



From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi Danny Burkeman



It was in Minneapolis in 2003 that I really discovered Reform Judaism. For many reasons this may seem like a strange statement to make; not least because

I grew up as an active member of a Reform Synagogue and had, by that time, already spent a year working for the British

Reform movement. But it was a trip to Minneapolis, amidst the cold and the snow, where I experienced a Reform Judaism which was totally different from anything I had seen before.

Growing up as a Reform Jew in Britain there were many times when the “authenticity” of my stream of Judaism was questioned. Having an overwhelming Orthodox majority meant that the Jewish press and institutions were often dominated by people who rejected the validity of any stream which

was not Orthodox. As a result the Reform Jewish community would often look over its right shoulder, worrying about the “orthodox” response to various decisions, which ideologically and religiously, they might otherwise have taken.

In the summer of 2003 an e-mail had gone around to leaders within the Reform Jewish community asking if they would be interested in attending the UAHC Biennial (the name would be changed to the URJ – Union for Reform Judaism in

Minneapolis), which would be happening that November. As someone who enjoys Jewish conferences, I jumped at the chance to spend five days with the American Reform Jewish community, and made the necessary arrangements to be there. It was a decision which I would not regret.

As I walked into the conference center I was impressed by the number of people who were there, the place was literally

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A NEW LOOK FOR WWW.COMMSYN.ORG!

The synagogue's website (www.commsyn.org) has a brand new look and user-friendly functionality to keep our members informed and up to date with program offerings, latest synagogue news and other interesting articles about the Jewish world at large.

Take a moment to explore the site and visit it regularly for the most up-to-date information about the synagogue.

Some of the features of the site include:

- Homepage Highlights
- What's Happening-at-a-glance summaries of featured upcoming programs
- Ask the Clergy - an opportunity to ask the Clergy almost anything
- Upcoming Events - Worship and program listings from the synagogue master calendar. Click on any entry to see more info. See “Calendar” link at the top of the page as well.

Additional Site Features

- Watch Services Live - real time streaming of High Holy Day services and other worship services during the year.
- Education - complete school calendars, curriculum and news and photos of special events.
- Listen to Music - hear the Cantor chant prayers and blessings. Great for those who want to practice their *Torah* blessing *aliyahs*!
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah - guide to *B'nai Mitzvah* meaning and requirements. All information and forms given to *B'nai Mitzvah* parents can be accessed from the site.



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 for weekly updates,
 monthly calendar,
 the Bulletin online,
 & photos:
www.commsyn.org

Philat • תפילות (Worship Services)

SHABBAT LECH LECHA • לך לך

Friday, November 4

Erev Shabbat 8:00 pm
 Shabbat Service "With Footnotes"

Gain insight into the secrets of the Friday evening service!

Saturday, November 5 (Genesis 12:1-17:27; Haftarah-Isaiah 40:27-41:16)

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) 10:30 am

B'nai Mitzvah: Jake Finkelstein & Danielle Levitsky

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

Bat Mitzvah: Cami Friedman

SHABBAT VAYERA • וירא

Friday, November 11

"Second Shabbat"-Family Services 6:30 pm

Join our early services with lots of music, spirit and energy!

Saturday, November 12 (Genesis 18:1-22:24; Haftarah-II Kings 4:1-37)

Havurah - Informal Worship (Main Sanctuary) 10:30 am

SHABBAT CHAYEI SARAH • חיי שרה

Friday, November 18

New Member "Wine & Cheese" 7:00 pm

Erev Shabbat 8:00 pm

"Shabbat Rocks"-A new, unique musical Shabbat experience

Service Welcoming New Members

Saturday, November 19 (Genesis 23:1-25:18; Haftarah-I Kings 1:1-31)

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) 10:30 am

B'not Mitzvah: Jordan Geiringer & Danielle Tawfik

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

SHABBAT TOLDOT • תולדות

Friday, November 25

Erev Shabbat 8:00 pm

Rabbi Burkeman: "Gratitude As a Way of Life"

Saturday, November 26 (Genesis 25:19-28:9; Haftarah-Malachi 1:1-2:7)

Shabbat Morning (Main Sanctuary) 10:30 am

B'nai Mitzvah: Ryan Delmonte & Blake Dolin

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

ROSH HODESH KISLEV • ראש חודש כסלו

Sunday, November 27

Morning Services 10:30 am

Bat Mitzvah of Bari Cohen



What's It Like to be President?



Given that this is the season of Presidential campaigns, with the media full of the folks who were, are, or want to be President, I thought I would divulge what it's like to be the President of The Community Synagogue.

My path to leadership started about fifteen years ago when, out of the blue, a congregant that I didn't know called to tell me that I was invited to serve on the Board of Brotherhood. I was a Brotherhood member, mind you, but rarely attended any functions and didn't know anyone in leadership at the time. However, I always liked the Synagogue so, not knowing what I was agreeing to, I said yes. After a few years there, again, out of the blue, I was invited to serve on the Temple Board. Under the dynamic leadership of Larry Tarica, I found this role very engaging—I felt I was having a small but tangible impact on where the Synagogue was heading. Being a Trustee led to serving as Treasurer for a few years and then Vice President (seemingly responsible for whatever no one else wanted to do). About two and a half years ago, as the customary four year term of the then President, Howard Schiff, was about to expire, I was asked if I would be interested in or, at least, willing to serve as President.

