. By stressing that the central teaching of *Torah* is to know we are made in God’s image, he teaches that there is an inherent dignity to every single human soul. The idea of a single human at the outset of creation is not a lesson in our actual origins, but a moral assertion that every human being is fundamentally equal. This is a profound assertion – and one that has the final word in the debate. We honor others not because of their status or station, their success or their influence. Each person has an inherent dignity simply because they exist.

Loving others is a beautiful sentiment, but Ben Azzai understands that there is a challenging flaw in the argument that we should love others as ourselves – for one who does not have a sense of self-love may not be able to love anyone else. More than this, each of us faces moments of failure, disappointment, illness, loss and the approbation of others. It is just at such times that we need to be reminded that we are worthy.

The students in *Efshar* teach us all that it is not what we do, not the success we have, not our popularity or achievements that give us dignity. It is being alive. I am glad that they will be here ... and happy that we have opened our hearts and doors to those who will remind us all of *Torah*’s greatest lesson.

## למה?\*

**Question:** Why is *Hanukkah* eight days long?

**Answer:** At first glance this may appear to be a rather strange question to ask. *Hanukkah* lasts for eight days because when the Maccabees rededicated the Temple they found a tiny jar of oil, which should have only lasted for one day, it miraculously lasted for eight days. We just need to look at our eight branched *Hanukkah* as a reminder of the miracle and the duration of the festival.

However, the ‘real’ answer is a little more complicated.

The major source for the story of *Hanukkah* is the Book of Maccabees. Although the book has no religious significance within Judaism, it is an important source of historical information. Without a Hebrew text, the book has primarily been preserved in Greek, as a part of the Septuagint, an ancient Greek translation of the Bible.

The Book of Maccabees tells the story of the Maccabean revolt against the Greeks during the second century BCE, and their subsequent rule of the Jewish Kingdom. During the final year of the revolt it was not possible to celebrate the festival of *Sukkot*, because the Jews were consumed by their war against the Greeks. When they finally reclaimed the Temple, they celebrated a belated *Sukkot* during the month of Kislev, when we now celebrate *Hanukkah*.

*Sukkot* lasts for seven days, with a final eighth day of *Shmini Atzeret*, and so this original celebration, which developed into *Hanukkah*, also lasted for eight days. According to the Book of Maccabees they even waved the *lulav* when originally celebrating this festival.

The story of the jar of oil appears significantly later in Jewish history, when it is recorded in the *Talmud*, which was written between the third and fifth centuries of the Common Era. This later story allowed the Rabbis to move the focus of *Hanukkah* away from a military revolution, and to instead transform it into a story about God’s miraculous power. This was a strategically sensible decision for a dispersed people, without a homeland, who had suffered greatly as a result of two failed revolutions in the first and second centuries of the Common Era.

So in answering our original question, *Hanukkah* is eight days long because of *Sukkot*.

— Rabbi Danny Burkeman

\**Lama*, the Hebrew word for “why.”

## Do Your Hanukkah Shopping at The Community Synagogue Judaica Shop

- Sundays, December 4th and 11th
- 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

We will have all of our *Hanukkah* merchandise on display. Stop by to see our full selection of menorahs, candles, *dreidels*, toys, books, music and more! We are also open by appointment. Call or email Bari Ziegel at 516-816-1082 or bziegel@aol.com.



**Lighting the Hanukkah**

What you need to know: Place one new candle in the *hanukkah* for each night of *Hanukkah*. Increasing one candle per night (plus the *shamash*). Olive oil may be used. Candles should be placed from right to left. Light the *shamash* first and use it to light from the left. Then say the blessings:

(on each night)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.  
*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam asher kidshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy by *mitzvot* and instructed us to light the *Hanukkah* candles.

(on each night)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.  
*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam she'asah nisim lavotaynu bayamim hahaym bazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors at this season in ancient days.

(on first night only)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיימנו לימן הזה.  
*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam she-he-cheyanu vekimanu vehigiyanu lazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us to reach this day.

Using the *shamash*, light the candles, one for each night, beginning with the current night first, from left or right. While some communities blow out the *shamash* each night and use it for the duration of the festival, most people let it burn down each night and use a new *shamash* for succeeding nights.

