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*Flowers in bloom on
a street in Jerusalem.*





LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Congregants:

Mitzvah Day is one of those very special events that makes one feel so good about Central Synagogue, our wonderful membership, our city, and ourselves. This past November more than 400 congregants of all ages gathered in the Pavilion to provide services for those in need.

Along with Rabbi Rubinstein and my wife Jill, I was fortunate to be able to visit three sites where our congregants gave of their time and love to support agencies that make our city a better place, to personally assist those who need help and to say thank you to those who make our lives better.

First, we went to Project Renewal on West 42nd Street to witness a great group of congregants, including many children, paint a room used by residents of this wonderful facility. Project Renewal provides housing, vocational training and many other services to the formerly homeless.

We then went to the Katari Residence on West 87th Street and Riverside Drive where we witnessed an incredible group of congregants entertaining wheelchair-bound residents with piano and song. As we all sang "God Bless America," a number of the residents, who had previously appeared to be unresponsive, raised their heads, waved their arms, smiled, and energetically joined our song. It was truly moving to be there. It also was wonderful to see the warm blankets, knitted by our "Why Knot Knit" group at Central Synagogue, on the laps of each resident.

Finally, we visited the Doe Fund facility on West 155th Street where a terrific group of congregants were preparing lunch for the "Men in Blue." It is inspiring to meet those great men who keep our streets so clean, to hear their life stories while sharing lunch with them, to thank them for all that they do for us, and to say we are with them as they travel their journeys to new and positive lives.

We have many to thank for Mitzvah Day, starting with Sam and Sandra Wasserman who so generously created in this event to honor the memory of their son. We also thank the Mitzvah Day chairs, Renee Ward, Jill Sharfstein, Nancy Gilman, and Emily Steinman; the chairs of our Social Action Committee, Edith Fassberg and Sue Brown, and our incredible clergy, particularly Rabbi Michael Friedman.

Don't miss Mitzvah Day next year!

Howard F. Sharfstein



Sarah Merians Photography & Company

MESSAGE from the RABBI

A malaise driven by economic conditions has fallen over our city. While the same may be true throughout the country, New York is home and we know it best. I'd like to suggest some reasons for us to be hopeful and to consider that our spirits are lifted from within, as much as by external social forces.

1) 2009 is coming. Generally I see January 1st as a distant second place on the *Best New Years'* list but I'm willing to grant this secular New Year special status. Obviously Rosh Hashanah heads my New Year's list, and I spoke about optimism at that time. However, we need reminders that beginnings can make a difference for us even if it's just by flipping a page of the calendar. We can hope that 2009 will be a much better year. While 2008 may be the year of the "slide," let us look forward to 2009 as the year of the "climb."

2) "-elect" will be removed from Barack Obama's title. We will have a new president. Now, here I have a concern. I have studied Messianic movements in religious history and I have noted that there is danger when an overabundance of expectations is invested in a single individual. It seems as though our nation is holding its breath waiting for our new president to move to the White House. Assuredly, there are going to be significant policy and political changes. Amazingly, high marks across the partisan spectrum are being given to the President-elect's choices for his administration, including members of his economic team. But our problems are not going to be easily solved on the international scene or here at home. So while we hope for a dramatic turn-around, we best temper our expectations with a harsh dose of reality. Change takes time, especially when it tampers with fundamental policies and long-term practices. Let us hope for but not expect too much at the beginning. Having said that, a new administration projects the possibility of change and offers a reason for hope.

3) We care about each other. While all of us are caught up in this economic decline, we share a prevalent concern about other people. At times like this, community is more than an ideological construct. Community is at its best when people are prepared to help each other in tough times. We cannot predict what the members of our congregation may need but we are prepared to do our best to help people emotionally and spiritually. Please call if you would like to speak to a member of our clergy, and we will alert you to other supportive programs for you to consider.

4) "Adonoi Li v'lo ira." ("God is with me and I will not be afraid.") This is the last line of *Adon Olam*, which is often sung at the end of services. We don't know the complete history of this song, which has been in the liturgy at least since the 14th century, but the words indicate that we are not the first generation of Jews to face difficulty and challenge; nor sadly will we be the last. We seek strength from our tradition and from faith. So, for those times when challenges feel too great, it is helpful to remember and say these words to yourself. Our theologies may vary but opening ourselves to strength that comes from belief in something beyond us allows us to move forward with courage and commitment.

So, there are reasons to be hopeful. Let us hope for a good, productive and joyful 2009.

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein

This Month at Central Synagogue

Information about our services and educational and community programs is listed on the following pages. For a quick look at each day's activities, see the calendar section at the back of *Luach*. For the most up-to-date information about programs and events, visit our Web site at www.centralsynagogue.org. Program information may also be found in our weekly Order of Service and on flyers posted in the Community House's elevators.

WORSHIP

Shabbat Services

Every Friday: 6 pm, Sanctuary; Every Saturday: 10:30 am, Sanctuary

Hearing enhancement devices are available in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher.

Phone In or Go Online for Real Time Shabbat Services

If you cannot attend service in person, you can be there by phone or by viewing live streaming on our Web site. These programs are underwritten by the Youngwood family and friends in memory of Judith G. Youngwood.

Phone In: Dial toll-free 1-888-758-7870. At the prompt, use the following pass code: 5992969.

Live Streaming: On the homepage of our Web site, "Live Streaming." You can also find a link in the Worship section of the Web site. If you have any technical problems, contact livestreaming@censyn.org for help.