I knew this was an important role and required a major commitment of effort and time, and I needed to be sure that I was right for the role and that the role was right for me. I asked everyone I knew at the temple, hoping that someone would tell me it was a bad idea. You see, I had no desire to be President. However, when I thought about other logical candidates, it seemed that each one had either the available time or some leadership experience but not both. I was told that to do the job right took 20 -25 unpaid hours per week and that no matter what the President did, the congregation would probably be divided with 10% liking it, 10% hating it, and 80% indifferent. Having recently retired from the corporate world and lacking an obvious alternative candidate, I acquiesced and accepted the role.

So, here I am, two years into my term of office, and I still have no idea if I'm doing a good job. There are no real public elections to validate your performance and no Board of Directors to tell you if you are on the right path. Exactly as expected, the amount of formal feedback I get is limited and there are always issues that arise where certain congregants are unhappy with something or another. But, the truth of the matter is that I am thrilled and honored to have met and worked with hundreds of amazing fellow congregants and dozens of *B'nai Mitzvah* youth that I definitely would not have gotten to know if it were not for my position. This all seemed enough, and gave me a sense of fulfillment and joy, until I realized that this was our 60th anniversary year.

I began to think about Nat Hess, our first President, and the challenges he faced – to start a synagogue from scratch with no congregants, no clergy, no money, no building, and an unwelcoming neighborhood. Now that was a challenge! Compared to what he accomplished, my presidency is a piece of cake. Anyway, we are now halfway through our 120-year Jewish life and it is time to take stock. What can the leadership and I do now to lay the groundwork for the next sixty years as Nat and his friends did when it all started? Together, we have identified three particular tasks – refurbishing and modernizing our sanctuary, writing a new *Torah* for the *Beit T'filah*, and strengthening our financial underpinnings, to help us prepare for the future. Although we are just starting to launch our campaign, we have already received nearly \$1 million in cash and pledges to make our dreams a reality. There is already evidence of progress – new steel framed, double-pane window walls in the sanctuary have replaced flimsy and potentially dangerous ones; a beautiful new patio complete with a BBQ and surrounded by beautiful landscaping is now ours to enjoy; a kippah table/tallit rack in the lobby is under construction. We have contracted with Sofer On Site to help us write a new *Torah*. This particular task energized me, the Board, our clergy and our professional staff to follow in Nat's footsteps and “pay it forward” and

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PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Shari Isserles,
Director of Education

Shalom Sesame – A Fun New Video Series



When I was a child, one year for *Hanukkah* I received a set of Shalom Sesame videos. This was a fun and educational new video series put together

about Israel but based upon the popular Sesame Street series. Although I was well past the Sesame Street age, I loved watching those videos. They were interesting, taught about new & exciting places in Israel, contained all my old Sesame Street friends and even had famous guest appearances. I recall thinking it was “so cool” that stars like Sarah Jessica Parker and Kirk Cameron from “Growing Pains” made appearances in the video series.

This past winter a whole new Shalom Sesame series emerged (produced by Sesame Workshop), and it is truly fabulous. I have watched about 5 of the shows in the series, and each one has made me laugh and been interesting to view. Of course, the episodes have guest appearances from celebrities and all our favorite Sesame Street pals.

My 2 1/2 year old Michael simply loves to watch these DVDs. He learned all about *Rosh Hashanah* from watching The Sticky Shofar episode, and he also now

has a vocabulary of words that begin with the Hebrew letter “shin.” Meanwhile, older kids like these DVDs as well. One of our 4th grade classes watched this same Sticky Shofar episode, and they too enjoyed it. Even though these students are definitely too old to be Sesame Street watchers, they were engaged in this new take on the series, and they learned all about the holiday of *Rosh Hashanah*



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Brotherhood ^{IN THE} HOOD

November Events

Monday, November 7, 8:00 pm

Come to a Brotherhood meeting at the Synagogue and meet your future friends. After the meeting, we will serve pizza as we watch the Monday night football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Chicago Bears on the room sized screen in the MPR.

Wednesday, November 9, 8:00 pm

Brotherhood is proud to present Elie Wiesel and Natan Sharansky at its monthly "Live from 92Y". Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased at the door on the evening of the event.

Sunday, November 20, 8:00 am

Join us at King Kullen as we gather to collect 40 turkey dinners for needy families and deliver them to the Lady of Fatima facilities in Manorhaven. Brotherhood has performed this service for the past 20 years which is named in memory of Phil Seinfeld.



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

- Andrew & Valerie Steinberg
- David & Kim Brodsky
- Jonathan Herman & Pamela Seiderman

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Sisterhood's famous Paid-Up Membership Gala at H on the Harbor is our highlight of the month, to be held on Thursday November 17th at 7:30pm. If you haven't joined Sisterhood yet, send your dues in now, along with your reservation for an evening of warm companionship, great food, exciting raffles, delightful entertainment by our own Cantor Claire, and more, all compliments of Sisterhood.

Sisterhood's annual Holiday Toy Drive kicks off on November 14th, collecting new toys for children in local hospitals. Bins will be in the temple lobby.

Don't miss a stimulating discussion of "The Internet and Jewish Law" at the Port Washington *Rosh Chodesh* Group led this month by Rabbi Z. Join us at 9:30am on November 17th at The Community Synagogue to examine such issues as privacy, confidentiality, public access to information, and others.

UJA-Federation of New York-Long Island's Families Helping Families A Great Mitzvah Project for Your Entire Family!