**Latkes**

A favorite *Hanukkah* food is latkes or potato pancakes. Originally, the pancakes were made of cheese. From the custom of eating cheese delicacies grew the custom of eating pancakes of all kinds. During the Middle Ages, Jews explained this custom by connecting it with the story of Judith which they linked with the story of *Hanukkah*. Judith, according to legend, was a daughter of the Hasmoneans. She fed cheese to the leader of the enemies of the Jews. He was made thirsty by the cheese and began to drink much wine. When he grew quite drunk she cut off his head. For this reason, it was said, Jews eat cheese delicacies on *Hanukkah*.

**Dreidel**

*Dreidel* is a derivative of a German word meaning “top” and the game is an adaptation of an old gambling game. *Hanukkah* was one of the few times of the year when rabbis permitted games of chance. The *dreidel*, therefore, was a natural candidate for *Hanukkah* entertainment.

The four sides of the top bear four Hebrew letters: *nun* (נ), *gimel* (ג), *hei* (ה) and *shin* (ש). Players would begin by “anteing” certain number of coins, nuts, or other objects. Each one in turn would then spin the *dreidel* and proceed as follows: *nun* (“nichts”) – take nothing; *gimel* (“ganz”) – take everything; *hei* (“halb”) – take half; *shin* (“shtell”) – put in.

**For more information on Hanukkah, including ways to:**

- Send packages to Jewish soldiers
- Support a Reform movement-wide program on making a difference in the environment
- Learn how to sing *Hanukkah* songs at home
- And more...

Go to: <http://urj.org/holidays/Hanukkah>

**The Community Synagogue and Brotherhood Present '92Y Live' Season 3**

**Making Our Democracy Work**

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer with Linda Greenhouse, moderator Sunday, December 11, 7:30 pm



Stephen Breyer, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, gives an insider's perspective on the court as an American

institution today and its shaping of our future. Breyer talks about what the court must do to maintain public confidence and interpret the Constitution in a way that works in practice, and discusses the relationship between the court and the president, Congress, administrative agencies and the states—along with the role each plays in our democracy.

**The Funniest American Writers**

Andy Borowitz, Alec Baldwin and Calvin Trillin

Wednesday, January 11, 8:00 pm



Award-winning comedian and *New Yorker* humorist Andy Borowitz presents an evening of literary laughter and a look at the new

Library of America collection he edited, *The Fifty Funniest American Writers*—a hilarious collection of American humor writing from Mark Twain and James Thurber to David Sedaris and *The Onion*. Borowitz, has been called “one of the funniest people in America” by CBS News Sunday Morning. Alec Baldwin and Calvin Trillin will be joining Borowitz for a fun evening. This program was originally broadcast on October 19th but could not be shown because it was the Jewish holiday of *Sukkot*.

Individual program tickets are only \$10 and can be ordered by e-mail to Bert Tobin at [btobin@optonline.net](mailto:btobin@optonline.net) or by calling the Synagogue's 92Y order line 883-3144 and leaving your name, phone number, e-mail and number of tickets per program.

We gratefully acknowledge  
the financial support received from the

# Fund for Jewish Education

Sponsored by  
Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss  
Life Monument Funds, Inc. and  
UJA-Federation of New York

RS continued from page 3

playtime, playground time, *Shabbat* and more. Everyone wanted to hold Hannah and it was not always easy for the children to share her, which offered the opportunity for the children to practice taking turns. It was hard to give their new friend off to the next classroom. We had a big send off and which gave all of the children the opportunity to say good-bye to Hannah as we sent her off to Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C.

The classes at the ECC used the journal to write stories about Hannah's adventures at our school, to draw pictures of the activities she partook in and to include photos of the visit to our school. Before coming to the ECC, Hannah had visited B'nai Jehudah Learning Center in Overland Park, Kansas. Our children were very interested in hearing about Hannah's adventures with the other children and it led to interest in where that was, and some research about the area.