Morning Minyan

Every Monday through Friday at 8 am in the Community House, except on Holy Days, most Federal holidays and the day after Thanksgiving. We do have morning minyan on Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

Shabbat Shirah (Shabbat of Song) Concert & Lecture: "Abayudaya: The Music and Culture of the Jews of Uganda"

Friday, February 6, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a special event to celebrate Shabbat Shirah. We welcome Grammy nominated ethnomusicologist, Rabbi Jeffrey A. Summit, Ph.D., who is the Neubauer Executive Director of the Hillel Foundation at Tufts University and Associate Professor in the Department of Music. Our service will include a short presentation by Rabbi Summit and will feature the music of the Jews of Uganda. This compelling music blends the rhythms and harmonies of Africa with traditional Jewish prayer. Immediately following services, Rabbi Summit will present a more thorough lecture on the Abayudaya and his work with that community. Please contact Paul Dorfman at dorfmanp@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 1013, for more information.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Shabbat Mishpachah (Family Shabbat)

Friday, January 9, 6 pm, Sanctuary and Pavilion

The service is designed for students in kindergarten through fourth grade and builds on what our children learned in the Tot Shabbat program. At Shabbat *Mishpachah*, parents and children join together in the Sanctuary to welcome Shabbat with the congregation. Then, the children head downstairs to the Pavilion for an age-appropriate service led by members of the clergy and the education staff. We join together again in the Sanctuary for the closing of the prayer service, and encourage families to stay for the Shabbat dinner immediately following.

Religious School Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 9, immediately following services, Pavilion

All Religious School families are invited to join us as we celebrate Shabbat with moments of holiness, relaxation and joy. It is a wonderful chance to meet other families in the Religious School, to learn songs and prayers and celebrate as a community. First we take part in either Shabbat *Mishpachah* or congregational Shabbat services at 6:00 p.m., and then we move to Joslin Hall for a festive Shabbat dinner. RSVP's required to Crystal Gipe, Education Coordinator, at gipec@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4033.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays: January 10, 24 & 31, 9 am, Joslin Hall

Our Tot Shabbat program is held on Saturday mornings when there is no school vacation. The program is designed for nursery school children under five years old. For more information, please contact Matt Check at 212-838-5122, ext. 4032, or via email at CheckM@censyn.org.

Sixth Grade Family Retreat

Friday, January 30 – Saturday, January 31, Hilton, Woodcliffe Lake, New Jersey

Sixth grade families will gather for a weekend Shabbaton at the Hilton in Woodcliffe Lake, New Jersey, to explore the multiplicity of meanings in the *B'nei Mitzvah* experience. At the end of the weekend's activities on Saturday afternoon, students will receive their Torah portions for their *B'nei Mitzvah*.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sahra and William Lese Religious School

See page 18, for class schedules.

Note: The Religious School will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend on Monday, January 19.

Eleventh/Twelfth Grade Class

Wednesday, January 21, 6:15-7:30 pm, Room 503

Students are invited to come and learn with Cantor Sacks and discuss such topics as Jewish values as well as maintaining one's Jewish identity in a secular world. RSVP's are required to Yonni Wattenmaker, Director of Lifelong Learning, ymw@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4031.

ADULTS

Note: There will be no Adult Education classes on January 19 for Martin Luther King Day.

Beginning Hebrew for Adults

Wednesdays: Beginning January 7, 7 – 8:30 pm, Room 504

Former Harvard Professor Miri Kubovy offers a new class in beginning and modern Hebrew for adults. RSVP's required to Yonni Wattenmaker, Director of Lifelong Learning, ymw@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4031.

Clergy Film Series: "A Cantor's Tale"

Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 pm, Pavilion

Please join Cantor Angela Buchdahl for "A Cantor's Tale." This entertaining documentary was directed by Erik Anjou in 2006. It tells the story of the traditional Hazzan's role in the last century through the life story of the colorful Cantor Jack Mendelson. Much of the film is set in Borough Park, Brooklyn, and includes stories of famous cantors as both artists and clergy. Cantor Mendelson was an important teacher and mentor for both Cantor Buchdahl and Cantor Sacks. Stimulating conversation and inside stories will follow the presentation. Popcorn and soda will be served.



LEARNING *Limud*

Israel Before Independence

Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29; February 5 & 12, 12:30-2, Room 302

What did the Jewish State look like between early settlement in the 1880s and independence in 1948? How did the early Zionists manage conflict and diplomacy among themselves and with their regional neighbors? Join Ari Goldman for an exciting six-part series devoted to this fascinating chapter of Israeli history. This series will closely cover the foundations of Zionism, competition between Jewish and Arab nationalism, the British Mandate, the 1936 Riots, the Partition of Palestine, and the War of Independence. Each class will also draw parallels between historical and contemporary Israeli politics and foreign relations.

Illness, Death and Mourning in Jewish Tradition

Thursdays: January 8 & 22; February 5, 7 pm, Joslin Hall

Come and explore Jewish perspectives on these emotional, end-of-life issues in a three-session series. Members of our clergy, staff from health care institutions and Jewish funeral homes, and other professionals will facilitate these discussions and provide advice and answers to some difficult questions. Rabbinical Intern Sandi Intraub will be our facilitator on January 8, Rabbi Michael Friedman on January 22, and Cantor Angela Buchdahl on February 5.