As you give thanks and share family traditions, F.E.G.S. Health and Human Services System, a UJA-Federation beneficiary agency, connects neighbors in need on Long Island to celebrate this holiday season. This year, start a new tradition in your home by adopting a family for Thanksgiving. Create a basket with some of the suggested items listed below to bring joy and a real Thanksgiving dinner to a neighboring family.

Here's how you can make a difference:

Drop off non-perishable items from the list below by Sunday, November 6th, or create a gift basket with your family at home and drop it off by Wednesday, November 9th. A box will be located in the synagogue lobby.

Assemble a Thanksgiving Basket.

Friday, November 11, 2011 (Veterans Day) • 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Snacks will be served.

Suggested non-perishable items:

Coupons for free turkeys, nonperishable cranberry sauce, candied yams, vegetables, stuffing mixes, juices and coffees, housekeeping items, including dishwashing soap, sponges, detergents, paper towels, napkins, cleansers and disposable aluminum roasting pans

Perishable Items that can be brought on November 11th:

Frozen turkeys, fresh vegetables, pies, eggs, cookies and treats

Nadine Delmonte, Sophie Dolin and Stacey Satovsky
Chairs

To personally deliver your basket, please respond by Friday, October 28th. If you are joining us to assemble a basket, please respond by Monday, November 3rd. For more information and to respond, please contact Bari Ziegel at 1.516.677.1830 or bziegel@aol.com. We will provide you with directions to deliver your basket on November 11th.

Community Service letters can be provided for middle or high school students upon request.

The Mitzvah Corps of The Community Synagogue is a team of volunteers who assist congregants in a number of ways as well as engage in several community service projects. Four co-chairs communicate mainly through e-mail asking for volunteers for specific tasks and times. A congregant may need a ride to a doctor's appointment, a ride to services, help with shiva. They may need food shopping or dinner brought in because they are unable to manage these things themselves.

There are also several projects that we do annually. Before *Rosh Hashanah*, we package a gift bag of apples and honey along with a personal note and deliver these to congregants who have lost a loved one during the past year. We run a Chanukah party and a mini-seder at the Sands Point Center for Health and Rehabilitation. A few times during the year, we prepare and serve dinner to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park. We have toiletry and coat drives for the Interfaith Nutrition Network.

This year we are hoping to help the hungry in Port Washington. If you are having a Bar or *Bat Mitzvah* or any other party at the synagogue and would like to donate food that has not been served to a local food pantry, please contact one of the co-chairs listed below and we will take care of the pick-up and delivery.

Most of our requests for volunteers are posted through e-mails to our corps, which now numbers 50 congregants. You might only be able to do one or two things each year but each thing is a *mitzvah* and is greatly appreciated. If you wish to have your name added to our e-mail list and join the *mitzvah* corps, contact one of the co-chairs listed below. We hope you will join us.

Arlene Pinkus
Arlenepinkus@yahoo.com

Carol Hanover
chanover13@aol.com

Marcia Kirschenbaum
mjkkirsch@aol.com

Alyssa Greenberg
alysagreenberg@aol.com

Thank You For Doing A Mitzvah on Behalf of UJA-Federation of New York's Supplies for Success!

Thank you to our congregants who participated in UJA-Federation's Annual Supplies for Success program. Thank you to those families and to the Sisterhood Board who donated school supplies. Those donations enabled us to assemble and distribute filled backpacks to Long Island children living in poverty.

Thank you to the following congregants who helped to assemble the backpacks:

- Peter and Hannah Altuch
- Helene and Amanda Glassman
- Marcia Kirschenbaum
- Ilan Rosman
- Shanti and Ashton Sax

We have ensured that Long Island children living in poverty will start school with hope and excitement just like their classmates and with the physical tools they need—a real chance to succeed. Plus we have enhanced the lives of their stressed-out caregivers.

A heartfelt thank you for all your generous, compassionate, and tireless support in making this year's drive a huge SUCCESS—our biggest and best ever!!

In another year of severe economic distress, with a substantial increase in requests for backpacks, thanks to all of you and the incredible organization that is UJA-Federation of NY, we were able to meet the challenge.

We are honored and proud to work with all of you in furtherance of our Jewish values of *tzedakah*, charity, and *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Chaverim

Chaverim To Host Rabbi Burkeman

Rabbi Danny Burkeman, the new member of our clergy team, will share his "Thoughts from Across the Pond" with Chaverim members and their guests on Monday, November 28th at 10 AM. Join us to meet Rabbi Burkeman and hear his insights into Reform Judaism from the British perspective. A light breakfast will be served. Reservations are not necessary, but would be appreciated. Call or email Joyce Rudnick, 883-8314 or joycerudnick@verizon.net.

Chanukah Party!

Chanukah 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 Chanukah 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 Bakufka for details: 621-0867.

Learn Yiddish

CHAVERIM is offering 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, will be 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 at the first class. For additional information, contact Evie Schonbrun, 767-0599 or evieschonbrun@gmail.com.



Etz Chaim Update



Etz Chaim Brunch, Dedication of "Joyce's Terrace," Torah Journey Kick-Off

Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 10:00 am

Join us for a delicious brunch to kick-off our two 60th Anniversary endeavors:

- The refurbishment of our Sanctuary – *Tikkun Habayit* (Repairing the House)
- Our exciting *Torah* Writing Project, in which every member of The Community Synagogue can participate to fulfill the *mitzvah* of writing their own *Torah*.

At 10:00 am we will learn about

the updates and renovations planned for the Sanctuary. Our architect, artist and designer will present how our sanctuary will soon accommodate more options for worship, music, children's services and more. Without dramatically changing our sacred space, these renovations will allow flexibility and innovation, while keeping the traditional close at hand.