The book, *Bim and Bam* by Daniel Swartz about two hard working brothers named Bim and Bam who spend their Fridays doing

good deeds, illustrates the importance of *mitzvot*. At sundown, the brothers meet to celebrate *Shabbat* together. It is a very sweet and insightful story, which held more meaning for the children since it was the book that Hannah brought to share with the children.

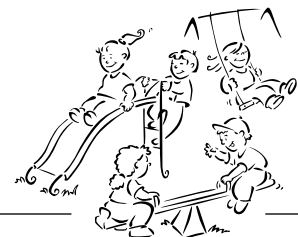
The "Traveling Mitzvah Bear" program is a creative and fun way to instill in our young children some of the most essential Jewish values. This is a very innovative and exciting program and what a wonderful way to bring our Jewish schools together.

If you are attending the Biennial this year, please be sure to stop by the Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism (ECE-RJ) booth where the bears will be gathering together at the 2011 Biennial in Washington, DC and be sure to say *shalom* to Hannah from all of her friends at the ECC.

Shelley Roff

## Registration For ECC's Fall 2012-2013 And Summer 2012 Programs Now In Progress!

If you have a child who will be at least 1 year of age by July 2012 and are interested having them attend one of our Early Childhood Center's programs in the 2012-2013 school year or Summer 2012, please contact Shelley Roff at extension 314. I will be happy to discuss our programs with you and give you a tour of our facilities.



*One that sows Tzedaka 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:

### **B'YACHAD FUND**

**From**  
Ann & Fred Axelrod

**In memory of**  
Muriel Landsberg, mother of Nina Bernstein and wife of William Landsberg

### **CANTOR YARON MUSIC ENRICHMENT & CHOIR FUND**

**From**  
Alice Aboody  
Shirl Marblestone & Lou Seeger

**In honor of**  
Cantor Franco  
Janet DeWinter for her wonderful job on the Chaverim Trip to the Tenement Museum  
Jonathan becoming Bar Mitzvah

**In appreciation of**  
Cantor Yaron during the time of the passing of my mother, Marilyn Targove  
High Holiday Services  
Cantor Yaron

Michelle & Stevan Roberts

**From**  
Ellen & Richard Arnstein

Bea & Larry Helft  
Joyce & Peter Mandelkern & Family

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FUND**

**From**  
Mady & Eric Caslow  
Karen & Richard Dankner

**In honor of**  
The birth of our grandson, Charles Barr Caslow  
Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson, Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of their son, Charles Barr Caslow  
Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson, Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of their son, Charles Barr Caslow  
Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson, Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of their son, Charles Barr Caslow  
Isabelle Gold becoming Bat Mitzvah

**In memory of**  
Marilyn Targove, mother of Joyce Mandelkern and Ellen Arnstein and grandmother of Ken Mandelkern  
Marilyn Targove  
Marilyn Targove  
Esther Kaufman (Yahrzeit)  
Muriel Landsberg; Hilda Corriel, mother of Robert Corriel

Barbara & Harvey Fishman

Arline & Peter Isaacs

Robin & Joshua Milgrim & Family

**From**  
Doreen & Michael Berne

Karen & Richard Dankner  
Daria & Charles Hoffman & Family  
Arline & Peter Isaacs & Family  
Denise & Stephen Silverstein

### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

#### **WURZEL ENDOWMENT FUND**

**From**  
Muriel Freidman  
Shirl Marblestone & Lou Seeger

**In appreciation of**  
the Wurzels  
the Wurzels

### **ETZ CHAIM FUNDS**

#### **TIKKUN HABAYIT/SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT FUND**

**From**  
Georgia & Ben DeYoung

**In honor of**  
Sandrine Gold, for a wonderful reading of the Hannah Portion; Taylor Eisenberg & Lael Franco for their fabulous chanting of Haftarah; Meg & Elliot Sealove for their lovely hospitality

Bea & Larry Helft

Arline & Peter Isaacs

Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson, Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of their son, Charles Barr Caslow  
the dedication of the Joyce Mandel Terrace