Israeli Film Series

Mondays: January 12 & 26; February 9 & 23; March 9 & 23, 7 pm, Pavilion

Come explore the world of Israeli films and the messages hidden within. The first session will include two short films: "Living for Tomorrow: Untold Stories by the Pioneering Women of Israel" and "Children of the Sun," about the first children of the *kibbutzim*, and the utopia into which they were born. This movie is a collage comprised of amateur films and rare footage that was shot between 1930 and 1970. The series will be led by Miri Kubovy. Refreshments will be served. RSVP's required to Yonni Wattenmaker, Director of Lifelong Learning, ymw@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4031.

Is There A New Torah For Men?

Thursday, January 29, 7 pm, Joslin Hall

While men wrote the Torah and were most of its major commentators, they did not anticipate the deep questions of personal meaning that many men are asking today. The secret to bringing men back into Jewish life might be in the words of Torah itself. Join noted author Rabbi Jeff Salkin for a journey of heart and mind.



LEARNING *Limud*

Book Group

Fridays: January 23 & 30, 9:15-10:15 am, Room 602

"We read to know that we are not alone" (CS Lewis). Come and be part of Central Synagogue's dynamic book group. The group reads several different books throughout the year. The books cover a broad range of topics and issues that encourage self-reflection and group connectedness. The group is led by Patti Sayre, a licensed social worker and psychologist and facilitator in our Parenting Center.

Brunch and Learn Torah Study: *Parshat Ha-Shavua*

Every Wednesday: 11 -12:15 pm, Room 504

The text of the Torah only gets better each time you return to it. Come and explore its depths with members of the community and Rabbi Mo Salth, and enjoy preparing for class by reading the week's Torah portion in English at home. No previous background or Hebrew experience necessary. Please bring your own nosh!

Intermediate Hebrew for Adults

Every Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm, Joslin Hall

A continuation of last year's class, this course, which is taught by Rabbinical Intern Sandi Intraub, is for adults comfortable in Hebrew reading as they explore a variety of Jewish sources. You need not have been a member of last year's class to attend.

Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class

Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 9 pm, Joslin Hall

Join Rabbinical Intern Sandi Intraub for our Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class. Basic knowledge of Hebrew is required to participate. The *B'nei Mitzvah* ceremony will take place on May 8, 2009. To RSVP, contact Crystal Gipe, gipec@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4033.

Bible and Bagels: Verse by Verse in the Torah

Thursdays, 8:15-9 am, Room 504

Join Rabbi Michael Friedman for a line by line look at our sacred text from many perspectives. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary. Participants bring with them an eagerness to understand the Bible in history, as the Rabbis read it, as literature or drama, and for what it has to say to us today.

Advanced Hebrew Class

Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Room 503

Come join Matthew Check for some *Ivrit* (Hebrew). Participants will study prayers from the siddur, as well as Biblical and Modern Hebrew. They will analyze texts and poetry and learn the rudiments of grammar and syntax.

Alper Talmud Study: *Sages of the Talmud*

Every Friday: 8:15-9:15 am, Room 504

Join Cantor Elizabeth Sacks as we study the lives and rulings of some of the most famous personalities in the Talmud. Who were these sages? Why did they reason as they did? We will explore these questions and others as we deepen our understanding of the historical and social context of the Talmud. No previous knowledge of Hebrew or Talmud is necessary.

Torah and Commentaries

Every Saturday: 9 am, Community House

Verse by Verse in the Torah, taught by Rabbi Philip Hiat

Me'ah

Every Tuesday: 6 – 9 pm., Room 301

Central Synagogue, in partnership with Hebrew College, is offering an exciting new adult education course. *Me'ah*, an intensive two-year adult learning initiative, includes text study, active questioning, community building, and personal enrichment. Registration for the current year is closed. If you have any questions, contact Crystal Gipe at 212-508-3003 or via email at gipec@censyn.org. **Note:** *Me'ah* classes are open to registrants only.

A Parent's Introduction to Prayer

Wednesdays: January 21 and February 11, 12 – 1:30 pm, Room 503

All Religious School parents are invited to join Rabbi Friedman and Yonni Wattenmaker for an exploration of Jewish prayer—the words we say and why we say them. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Jewish worship is necessary, and please feel free to bring lunch with you. RSVP's are strongly preferred to Yonni at ymw@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4031.

No One Is a Stranger at Central Synagogue

Join us in a new initiative to reach out to fellow congregants and to strengthen our community. Introduce yourself to another congregant, reach out to a congregant in need, or just take a moment to schmooze with others. Together, we can make sure that no one is a stranger at Central Synagogue. If you would like to find out more about this new initiative, contact either Debbie Palmer at debbie@djp.com, Alan Herman at aandsales@aol.com, Audrey Zucker at Audreyzz@aol.com, Roberta Kiel at robertakiel@aol.com, or Jen Schiamberg at atjenschiamberg@yahoo.com. If you would like a copy of Rabbi Maurice Salth's Yom Kippur sermon highlighting the "No One Is a Stranger at Central Synagogue" initiative, simply click on the link to sermons in the Worship section of our Web site (www.centralsynagogue.org).

TEENS

Mini-CiTY

Friday, January 9, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Mini-CiTY has been invited to usher at the Shabbat *Mishpachah* on January 9. Mini-CiTY members will have the opportunity to help lead the *t'filah* and tell the story to younger members of the Central Synagogue Religious School and Nursery school. A Family Shabbat dinner will immediately follow. If you are in need of community service hours, this is a great opportunity for you. Please RSVP to Greg Weitzman at WeitzmanG@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038.

56 Club

For Sixth Graders: Monday, January 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Youth Lounge

For Fifth Graders: Wednesday, January 14, 6:15 – 7:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Join us for our next 56 Club. It will be a social action program focused around Martin Luther King, the election, and Judaism's call to action. If you have any questions please contact Greg Weitzman at WeitzmanG@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038.