Next, a fabulous spread

awaits you in the Congregational Hall. Following brunch we will gather on our patio for the dedication of a beautiful new space—Joyce's Terrace—donated by Jack Mandel to honor the spirit and memory of his wife Joyce. Stunning gardens surrounding the terrace, two state-of-the-art barbecues, and lovely seating areas make this addition to the Synagogue inviting and comfortable—a space the

entire congregation can enjoy.

At 11:00 am we meet the Sofer (scribe) who will introduce us to the process of creating our new *Torah*! Learn what this project is all about and how YOU can write in the *Torah*.

Don't miss this exciting 60th Anniversary event. RSVP to Michelle in the Main Office at 883-3144 ext 310 or mmeyer@commsyn.org. Thank you!

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.

- 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.

DONOR	GIVING LEVEL	DESIGNATION	ITEMS
Ann & Fred Axelrod	Sponsor	Sanctuary	3 Choir Chairs
Anonymous	Funder	Sanctuary, <i>Torah</i> & Endowment	
Brotherhood of The Community Synagogue	Funder	Sanctuary	Kippah & Tallit Cabinet
Arthur & Marion P. Cohen	Sponsor	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Torah</i> Cover
The Davidoff Family	Sponsor	Sanctuary, <i>Torah</i> & Endowment	Miriam's Song
The Eisenberg Family	Funder	<i>Torah</i>	1 of the 5 Books of <i>Torah</i> - Vayikra
Joanne Fried	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Torah</i> Verse
JD & Deborah Friedland	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	Name in the <i>Torah</i>
Bea & Larry Helft	Sponsor	<i>Torah</i>	Shemah
Shari & Paul Isserles	Subscriber	<i>Torah</i>	3 Names in the <i>Torah</i>
Jaimee & Dan Loewy	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Torah</i> Verse
Jack Mandel	Benefactor	Sanctuary & Endowment	Joyce's Terrace
Michael & Jody Okun-Alfano	Sponsor	<i>Torah</i> & <i>Etz Chaim</i>	Yad & <i>Torah</i> Verse
Shelley & Ted Roff	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	Name in the <i>Torah</i>
Howard & Debbie Schiff	Sponsor	Sanctuary	Short Pew
Janet Wolf & Neil Seiden	Contributor	<i>Torah</i>	Word in the <i>Torah</i>
Sisterhood of The Community Synagogue	Provider	Sanctuary	Bima Lecterns, Kiddush Table
Esther & Daniel Tanenbaum	Subscriber	<i>Etz Chaim</i>	
Pam & Larry Tarica	Benefactor	Sanctuary & <i>Torah</i>	1 of the 5 Books of <i>Torah</i>
Rabbi Irwin & Anne Zeplovitz	Sponsor	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Torah</i> Roller
Bari A. Ziegel & Family	Subscriber	<i>Torah</i>	1st Letter in the <i>Torah</i>

The Community Synagogue Torah Project

The Community Synagogue proudly invites all its members to join in fulfilling the “last” (but certainly not least!) of the 613 *mitzvot*, the commandment to write a new *Torah* scroll. This sacred work will begin on Sunday, November 6 when Rabbi Salazar of “Sofer on Site” will join our clergy in a special kick-off event to teach about the sacred process of writing our new *Torah*.

Our 60th Anniversary is aptly named *Etz Chaim*—“Tree of Life”—for the magnificent Atlas Cedar reaching toward heaven outside our sanctuary windows (planted by our founding president, Nat Hess) and, of course, the “tree” inside the Ark, our *Torah*, the wellspring of our Jewish tradition.

Our *Torah* Project is about community. As we remember our ancestors and celebrate our 60 years as a congregation, we are creating a legacy for our children who will inherit our new *Torah*, our *Etz Chaim*. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us to literally pass down the *Torah* from one generation to the next.

In the *Torah* the Israelites are commanded to come together as a community and build the *Mishkan*, the portable tabernacle housing the Tablets of the Law. God invites offering “from every person whose heart is so moved” to complete the sacred place. Similarly, our *Torah* Project will find financial success in the shared commitment of our congregation. As all individual letters combine to form a finished *Torah*, each member’s generosity will combine to make our *Torah* Project a reality. With the scribe guiding our hand, every donor family will have an opportunity to write a letter in our new *Torah*.

Our rabbis teach that we do not choose *Torah*; *Torah* chooses us. Let it choose you this year. Be part of our *Etz Chaim Torah* writing campaign – and you can receive it as our people did the first time at Sinai.

Please stand with us to relive that moment and renew our faith as People of the Book. And join us at our unique Opening Ceremony and learning opportunity on Sunday, November 6th at 11 am.