Debbie & Howard Schiff

**From**  
Ila & Matthew Scheckner & Family

**From**  
Karen & Richard Dankner  
Bea & Larry Helft

### **TORAH WRITING PROJECT FUND**

**From**  
Jill & Mark Eisenberg

**From**  
April & Howard Furst

### **FLOWER FUND**

**From**  
Jill & Mark Eisenberg

**From**  
Yvette Bergman & Wendy DeAngelis

### **MITZVAH CORPS FUND**

**From**  
Florence & Abe Elenowitz  
Margie Miller

### **RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**From**  
Alice Aboody  
Doreen & Michael Berne  
Marion & Arthur Cohen

Thea & Keivan Farhadian & Family

Fran & Barry Richter

**From**  
Ellen & Richard Arnstein

Bea & Larry Helft  
Joyce & Peter Mandelkern & Family

Ila & Matthew Scheckner & Family

**From**  
Nancy Dintenfass & Bruce Gurewitz  
Thea & Keivan Farhadian & Family  
Hilary & Joseph Feshbach  
Janice & Steven Friedman  
Maggie & Stephen Hand  
Janice & Sanford Lewis  
Margie & Robert Remler  
Mindy & Edgar Salas  
Ellen Savran  
Felice & Alan Schwartz  
Debbie & Howard Shlafmitz  
Denise & Stephen Silverstein  
Donna & Michael Weissberg

### **RABBI MARTIN ROZENBERG DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**From**  
Goldie Greenberg  
Elaine & Leonard Wurzel

### **TEMPLE FUND**

**From**  
Audrey & Russ Burman

Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson, Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of their son, Charles Barr Caslow

**In appreciation of**  
all the donations made in memory of Ila's father, Alan Mazel

**In memory of**  
Maxine Half, mother of Peggy Silbert; Muriel Landsberg  
Muriel Landsberg

**In honor of**

Faith Norwick for all the hard work she does getting the High Holiday Honors in order; Ann Axelrod for the fantastic new Synagogue Website

**In memory of**  
Hilda Corriel

**In honor of**

Stephen DeAngelis for putting together a spectacular evening of Broadway Music

**In memory of**  
Muriel Landsberg

**In memory of**

Louis Sonnenblick (Yahrzeit)  
Hilda Corriel; Marilyn Targove

**In honor of**

Rabbi Zeplovitz & Rabbi Burkeman  
Danny Burkeman, our new Rabbi  
Arthur Cohen being honored to participate in services during the Days of Awe on Yom Kippur

Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala

Rabbi Zeplovitz

**In appreciation of**

Rabbi Zeplovitz & Rabbi Burkeman during the time of the passing of my mother, Marilyn Targove  
High Holiday Services  
Rabbi Zeplovitz; Rabbi Burkeman

Rabbi Zeplovitz's support during our time of need

**In memory of**

Marilyn Targove  
Muriel Landsberg  
Marilyn Targove  
Muriel Landsberg  
Muriel Landsberg  
Marilyn Targove  
Robert Josephs, father of Pam Goldman  
Marietta "Jayde" Ruderfer (Yahrzeit)  
Muriel Landsberg  
Marilyn Targove  
Marilyn Targove  
Marilyn Targove  
Marilyn Targove

Janet & Rudi de Winter

Brenda & Arnie Turok

**From**

Janet & Barry Boxer  
Doreen & Michael Berne  
Georgia & Ben DeYoung  
Florence & Abe Elenowitz  
Lisa & Michael Epstein  
Janet & Charles Ernst  
April & Howard Furst  
Michele & Doron Keren

Doreen & Michael Berne on the marriage of their son,  
Andrew to Kathy Reiff  
Mady & Eric Caslow on the birth of their grandson,  
Charles Barr Caslow; Lisa & David Caslow on the birth of  
their son, Charles Barr Caslow

**In memory of**

Morris Levine; Averil Toker(Yahrzeits)  
Maxine Half; Muriel Landsberg  
Muriel Landsberg  
Muriel Landsberg  
Herman Epstein (Yahrzeit)  
Sharon Goldstein (Yahrzeit)  
Nathan Wollman (Yahrzeit)  
Marilyn Targove