CiTY (Central Synagogue Youth Group) Monthly Meeting

Tuesday: January 13, 7:15 – 8:15 pm, Youth Lounge

Come join us for a dinner and a social action project in our youth lounge! All programs are written for and by the teens. For more information, please contact Greg Weitzman, Youth Group advisor, at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038, or email him at WeitzmanG@censyn.org.

CiTY New Orleans Masquerade Ball and Fundraiser

Saturday, January 24, 7 – 10 pm, Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street

CiTY is helping to organize the first ever Masquerade Ball and Fundraiser with youth group members from Temple Emanu-El, Temple Shaaray Tefilah, and Steven Wise Synagogue. We are all working together to try to raise money for an organization in New Orleans, which is still rebuilding and recovering from Hurricane Katrina. For more information, please contact Greg Weitzman at WeitzmanG@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038.

ADULTS

Caring For Our Loved Ones Who Are Ill

Tuesday, January 13 & 27, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 503

Taking care of family members who are ill can take a great deal of physical and emotional energy. Those who serve in the role of the caretaker and nurturer need to strengthen their own sources of sustenance. Rabbinical Intern Marion Lev Cohen will act as facilitator as this group will seek to provide support for those who find themselves in this role. We will also look at what our text and tradition offer us as guidance.

Making Your Final Wishes Known

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7:30 pm, Joslin Hall

Michael McFadden and Stephanie Garry from Plaza Jewish Community Chapel will present a workshop which addresses the necessity of making your final wishes known. From pre-planning and how Medicare plays an important role in funding funeral costs while spending down, to documents and statistical information required, cemetery options, organ donor programs as well as alternate final wishes, the professionals from Plaza will answer all of your questions.

Organ Concerts

Professional Organ Concert: Tuesday, January 13, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

Student Organ Concert: Tuesday, January 27, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

Each month from October 2008 through May 2009, Central Synagogue presents a half-hour lunchtime organ recital free to the public under the auspices of The Gabe Wiener Foundation. A master class, beginning at 10:30 am, to which all concertgoers are also invited at no cost, will precede each concert. Program director Dr. Gail Archer has assembled a stellar collection of eminent organists. On January 13, the organist will be Claudia Dumschat from the Church of Transfiguration in New York City. Our student organist will be from The Curtis Institute.

Mendelssohn in the Romantic Century: Organ Concert Series

Wednesday, January 14, Pre-Concert Lecture: 7 pm, Concert: 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

The first in the Mendelssohn concert series will feature Gail Archer, performing the music of Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Robert and Clara Schumann, Johannes Brahms, and Max Reger, in celebration of the bi-centennial anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's birth. The evening will include a pre-concert lecture by Eli Sacks on the history and importance of the Mendelssohn family in the German Jewish community. Eli is currently studying German-Jewish history and philosophy at Princeton University.

Why Knot Knit?

Every Wednesday: 9:30 am – 12 pm, Room 302

Our knitting program to assist the community's needy is in full swing. We are currently knitting scarves for the clients of Central Synagogue's Breakfast Program. Join our congregants for a weekly knitting klatch. No knowledge of knitting is required. For more information, contact Michele Klausner at knitting@censyn.org.

Caring Committee's Breakfast Program

Every Thursday & Friday: 5:30 – 7:30 am, Stern Lobby

The Caring Committee would love to welcome new volunteers who are willing to donate as little as one hour a week to feed the homeless. You also can help by donating plastic take-out containers, travel-size sundries from hotels, planes, etc. or clothing items such as socks and men's pants and shirts. These can be brought to the Community House at any time. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. For more information, contact Amy Heller at Caring_Committee@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 5004.

English in Action

Every Thursday: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Pavilion

For two hours every Thursday morning throughout the year, Central Synagogue volunteers mentor individuals in conversational English. Volunteers work with foreigners on student visas, as well as spouses of students or workers who are living in the U.S. for a year or two and immigrants who hope to become American citizens. If you would like to volunteer for this wonderful program, contact Rosalyn Harber at 212-677-5664 or at rosharber@yahoo.com.

Give Children a Head Start

Central Synagogue has created a partnership with the Urban Horizons Early Childcare Discovery Center, a federally funded pre-school program for low-income families in the South Bronx. Collaboration began this past spring with a drive to collect picture books and easy readers for parents' home libraries. Then our volunteers helped the Center create its first gardening area, where the children grew radishes and sunflowers over the summer. Interested in participating in or planning winter activities?

Join us! E-mail Rachel Barany or Marcia Cohen at Head_Start@censyn.org or call 212-838-5122, ext. 5017.

Make a Difference at a NYC Public School

Throughout the year, Central Synagogue will be involved with PS 84, a public elementary school at 32 West 92 Street, offering support to its staff, teachers, students and parents. You can be involved in the following activities:

- Mentor children in reading and writing.
- Help teachers with children who need extra help.

For more information, call 212-838-5122, ext. 5007, or email at ps83@censyn.org.

Sanctuary Tour

Every Wednesday: 12:45 pm, Sanctuary

Free and open to the public, no reservations necessary. For information, including fees for group tours, please call the Archives Office: 212-838-5122, ext. 2041.