Sunday, November 6th @ 11 am
Torah Writing Project
OPENING CEREMONY

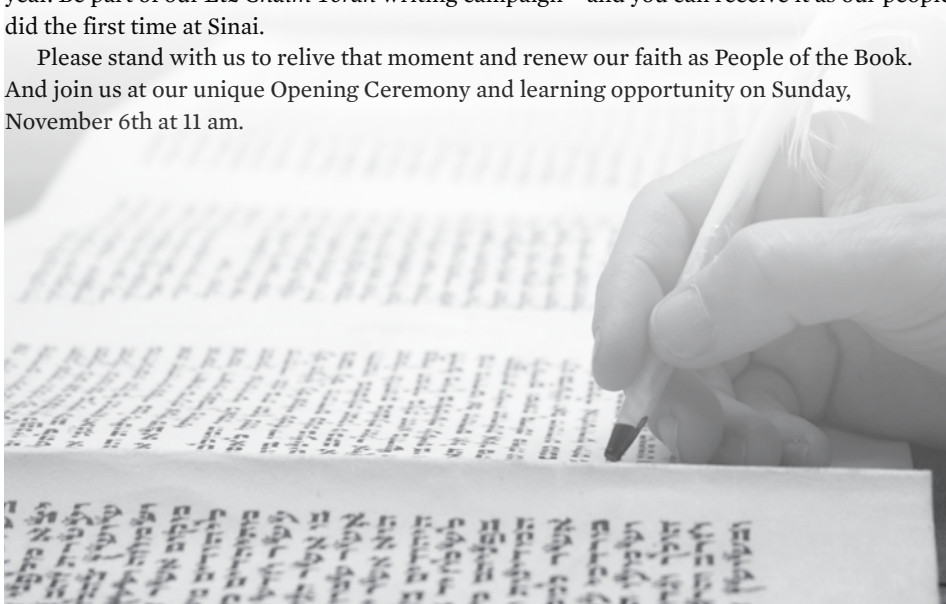
TORAH

*It is a tree of life to those who hold
fast to it*

All who cling to it find happiness

Its ways are ways of pleasantness

And all its paths are peace.



The Port Washington Rosh Chodesh Group 5772 (2011-12)

Once a Month... Just For
Yourself... Just For Your Soul!

- Sunday, November 17th
- 9:30 AM
- The Community Synagogue

The Internet & Jewish Law

The Internet offers wonderful possibilities of connection to other people, ease of access to information and the possibility to be part of a community when isolated or alone. At the same time, there are numerous ethical challenges. What conversations or communications should be considered confidential when made over the Internet? Should there be unlimited access to information—or are there legitimate limits of copyright and intellectual property? If someone watches services in “real time” video, is it as valid a religious experience as in person? Does the Internet create new understandings of “private” and “public”? These and other questions will be explored during this session.

About Rosh Chodesh:

What is *Rosh Chodesh*? A special day that Jewish feminists have “reclaimed” for feminine spirituality. Tradition says that as a reward for our faithfulness, God gave women *Rosh Chodesh*, the first day of the new month, and even exempted us from our usual household duties.

Take a morning just for yourself, and for Jewish study and renewal, with a terrific group of women! The Port Washington *Rosh Chodesh* Group meets at the start of every new Jewish month. We are a warm, friendly inter-generational group of Jewish women exploring new and timeless topics and texts.

The *Rosh Chodesh* Group is jointly sponsored by Community Synagogue, Port Jewish Center, Chevrat Tefillah, and Temple Beth Israel. For further information call Helen Berkun – 883-2672, Sondra Winder – 883-5393, Barbara Taffet – 883-7134, or E-mail: bataffet@optonline.net

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filled with thousands of people. They spanned the generations, with people of all ages from across the entire country. And I was struck by the realization that all of them were Reform Jews just like me.

The Biennial offered something for everyone with a huge variety of sessions during the day and wonderful entertainment at night. I was inspired as I listened to a variety of speakers sharing their visions of Reform Judaism. I was stunned by the number of engaged Reform Jews who were there. And I was moved by the prayer experience as the approximately 5,000 people came together for *Shabbat* services.

In Minneapolis I found the Reform Judaism which I had been looking for. When I returned to London I was refreshed, rejuvenated and reengaged with my identity as a proud Reform Jew. And less than a year later I began my rabbinical studies.

Since Minneapolis I have attended Biennials in San Diego and Toronto, both of which were filled with wonderful sessions, great performances and rousing services.

This year the Biennial will be taking place in Washington DC from December 14-18, and a group will be attending from The Community Synagogue. It is a really unique event, which is well worth attending. If you are interested in being there, please contact Mark Eisenberg (mbeisenberg@optonline.net) or Bari Ziegel (bziegel@aol.com) who will be coordinating our group.

Thank You...

We are so overwhelmed by our community. Thank you for all of your love and the support.

The Sanders family
Michelle, Craig, Rachel,
Harry and Max

למה?*

Question: Does Thanksgiving really come from Judaism? Isn't it an American holiday, with origins in Christianity?

Answer: It is true that the American Thanksgiving most likely has its origins in the Jewish festival of *Sukkot*. The Puritans (or Pilgrims), who came to New England in 1620 to find their own freedom of worship saw themselves establishing a theocracy, like the people of Israel who travelled through the wilderness to enter the Promised Land. According to historical sources, the Pilgrims never actually held an annual autumnal Thanksgiving feast. There was a harvest feast held in 1621, but it was not repeated. In fact, the Biblical holiday the Puritans saw as the model for Thanksgiving was, in fact, *Yom Kippur* – the day of atonement and the abandonment of worldly pleasures. Their desires were not, however, destined to survive.