Marcia & Jerry Kirschenbaum  
Cheryl & Michael Mandelker  
Joyce & Peter Mandelkern  
Linda & Jeffrey Moslow  
Lisa & Michael Epstein  
Sara & Keith Kindler  
Michelle & Stevan Roberts  
Betty & Jack Schwartz  
Lou Seeger  
The Sher Family  
Susan & Steven Stern  
Pam & Larry Tarica  
Dorothy Weintraub  
Bari Ziegel & Mikki & Ilan Rosman

Alexander Schlusset (Yahrzeit)  
Sally Mandelker (Yahrzeit)  
Hannah Targove (Yahrzeit)  
Sol Kress (Yahrzeit)  
Lillian Epstein (Yahrzeit)  
Toby Dicker (Yahrzeit)  
Teresa (Tess) Pollack (Yahrzeit)  
Ruth Savitz; Irving Savitz (Yahrzeits)  
Alicia Seeger (Yahrzeit)  
Robert Josephs  
David Katz (Yahrzeit)  
Marilyn Targove  
Molly Salutsky (Yahrzeit)  
Sarah Rosman; Nathan Solomon (Yahrzeits)

# Children to Children Hanukkah Toy Project Make This Your Holiday Mitzvah!

Sisterhood of The Community Synagogue is collecting toys for children in our local hospitals, etc. This is being done in conjunction with the Religious School, the Early Childhood Center and our entire Synagogue Family.

Toys will be delivered to North Shore University Hospital, Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center, FECS Health and Human Services (UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies), Winthrop Hospital and their Outpatient Cancer Center, The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network - soup kitchen and homeless shelter), Ronald McDonald House and local Outreach Programs.

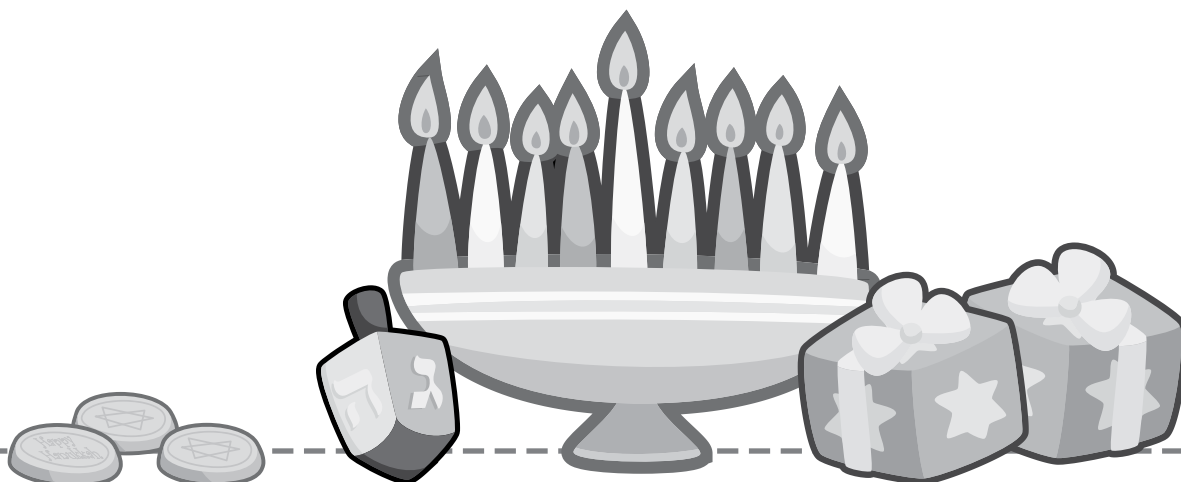
## 1st Hanukkah candle is Tuesday, December 20, 2011

The hospitals have suggested the following toys: stuffed animals, dolls (no detachable parts), rattles, bath time toys, blocks, books, large crayons, coloring books, jigsaw puzzles of all sizes, cars, trucks, comic books, games, crossword puzzles and activity books.