Call for Nominations

Central Synagogue's Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Board members and Officers. If you would like to nominate a congregant, please email our Nominating Committee Chair Alfred Youngwood at 2009NominatingCommittee@censyn.org. You may also submit your nominations by sending a letter to

Alfred Youngwood
Chair, Nominating Committee
Central Synagogue
123 East 55th Street
New York, NY 10022-3502

Save the Date for Jethro Shabbat Program—February 13, 2009

This year's Jethro Shabbat Services and Dinner Program will feature a talk by our honored guest, NYU Law Professor Stephen Gillers. Professor Gillers is a renowned expert on legal ethics, and is often quoted in both legal and general interest publications. He is the author of a widely used law school casebook on legal ethics and has been a leader of the American Bar Association professional responsibility initiatives. His topic will be: *Is Law (Still) an Honorable Profession?: Why We All Need the Answer to be Yes.*

Support Service Families

Supporting our U.S. Service Men and Women in Iraq and Afghanistan through SOFAR USA (sofarusa.org) has matured to the point that SOFAR NY has been established as a separate 501(c)(3) organization to provide pro bono mental health services to the families of people in the Reserves and National Guard—people who are subject to tremendous stress and distress but are not eligible for any government assistance. We welcome more volunteers—both mental health professionals and those who have experience in communications, business and fund raising. Please contact congregant Pat Rich by email at Outreach_to_Soldiers@censyn.org for more information.

Score a Basket or a Goal for Central Synagogue: Purchase Tickets for a Knicks or Rangers Game

Member Ron Tabak is again organizing basketball fundraisers for Central Synagogue, and as an experiment, is also organizing a hockey fundraiser. Ron buys group tickets for New York Knicks and Rangers games and asks people to pay him at his cost plus a donation to Central Synagogue. You may purchase as many tickets as you wish while Ron's supply lasts. The donations are per ticket.

The seats are in the 300 level (about half-way up) of Madison Square Garden. Seats on January 26 are on the side and at a discount. February 25 tickets are at a discount and behind the basket. The other seats, for sure sell-outs, are behind the basket.

Sunday, January 4, World Champion Boston Celtics, 6 pm:
\$44.50 + \$15 donation. Section 346

Monday, January 26, Houston Rockets w/Yao Ming, 7:30 pm:
Seats normally \$60.50 are \$50 + \$10 donation.
All in group get Value Meal Coupon. Section 313

Monday, February 2, Western Champion L.A. Lakers w/Kobe Bryant, 7:30 pm:
\$44.50 + \$15 donation Section 323

Wednesday, February 25, Orlando Magic, 7:30 pm:
Seats normally \$44.50 are \$25 + \$5 donation.

Rangers v. Islanders, Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 pm:
\$78 plus \$7 donation. Section 321. All in group get a Rangers Cap .

For a complete listing of all upcoming games, visit www.centralsynagogue.org.

To purchase tickets, email Ron Tabak's assistant, William Vila, at bvila@probonolaw.com or phone him at 212-735-3692. You may either make out one check to Ron that includes the donation to Central Synagogue (Ron will then send a donation in your name to Central Synagogue) or send Ron two checks: one made payable to Ron for the ticket amount and one payable to Central Synagogue for the donation amount, which he will forward to the synagogue. Mail checks to Ronald Tabak, c/o Skadden Arps, Four Times Square, New York, NY 10036-6522.

Central Synagogue Goes Green

Central Synagogue's Green Team is focused on ways to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" and committed to continually looking for ways to be more environmentally friendly. If you would like to share your ideas, please contact Beth Woloff, Director of Operations at 212-508-3007 or woloffb@censyn.org.

The following excerpt is from a meeting of the Board of Trustees of June 5, 1895.

"Secretary Loebel proposed to acquire a letter copying machine for the Congregation, whereupon Dr. Richman remarked that he is in possession of such a one and also added that in his opinion all communication should be carried out by the Honorary Secretary instead of the Congregation's Secretary, because thereby the Congregation's influence and esteem will be raised. The Trustees shared his opinion, and the Hon. Secretary D.W. Richman is asking to have all notified."

Editor's Note: Though letter copying presses were used as early as the 1780s, most offices relied on copy clerks to write or type copies of letters until the dawn of the 20th century. During the last quarter of the 19th century, "letter copying machines" came onto the market and businesses gradually began to take advantage of these machines. It is interesting to note that Central Synagogue (then known as Ahawath Chesed) was in the forefront in its use of this new technology.

"A Look Back in History" is prepared by Amy Goldberger, Chair, Archives Committee and Anne Mininberg, Archivist

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE MOURNS THE PASSING OF ITS MEMBERS

David Braver. We extend sincere condolences to his wife, Louise Braver, to his daughter, Lauren Braver, to his son, Andrew Braver, and to his grandson, Matthew Braver.

Toby Fraser. We extend sincere condolences to her husband, Roderick Fraser, to her daughter, Lainie Fraser, and to her son, Jackson Fraser.

Barbara Shaw. We extend sincere condolences to her husband, Joe Bruno, to her daughter Ilona Kassy, and to her grandsons, Aaron Schragar and Warren Sears.

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF

Alexandra Leigh Myerson. We extend congratulations to her parents, Christine and Ted Myerson.

WE OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO

Nina Weitzman on the loss of her mother, Rose Horwitz

Judith and Warren Feder on the loss of his father, Leon "Bud" Feder.

Life cycle notices in this issue of *Luach* include information made known to us between October 29 to December 3, 2008. If you would like to submit a life cycle notice, please contact Ana Morel in the Rabbis' Studies at 212-838-5122, ext. 1011, or via email at MorelA@centralsynagogue.org.