Over time the day of Thanksgiving became connected to another Biblical holiday – *Sukkot*, the festival of rejoicing for the harvest. The similarities with the festival of *Sukkot*, which commemorates the redemption of Israel from Egypt and thanks God for the bounty of the new land, were certainly not lost on earlier, more religiously devout generations of Americans. *Sukkot* and Thanksgiving both teach the importance of gratitude for the bounty we have been given. On both there is an emphasis on communal celebration. On *Sukkot*, the custom of *ushpizin* – of inviting guests from the Jewish past into the *sukkah* – is an extension of the stress placed on inviting others into the *sukkah*. The theme of unity at Thanksgiving began back in 1621, when the Pilgrims invited the Native peoples to their celebration. The historical emphasis on people coming together is reinforced by the contemporary practice on Thanksgiving of inviting extended family and friends share a meal. It is also seen in the generosity of spirit that often prevails at this season, as evidenced by the many food drives at this season. In Jewish traditions the *sukkah* is a symbol of peace (as we say in the evening prayer: *שלוּמִיךְ סוּכַת עֲלֵינוּ וּפְרֵשׁ עָלֵינוּ* “spread over us the *sukkah* – or shelter – of Your peace.”) At Thanksgiving, too, the mood conveyed is one of prosperity, protection and security.

Despite its origins and religious background, Thanksgiving today – unlike most other holidays – has no intrinsic or particularistic religious overtones. It truly is a national day of celebration, open to all cultures and faiths. Though Thanksgiving is largely secular, the underlying themes of the holiday do resonate with us as Jews. We have much for which we ought to be grateful. We ought to share our blessings with others. And we should not be so proud that we think it is only from our hand that our prosperity flows, but from the Source of all blessings, from God, to whom our thanks are due.

It is fitting and appropriate, then, to join with those of other faiths in our community for a shared Thanksgiving service – this year in Port Washington on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 pm.

– Rabbi Irwin Zepelowitz

**Lama*, the Hebrew word for “why.”

President continued from page 3

prepare us for the next sixty years. We not only want to leave a legacy but lead by example. I didn't know that this was what I signed on for when I started two years ago, but I'm excited to be in a position to help impact our future in such a significant way. Please join us in this important work.

Larry Helft, President

Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Saudi Arabia: Connections, Differences and Trends

Ali Al-Ahmed

- In conjunction with American Jewish Congress
- Tuesday, November 15, 8 pm

What are the connections between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism – and how do they differ from one another? What are the recurring and new trends? And what do the school books teach us about the possibility for a better or more troubling future?



Ali Al-Ahmed is founder and director of the Institute for Gulf Affairs (www.gulfinsitute.org). He is a Saudi scholar and expert on Saudi Arabian political affairs. He has testified before Congress on several occasions on the issue of civil rights and religious freedom in the Middle East and often appears as a commentator on television (CNN, Fox News and other networks). He has authored reports on Saudi Arabia regarding religious freedom, torture, press freedom, and religious curriculum.

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.

- Sundays, 9 - 10 am
- November 6 and 20, December 4
- Teacher: Rabbi Zeplovitz

Important Jewish Texts

What are the most important Jewish books the well-educated Jew ought to know about?

- Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 pm
- January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16
- Teacher: Rabbi Zeplovitz

Judaism 201

If you're not an expert and you're not a beginner, then this is the course for you. It will be an opportunity to ask the questions you've always wanted answered, as we cover a wide variety of subjects including: The Rise of Reform Judaism, Jewish Lifecycle Moments and Rhythms of the Jewish Calendar. We will begin on November 20th from 11:00 am-12:00 pm in the Board Room. Future sessions will be on December 11th and January 8th with more dates to follow.

- Sundays, 11:00am-12:00 pm
- November 20, December 11, January 8
- Teacher: Rabbi Burkeman



The Community Synagogue and Brotherhood Present '92Y Live'

We have three exciting programs remaining for the Fall season. Come join your friends and neighbors who have made the 92Y series a regular event in their lives. Tickets can be ordered by e-mail to Bert Tobin at btobin@optonline.net or by calling the Synagogue's 92Y order line 883-3144 ext 343 and leaving your name, phone number, e-mail and number of tickets per program.

Individual program tickets are only \$10. Please make your check payable to “The Community Synagogue, 92Y” and send it to The Community Synagogue, 160 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050, att: 92Y.

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

Natan Sharansky, Elie Wiesel, Gal Beckerman, Margarita Levieva and Richard Perle with Thane Rosenbaum
Wednesday, November 9, 8:00 pm



Join Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky, political advisor Richard Perle and Gal Beckerman,

author of *When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry*, to 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.



92Y

RS continued from page 3

and about how it is celebrated in Israel. The series has been well thought out, so that it spans many ages and has different levels of learning for different aged children.

With *Hanukkah* coming soon, I would encourage you to think about purchasing one of these DVDs for your own children. They do have a *Hanukkah* themed episode, as well as a dozen others. The Shalom Sesame website, <http://shalomsesame.org/>, contains some great activities and information as well as a shop where you can purchase these DVDs. I have simply been so impressed while watching these shows that I am sure your family will enjoy and learn from them as well.

Can You Spare Ten Minutes a Day?

Thousands of Jews around the world are now spending 10 minutes a day reading an e-mail about a Jewish text. Are you part of the Ten Minutes of *Torah chevra* yet? Ten Minutes of *Torah*, introduced at the 2001 Boston Biennial and delivered directly to your e-mail inbox each weekday, offers a personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic, including insight on the week's *Torah* portion, Israel, social justice, and Jewish ethics. To sign up, visit www.urj.org/torah/ten.



The Community Synagogue

new member wine & cheese party

We invite all new members to meet our Clergy, our Board of Trustees and members of the synagogue Membership Committee at a wine and cheese party.

Friday, November 18
7:00 pm

Stay for "Shabbat Rocks" services which begin at 8:00 pm and experience the warmth of The Community Synagogue.