Please bring ONLY NEW, “SAFE,” unwrapped toys for newborns through teens. Deposit them in the containers in the Synagogue lobby and Kiddush Room between

## Monday, November 14th through Monday, December 19th.

Please bring all large items to the synagogue office.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS | DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> ECC PARENTTEACH CONFERENCES NO SCHOOL FOR THE 3'S AND 4'S  ECC BOOK FAIR	<b>2</b>  ECC BOOK FAIR  10:30 am Chaverim Chair Yoga 6:30 pm 60th Anniversary Congregational Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>3</b>  9:00 am 7th Grade Torah Study 9:00 am Adult Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service B'nai Mitzvah: Jenna Hecht and Zachary Hersh 10:30 am Shabbat Havurah Service
<b>4</b>  ECC BOOK FAIR Religious School Grade 2 Meet Your Teacher Morning Sisterhood Judaica Shop Hanukkah Boutique Open Torah and the Headlines 9:00 am PJ Story Time	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  8:00 pm POWTY Meeting 8:00 pm ECC Get Together with the Clergy	<b>7</b>  9:45 am Music Together 11:45 am Music Together 7:30 pm College Parents Packing of Packages	<b>8</b>  7:30 pm Brotherhood Game Night 7:30 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	<b>9</b>  10:30 am Chaverim Chair Yoga 6:30 pm POWTY's Latke Shabbat 6:30 pm Family Service-Fifth Grade	<b>10</b>  9:00 am 7th Grade Torah Study 9:00 am Adult Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Weitzner 10:30 am Shabbat Havurah Service
<b>11</b>  9:00 am Sisterhood Judaica Shop Open 9:45 am New Member Brunch 11:00 am Religious School-6th Grade PACE 7:30 pm 92nd St Y-Making Our Democracy Work	<b>12</b>  7:30 pm Brotherhood Exec Board Meeting	<b>13</b>  6:30 pm Hawurat Noar Dinner 6:45 pm Social Action Cooking 7:00 pm Hawurat Noar Service 7:30 pm Sisterhood Mah Jong Mavens 8:00 pm Temple Executive Committee Meeting 8:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>  9:15 am ECC Parent Committee Meeting 9:45 am Music Together 11:45 am Music Together	<b>15</b>  9:45 am Music Together 11:00 am Chaverim Hanukkah Program	<b>16</b>  10:30 am Chaverim Chair Yoga 8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>17</b>  9:00 am 7th Grade Torah Study 9:00 am Adult Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: Madelyn Reiter 10:30 am Shabbat Havurah Service
<b>18</b>  9:00 am FLAME Family Learning Morning	<b>19</b>  7:30 pm Temple Board Meeting	<b>20</b>  9:00 am 1ST HANUKKAH CANDLE Sisterhood Judaica Shop Hanukkah Boutique Open 9:15 am ECC 4's Hanukkah Concert 6:30 pm Hawurat Noar Dinner 7:00 pm Hawurat Noar Service	<b>21</b>  9:00 am Sisterhood Judaica Shop Hanukkah Boutique Open 9:15 am ECC 3's Hanukkah Concert 5:00 pm Sisterhood Hanukkah Party and Dinner	<b>22</b>  9:45 am Music Together	<b>23</b>  10:30 am Chaverim Chair Yoga 6:30 pm Hanukkah Family Services	<b>24</b>  9:00 am 7th Grade Torah Study 9:00 am Adult Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah: 10:30 am Chaverim Chair Yoga 8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service
<b>25</b>  NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	<b>26</b>  ECC & RS HOLIDAY RECESS OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED	<b>27</b>  ECC & RS HOLIDAY RECESS	<b>28</b>  ECC & RS HOLIDAY RECESS	<b>29</b>  ECC & RS HOLIDAY RECESS	<b>30</b>  ECC & RS HOLIDAY RECESS	<b>31</b>  9:00 am Adult Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Havurah Service

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

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*Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah...  
Come celebrate with friends!*

Sisterhood's Children's Activities presents a

# Hanukkah Celebration and Torah Scribe Visit

Come enjoy a festive dinner, Hanukkah crafts, music, dreidel games and so much more. Fun for all ages!

Wednesday, December 21st at 5:00 pm  
Congregational Hall

Please RSVP to Liz Greilsheimer ([lgreilsheimer@verizon.net](mailto:lgreilsheimer@verizon.net)) or  
Brittney Hegarty ([bwhegarty@verizon.net](mailto:bwhegarty@verizon.net)) by 12/16 and include the  
number of children and adults planning to attend.