LOOKING AHEAD at CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

Illness, Death & Mourning

February 5

Israeli Film Series

February 9

Jethro Shabbat Program

February 13

Presidents' Day – Office Closed

February 16

Religious School Closed for President's Week

February 16 – 20

Nursery School & Parenting Center Closed for President's Week

February 16 – 20

Israeli Film Series

February 23

All classes are held in the Community House, unless otherwise indicated on specific dates in the calendar at the end of *Luach*.

Kindergarten & First Grade	Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Second Grade	Wednesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Third Grade	Thursdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Fourth Grade	Tuesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Fifth Grade	Wednesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Sixth Grade	Mondays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Seventh Grade	Mondays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Eighth & Ninth Grade	Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Eighth & Ninth Grade	Second Tuesday of Every Month, 6:00 – 7:15 pm
Confirmation Class	Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

B'NEI MITZVAH

Since we have established a policy not to have more than two children become *B'nei Mitzvah* at any service, we will have consecutive Saturday Shabbat services in the sanctuary when more than two children will celebrate the event on a Shabbat morning, the first at 10:30 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m. The liturgy and the role of the *B'nei Mitzvah* will be the same at both services and the same clergy will officiate.

With much joy, we offer congratulations to the following congregants on becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

January 3:	Caroline Kuritzkes
January 10 (10:30 a.m. services):	Lena Szeto and Lillie Zakin
January 10 (12:30 p.m. services):	Casey Robin Brooks
January 17:	Asher Baron and Kelly Brickell
January 24:	Aaron Kirshenberg and Victoria Zaro
January 31 (10:30 a.m. services):	Oliver Frank Edelson and Sabrina Lefkowitz
January 31 (12:30 p.m. services):	Ethan Leff
February 7:	Jake Levene and Matthew Henry Roffe

JANUARY 1 THURSDAY | LEGAL HOLIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER CLOSED | OFFICE CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Community House

JANUARY 2 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

6 pm Sanctuary
Shabbat Services

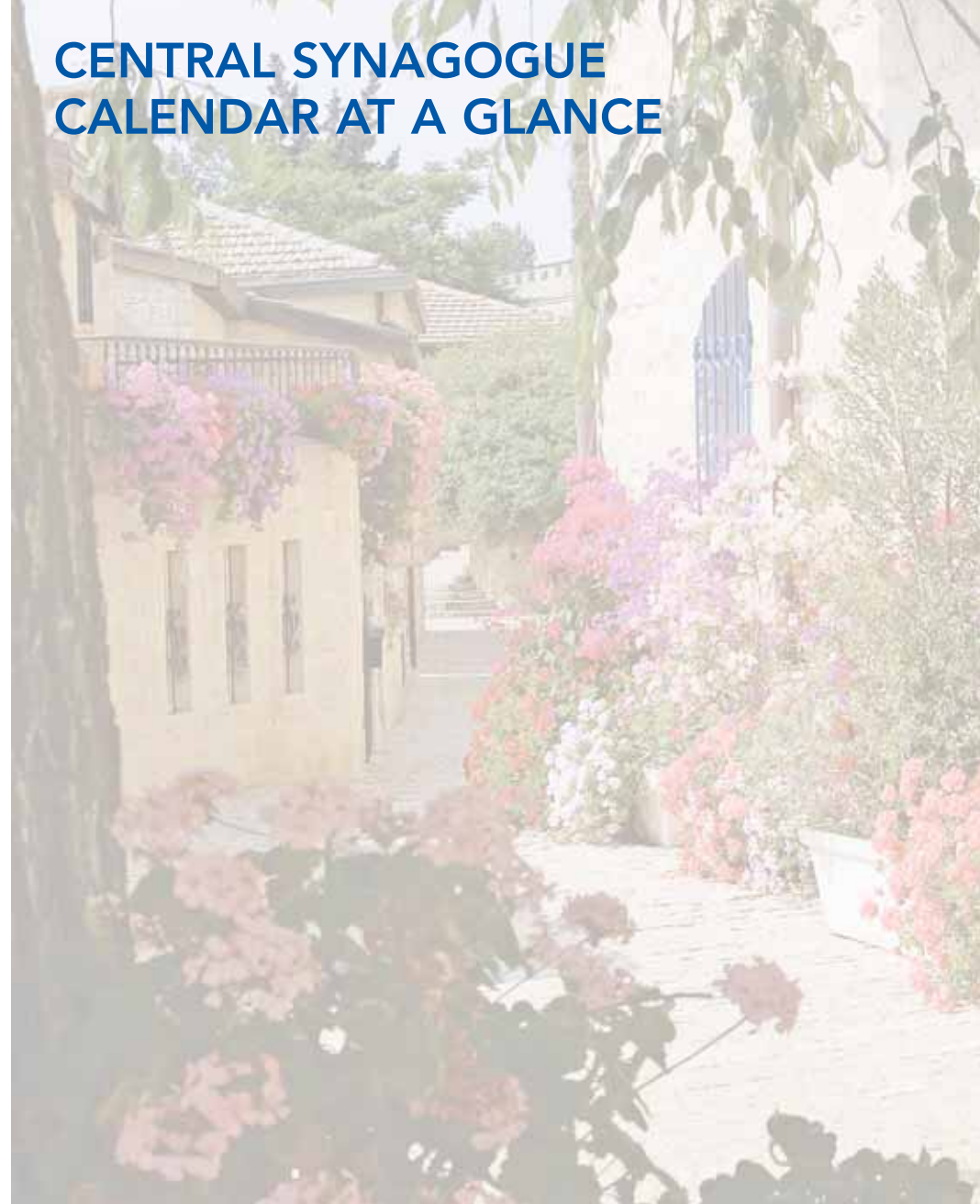
JANUARY 3 SATURDAY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 44:18-47:27 | *Haftarah* Ezekiel 37:15-28