Please RSVP to Faith at
883-3144 ext. 328



Oneg Shabbat

NOVEMBER 4 Adam & Karen Finkelstein and family and friends of Jake on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*. Ross & Jennifer Levitsky and family & friends of Danielle on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. Annette Jaffe & Bill & Rose Friedman and family and friends of Cami on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

NOVEMBER 18 Glenn & Kim Geiringer and family and friends of Jordan on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. David & Talya Tawfik and family and friends of Danielle on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

NOVEMBER 25 Rick & Nadine Delmonte and family and friends of Ryan on the occasion of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*. Larry & Sophie Dolin and family and friends of Blake on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. Neil & Ellen Cohen and family and friends of Bari on the occasion of her becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

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 Honor of

Leonard Wurzel & his many years of service as Mayor of Sands Point; Denise & Stephen Silverstein on the engagement of their daughter, Dara to Jonathan Cohen; Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala

Donna & David Stricker

Denise & Stephen Silverstein on the engagement of their daughter, Dara to Jonathan Cohen; Ann & Fred Axelrod's 30th Wedding Anniversary

From

Ann & Fred Axelrod

In Memory of

Blanche Kassimir, mother of Madeleine Siegel; Evie Haim, sister of Jeremiah Bosgang; Alan Mazel, father of Ila Scheckner; Maxine Half, mother of Peggy Silbert Elaine Bernstein, aunt of Ellen Fox Joseph Golbert (Yahrzeit) Maxine Half

Dorette & Peter Forman
David & Gail Golbert
Marcy & Randy Todd

CANTOR YARON MUSIC ENRICHMENT & CHOIR FUND

From

Janet & Bob Dankowitz

In Honor of

Les Schonbrun's caring & compassionate nature

From

Al Baruch

In Memory of

Michelle Katz, wife of Joel Katz

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FUND

From

Jill & Len Berman

In Honor of

Lauren and Dan Furstenberg on the birth of their son, Asher Marcus Furstenberg

Lynn & Mel Schreiber

Denise & Stephen Silverstein on the engagement of their daughter, Dara to Jonathan Cohen

From

Arline & Peter Isaacs
Robin & Joshua Milgrim

In Memory of

Edward Isaacs; Melita Isaacs (Yahrzeits)
Condolences to Joyce Mandelkern and Ellen Arnstein on the death of their mother, and Ken Mandelkern on the death of his grandmother, Marilyn Targove

FLOWER FUND

From

Phyllis & Harry Manko

In Honor of

Doreen & Michael Berne on the marriage of their son, Andrew to Kathy Reiff

Denise & Stephen Silverstein

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

From

Arline & Peter Isaacs
Elaine & Larry Rothenberg

In Memory of

Thelma Sokoloff
Beatrice Rothenberg (Yahrzeit)

MITZVAH CORPS FUND

From

Iris & Ira Rimerman

In Honor of

Loretta Molk becoming Bat Mitzvah

From

Elaine & Larry Rothenberg

In Memory of

Jack Tenzer (Yahrzeit)

From

Florence & Abe Elenowitz

In Appreciation of

Mitzvah Corps for their kindness

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

From

Ann & Fred Axelrod

In Honor of

Ruth Geismar, Lisa Grossman, Diane Heiman, Judy Maiman, Lisa Marschall, Loretta Molk & Wendy Sinett becoming B'not Mitzvah

Harriet Cohen
Florence & Abe Elenowitz
Janice & Steven Friedman

Barry & Fran Richter
Susan & Hank Salzhauer
Ellen Savran

From

Alice Aboody
Howard & Grace Fleischman
Dorette & Peter Forman
Janice & Steven Friedman
Joan & Edward Kaminow
Ellen Savran
Peggy & Marc Silbert & Nancy & Don Carter
Arlee & Richard Weiss
Donna & Michael Weissberg
Elaine & Leonard Wurzel

From

Sara Weiss

Paige Leeds becoming Bat Mitzvah
Blossom Miller's granddaughter's marriage
Karen & Richard Dankner on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey Dankner to Steve Lessans
Rabbi Zeplovitz
Rabbi Zeplovitz
Ted Dzyr, our Facilities Manager, and family on the birth of his first granddaughter, Taylor Ann Worfield; Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala

In Memory of

Selim Semouha (Yahrzeit)
Harry Fleischman (Yahrzeit)
Maxine Half
David March (Yahrzeit)
Michelle Katz
Maxine Half
Maxine Half

Maxine Half

Maxine Half

Maxine Half

Other

To help those in need

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

From

Barbara & David Dash

In Memory of

Charles Dash (Yahrzeit)

TEMPLE FUND

From

Janet & Rudi de Winter

In Honor of

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

Jill & Mark Eisenberg

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

Pam & Larry Tarica

Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala; Michelle & Craig Sanders

From

The Brotherhood of
The Community Synagogue
Debbie Buglisi
Marion & Arthur Cohen
Janet & Rudi de Winter
Georgia & Ben DeYoung
Gloria & Miles Glantz
Pearl Gluck
Renee Laffer & Nicholas Diakow & Family
Bonnie & Barry Lane
Nancy Lashine & Gary Sher
Leah & Gunther Lawrence
Rochelle & Harold Lipton
Arlene & Mitchel Maidman
Iris & Ira Rimerman
Cynthia & Michael Rubinberg
Phyllis & Edward Schieber
Denise & Stephen Silverstein
Lori & Mark Spier
Susan & Steven Stern
Pam & Larry Tarica
Gloria Warren
Sara Weiss
Donna & Jeff Wenger
Judith & Fred Wilpon

In Memory of

Martin Heims

Rebecca Felch (Yahrzeit)

Sophia Cohen (Yahrzeit)

Ida Goldstick (Yahrzeit)

Maxine Half

Rose Glantz (Yahrzeit)

Morton H. Chadwick (Yahrzeit)

Maxine Half

Marilyn Targove

Maxine Half

Lucie Sobel; Julius Sobel (Yahrzeits)

Irma Rapaport (Yahrzeit)

Maxine Half

Dorothy Rimerman; Samuel Rimerman (Yahrzeits)

Maxine Half

Harold Shorr

Maxine Half

Dorothy Spier (Yahrzeit)

Sally Stern (Yahrzeit)

Maxine Half

Isabelle Frank (Yahrzeit)

Charles Culver (Yahrzeit)

Ruth Wenger (Yahrzeit)

Morris Kessler (Yahrzeit)

TIKKUN HABAYIT/SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT FUND

From

Barbara & David Dash

In Honor of

Karen & Richard Dankner on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey Dankner to Steve Lessans
Steven Miller being named, "Super Lawyer again"; Faith Norwick's efforts & hard work for the High Holidays

Dorette & Peter Forman

Bea & Larry Helft Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala

Debbie & Howard Schiff Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala

Marion & Alan Suekoff Alice Aboody on the marriage of her daughter, Karen to Alex Annala; Karen & Richard Dankner on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey Dankner to Steve Lessans; Denise & Stephen Silverstein on the engagement of their daughter, Dara to Jonathan Cohen

Sally Pass Doreen & Michael Berne on the marriage of their son, Andrew to Kathy Reiff

From
Ann, Fred & Caroline Axelrod
Gail & Daniel Barasch
Jill & Len Berman

In Memory of
Joyce Mandel, wife of Jack Mandel
Marilyn Targove
Maxine Half

Debbie & Howard Schiff
Debbie & Richard Wilpon
From
Barbara & David Dash

Marilyn Targove
Maxine Half
Speedy Recovery to
Howard Schiff

TZEDAKAH/SOCIAL ACTION FUND

From
Sylvie & David Heyman

From
Sally & Robert Corriel
From
Sylvie & David Heyman

In Honor of
Joshua Benabou becoming Bar Mitzvah; Karen & Richard Dankner on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey Dankner to Steve Lessans; Rabbi Danny Burkeman
In Memory of
Bernard Fleisher (Yahrzeit)
Speedy Recovery to
Howard Schiff

UJA-Federation of New York's Partners in Caring

A caring place to turn...to find support and guidance during life changes, challenges and transitions.

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Partners In Caring (PIC) offers short term individual and family counseling, support groups, and a variety of resources and referral information.

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Stuart Botwinick, MAJEd, MAJCS, Director of Partners In Caring

Call (516) 484-1545, ext. 196

Phone calls are always free and confidential:

Services are offered at minimal or no cost to synagogue members.

**Parenting Event
An Evening with
Dr. Wendy Mogel**

Dr. Wendy Mogel is the author *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* and *The Blessing of a B Minus*. Dr. Mogel is a national-known clinical psychologist, parent educator and a school consultant. Post-event community-wide parenting workshops facilitated by

- Thursday, November 3, 7:30pm
- Temple Sinai, 425 Roslyn Rd., Roslyn Heights
- Fee \$25 / JCC or PIC synagogue members \$18 / \$30 at door.
- For tickets call 516-484-1545 or go to www.sjjcc.org/PIC

**Post-Event Community-Wide
Parenting Workshops**

Facilitated by Partners in Caring Social Work Professionals and will be held at 10:00am and 7:30pm on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 17 at Temple Beth Shalom
- Thursday, December 1 at Temple Sinai
- Thursday, December 8 at Sid Jacobson JCC
- FREE, RSVP required 516-484-1545, ext. 196

**For Women, Moms and Teens
An Evening with
Geraldyn Lucas**

Geraldyn Lucas, author of the irreverent best seller of *Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy*, is a sassy example of the changing face of cancer. Adapted into a Lifetime Television film in 2006, her story inspired a new generation of survivors. Hear Geraldyn speak about her experience and share courage, strength and hope.

- Tuesday, November 29, 7:30pm
- At Sid Jacobson JCC
- Fee \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door
- For tickets call 516-484-1545 or go to www.sjjcc.org/PIC

**For Adults and Seniors
The Home Share Option**

HomeShare is a unique housing option that carefully screens and matches homeowners needing additional income and/or services with home seekers needing an affordable place to live. How does it work? Is this for you? Get your questions answered and learn about next steps.

- Wednesday, November 30, 1:00pm
- Shelter Rock Jewish Center
272 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset
- FREE - RSVP by phone by Monday, November 28



UJA-Federation
of New York

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Rabbi David Ellenson

President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

IN HONOR OF OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY ETZ CHAIM YEAR

Friday, December 2, 2011

We are honored to welcome back to The Community Synagogue Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Ellenson began his rabbinic career as an Associate Rabbi at The Community Synagogue!

A distinguished rabbi and President of the college that trains our Reform Rabbis, Cantors and Jewish Educators, Rabbi Ellenson is a scholar and leader of the Reform Movement. He is internationally recognized for his publications and research in the areas of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history.

6:30 p.m. Congregational Shabbat Dinner, honoring Rabbi Ellenson

Adults: \$18 Children ages 5-12: \$10

RSVP to Faith at 516-883-3144 ext 328 or fnorwick@commsyn.org

8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service