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE



JANUARY 2009 AT A GLANCE

Listings for regularly scheduled programs may be found in the day calendar section beginning on page 19.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday				
NOTES:				Legal Holiday 1	Shabbat Services 2 6 pm, Sanctuary	Shabbat Services 3 10:30 am, Sanctuary				
4	5	6	Clergy Film Series 7 6:30 pm, Pavilion	Israel Before Independence 8 12:30 pm, Room 302 Illness, Death & Mourning 7 pm, Joslin Hall	Shabbat Services 9 6 pm, Sanctuary Shabbat Mishpachah 6 pm, Sanctuary Religious School Family Shabbat Dinner Following Services, Pavilion Mini-CITY 6 pm, Sanctuary	Tot Shabbat 10 9 am, Joslin Hall Shabbat Services 10:30 am, Sanctuary				
11	56 Club for 6th Graders 6:30 pm, Youth Lounge Israeli Film Series 7 pm, Pavilion	12	Organ Concert 12:30 pm, Sanctuary Caring For Ill Loved Ones 6:30 pm, Room 503 CITY Monthly Meeting 7:15 pm, Youth Lounge Making Your Final Wishes Known: 7:30 pm, Joslin Hall	13	56 Club for 5th Graders 6:15 pm, Youth Lounge Mendelssohn Concert 7 pm, Sanctuary	14	Israel Before Independence 15 12:30 pm, Room 302	Shabbat Services 16 6 pm, Sanctuary	Shabbat Services 17 10:30 am, Sanctuary	
18	Martin Luther King, Jr Day	19	20	A Parent's Introduction to Prayer 21 12 pm, Room 503 11/12 Grade Class 6:15 pm, Room 503	Israel Before Independence 22 12:30 pm, Room 302 Illness, Death & Mourning 7 pm, Joslin Hall	23	Book Group 9:15 am, Room 602 Shabbat Services 6 pm, Sanctuary	Tot Shabbat 24 9 am, Joslin Hall Shabbat Services 10:30 am, Sanctuary CITY New Orleans Ball 7 pm, 1 East 65 St.		
25	Israeli Film Series 7 pm, Pavilion	26	Organ Concert 12:30 pm, Sanctuary Caring For Ill Loved Ones 6:30 pm, Room 503	27	28	Israel Before Independence 29 12:30 pm, Room 302 Is There A New Torah For Men 7 pm, Joslin Hall	6th Grade Family Retreat Woodcliff, NJ Book Group 9:15 am, Room 602 Shabbat Services 6 pm, Sanctuary	30	6th Grade Family Retreat Woodcliff, NJ Tot Shabbat 9 am, Joslin Hall Shabbat Services 10:30 am, Sanctuary	31

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.”

(Edith Lovejoy Pierce)



SUNDAY **4** JANUARY

OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY **5** JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am **Minyan**
Community House

TUESDAY **6** JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am **Minyan**
Community House

6 – 9 pm **Me'ah**
Room 301

JANUARY 7 WEDNESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
9:30 am – 12 pm Room 302	Why Knot Knit?
11 am – 12:15 pm Room 504	Brunch & Learn: <i>Parshat Ha-Shavua</i>
12 – 2 pm	Sanctuary Open for Meditation Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm
6 – 7 pm Joslin Hall	Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
6:30 pm Pavilion	Clergy Film Series
7 – 8:30 pm Room 504	Beginning Hebrew for Adults
7:30 – 9 pm Joslin Hall	Adult <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Class

"Joseph forgave his brothers and said, 'Although you intended me harm, God intended it for good, so as to bring about the present result—the survival of our people.'" (Genesis 50:19-20)

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 – 9 am Room 504	Bible and Bagels: Verse by Verse in the Torah
10:30 am – 12:30 pm Pavilion	English in Action
12:30 – 2 pm Room 302	Israel Before Independence
6:30 – 7:30 pm Room 503	Advanced Hebrew Class
7 pm Joslin Hall	Illness, Death and Mourning in Jewish Tradition

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 - 9:15 am Room 504	Alper Talmud Study: <i>Sages of the Talmud</i>
6 pm Sanctuary	Shabbat Services
6 pm Sanctuary	Shabbat <i>Mishpachah</i> (Family Shabbat)
Immediately Following Services Pavilion	Religious School Family Shabbat Dinner

JANUARY 10 SATURDAY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

9 am Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 47:28-50:26 | *Haftarah* | Kings 2:1-12

JANUARY 11 SUNDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY 12 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

6:30 – 7:30 pm 56 Club Event for Sixth Graders
Youth Lounge

7 pm Israeli Film Series
Pavilion

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

12:30 pm Professional Organ Concert
Sanctuary

6 – 9 pm *Me'ah*
Room 301

6:30 – 8 pm Caring For Our Loved Ones Who Are Ill
Room 503

7:15 – 8:15 pm CiTY Monthly Meeting
Youth Lounge

7:30 pm Making Your Final Wishes Known
Joslin Hall

JANUARY 14 WEDNESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 am 110 Conference Room	Executive Committee Meeting
9:30 am – 12 pm Room 302	Why Knot Knit?
11 am – 12:15 pm Room 504	Brunch & Learn: <i>Parshat Ha-Shavua</i>
12 - 2 pm	Sanctuary Open for Meditation Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm
6 – 7 pm Joslin Hall	Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
6:15 – 7:15 pm Youth Lounge	56 Club Event for Fifth Graders
7 – 8:30 pm Room 504	Beginning Hebrew for Adults
7 pm Sanctuary	Mendelssohn Organ Concert Series The pre-concert lecture begins at 7 pm; the concert begins at 7:30 pm.
7:30 – 9 pm Joslin Hall	Adult <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Class

THURSDAY 15 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 – 9 am Room 504	Bible and Bagels: Verse by Verse in the Torah
10:30 am – 12:30 pm Pavilion	English in Action
12:30 – 2 pm Room 302	Israel Before Independence
6:30 – 7:30 pm Room 503	Advanced Hebrew Class

FRIDAY 16 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 - 9:15 am Room 504	Alper Talmud Study: <i>Sages of the Talmud</i>
6 pm Sanctuary	Shabbat Services

JANUARY 17 SATURDAY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Exodus 1:1-6:1 | *Haftarah* Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

JANUARY 18 SUNDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 19 MONDAY | FEDERAL HOLIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED | OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

6 – 9 pm *Me'ah*
Room 301

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

9:30 am – 12 pm Why Knot Knit?
Room 302

11 am – 12:15 pm Brunch & Learn: *Parshat Ha-Shavua*
Room 504

12 – 2 pm Sanctuary Open for Meditation
Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm

12 – 1:30 pm A Parent's Introduction to Prayer
Room 503

6 – 7 pm Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
Joslin Hall

6:15 – 7:30 pm Eleventh/Twelfth Grade Class
Room 503

7 – 8:30 pm Beginning Hebrew for Adults
Room 504

7:30 – 9 pm Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class
Joslin Hall

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love." (Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

JANUARY 22 THURSDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9 am Bible and Bagels:
Verse by Verse in the Torah
Room 504

10:30 am – 12:30 pm English in Action
Pavilion

12:30 – 2 pm Israel Before Independence
Room 302

6:30 – 7:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Class
Room 503

7 pm Illness, Death and Mourning
in Jewish Tradition
Joslin Hall

JANUARY 23 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9:15 am Alper Talmud Study: *Sages of the Talmud*
Room 504

9:15 – 10:15 am Book Group
Room 602

6 pm Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

9 am Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

7 – 10 pm CiTY New Orleans
Masquerade Ball and Fundraiser
Temple Emanu-El,
1 East 65th Street

Weekly Torah Portion Exodus 6:2-9:35 | *Haftarah* Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY 26 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

7 pm Israeli Film Series
Pavilion

JANUARY 27 TUESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
12:30 pm Sanctuary	Student Organ Concert
6 – 9 pm Room 301	Me'ah
6:30 – 8 pm Room 503	Caring For Our Loved Ones Who Are Ill

JANUARY 28 WEDNESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 am Pavilion	Board of Trustees Meeting
9:30 am – 12 pm Room 302	Why Knot Knit?
11 am – 12:15 pm Room 504	Brunch & Learn: <i>Parshat Ha-Shavua</i>
12 – 2 pm	Sanctuary Open for Meditation Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm
6 – 7 pm Joslin Hall	Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
7 – 8:30 pm Room 504	Beginning Hebrew for Adults
7:30 – 9 pm Joslin Hall	Adult <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Class

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 – 9 am Room 504	Bible and Bagels: Verse by Verse in the Torah
10:30 am – 12:30 pm Pavilion	English in Action
12:30 – 2 pm Room 302	Israel Before Independence
6:30 – 7:30 pm Room 503	Advanced Hebrew Class
7 pm Joslin Hall	Is There A New Torah For Men?

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Stern Lobby	Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 - 9:15 am Room 504	Alper Talmud Study: <i>Sages of the Talmud</i>
9:15 – 10:15 am Room 602	Book Group
6 pm Sanctuary	Shabbat Services
Woodcliff Lake, NJ	Sixth Grade Family Retreat

JANUARY 31 SATURDAY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

9 am Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Sixth Grade Family Retreat

Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Weekly Torah Portion Exodus 10:1-13:16 | *Haftarah* Jeremiah 46:13-28

FEBRUARY 1 SUNDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

FEBRUARY 2 MONDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

6 – 9 pm Me'ah
Room 301

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

9:30 am – 12 pm Why Knot Knit?
Room 302

11 am – 12:15 pm Brunch & Learn: *Parshat Ha-Shavua*
Room 504

12 – 2 pm Sanctuary Open for Meditation
Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm

6 – 7 pm Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
Joslin Hall

7 – 8:30 pm Beginning Hebrew for Adults
Room 504

7:30 – 9 pm Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class
Joslin Hall

FEBRUARY 5 THURSDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9 am Bible and Bagels:
Verse by Verse in the Torah
Room 504

10:30 am – 12:30 pm English in Action
Pavilion

12:30 – 2 pm Israel Before Independence
Room 302

6:30 – 7:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Class
Room 503

7 pm Illness, Death and
Mourning in Jewish Tradition
Joslin Hall

"Creation, we are taught, is not an act that happened once upon a time, once and forever. The act of bringing the world into existence is a continuous process...Every instant is an act of creation." (Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*)

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9:15 am Alper Talmud Study: *Sages of the Talmud*
Room 504

6 pm Shabbat Shirah Services
Sanctuary
We will celebrate the Shabbat of Song with a concert and lecture.

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

9 am Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

10:30 am Shabbat Shirah Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Exodus 13:17-17:16 | *Haftarah* Judges 4:4-5:31

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