

MITZVAH
DAY



April 10, 2011

Congregation Emanu-El of
Westchester

The Perfect Opportunity to Give Your Time!

Mitzvah Day 2011/5771 is almost here. This is not only an outlet for volunteerism; it is a vital expression of Jewish commitment. The ancient rabbis taught that *gimilut chassadim* – acts of loving kindness - are as important as prayer and study. Our tradition teaches that helping others, both financially and with our time, is incumbent upon each Jew. This is what it means to live our “Jewish values”; this is what it means to be God’s partners on earth.

There is no easier way to fulfill our Jewish obligation to give of our time than to volunteer for one of the activities listed in this booklet. Just imagine: congregants joining together to make a difference for our community – bringing joy to children, welcoming the stranger, supporting our troops, bringing Passover to the elderly, supporting those who are ill, beautifying our towns and so much more.

We’ll begin our day with breakfast together, building connections with each other around our efforts to make the world a better place. I’ll offer a short word of blessing and then the work will begin. This is a day about community, about the things which bind us to one another. This is a day about expressing our Judaism in a way that benefits all people. This is a day about doing, about putting our values and ideals into action. This is a day about YOU making a difference.

You will see on the registration form that there is an opportunity to support Mitzvah Day with your financial contribution and we welcome any amount to support these important efforts. But most importantly, please read through this booklet and register for an activity today.

L’Shalom



Rabbi Howard J. Goldsmith

MITZVAHS AT THE TEMPLE

PROJECT LINUS

Captain: Ann Spindel Teacher: Neila Gabel

Since early 1996, Project Linus has delivered over a million homemade security blankets to children in the US and abroad either seriously ill or traumatized in some manner. Our Temple has lovingly created "No-Sew" fleece blankets since 2005. We have become volunteer "blanketeers".

- **Create "No-Sew" Fleece Blankets**
- **Ages 7 and up - 9:30 - 11:00 AM - Downstairs classrooms**

PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION (PCF)

Captain: Denise Warshauer Teacher: Fern Tannenbaum

PCF'S mission is to find a cure for childhood cancer. This non-profit children's charity raises money for research, state-of-the-art equipment/instruments and patient/parent care for world renowned doctors at the hospitals PCF supports.

- **Decorate oversize T-shirts and pillowcases for children who are in the hospital for cancer treatment**
- **Create colorful posters for hanging in the rooms and halls of pediatric cancer units in PCF supported hospitals.**
- **Ages 7 and up - 9:30 - 11:00 AM - Social Hall**

HISPANIC RESOURCE CENTER

Captain: Doreen Kushel

The Hispanic Resource Center is a community based organization founded in 1998. Their goal is to facilitate the integration of the recently arrived to the already established community. The center assists individuals and families in need with issues such as immigration, housing, health, employment and education.

- **Address, stuff, & stamp envelopes for Day Laborer mailing**
- **Adults - 9:30 - 11:00 AM - Room 1**

THE LONE SOLDIER PROJECT

Captain: Deb Uhlfelder Teacher: Malka Starr

- **Letter writing & care package assembly for non-Israeli soldiers serving in the Israeli army**
- **All ages - 9:30 - 11:00 AM - Rooms 2 & 3**

DOROT PASSOVER PACKAGE DELIVERY

Captain: Susan Richter, Director, DOROT Westchester

We are hosting the Westchester DOROT package delivery for the fifth year! Brighten the day of a senior! Deliver a Passover package and visit with an

elderly person living in Westchester. In addition to signing up at the temple, **on-line registration is required** at www.dorotusa.org and will open March 14th.

- **Pack and deliver a Passover package to a senior**
- **Individual adults & families – 9:30 – 11:00 AM - Library**

GILDA'S CLUB WESTCHESTER

Captain: Amy Schulhof Teacher: Michelle Weiss

Gilda's Club Westchester is a community of people whose lives have been touched by cancer...all types of cancer. Gilda's Club Westchester offers support and networking groups, lectures, workshops and social events for men, women, children and teens in a nonresidential, home-like setting.

- **Assemble "Wellness Day" pampering baskets and create cards**
- **Ages 5 and up - 9:30 – 11:00 AM - Social Hall**

MITZVAHS OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE

PLANTING AT THE HOLOCAUST GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Captain: Women's Study Group

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center has a Garden of Remembrance in White Plains. Help plant early spring flowers to beautify this special place.

- **Plant spring flowers - please bring your own gardening tools - we will provide the flowers**
- **Adults – Meet at the Temple at 9:30 AM - 148 Martine Avenue in White Plains**

SINGING FOR SENIORS

Captain: Cantor Stone Teachers: Sharon Baranowski & Alanna Alkalay
Our Junior Choir and Temple Tones will bring cheer and music to the seniors living at The Greens at Greenwich on King Street.

- **Performing for residents of assisted living facility**
- **All ages - Rehearsal at the Temple 9:30 sharp**
- **Performance at 10:30 AM at The Greens at Greenwich**

RYE NATURE CENTER

Captain: Margie McCabe Teacher: Lainy Futterman

The Rye Nature Center is located on 47 acres of wildlife preserve, with over two miles of hiking trails, ponds, streams and granite outcroppings.

- **Litter clean up along Blind Brook – wear closed toe shoes & bring utility gloves**
- **All ages - meet at the Temple at 9:30 AM**

FOOD BANK FOR WESTCHESTER

Captain: Leslie Mook Teacher: Debbie Briks

The mission of Food Bank For Westchester is to alleviate hunger and minimize food waste in Westchester County by soliciting, storing, sorting, and distributing a steady supply of surplus but good quality food to Westchester's emergency food programs.

- **Sorting and packing food for distribution**
- **All ages – wear closed toe shoes**
- **Meet at the temple at 9:30 AM**

BREAKFAST RUN

Captain: Jane Dubro

Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless. Our Youth Group has spear-headed many “Midnight Runs” and this will be our fourth “Breakfast Run”.

- **Deliver food and supplies to the homeless in New York City**
- **Youth Group Members and Adults**
- **Arrive at Temple 9:00 AM - Depart Temple for Run 9:15 AM sharp**

HOPE HOUSE

Captain: Bruce Freyer

Having Opportunities for People Everyday - A rehabilitative clubhouse where people recovering from mental illness find the support and resources they need to pursue their goals and dreams. Our history with HOPE House is long and meaningful. We support them throughout the year with holiday meals and treats.

- **Walk and picnic lunch at Pepsico Sculpture Gardens with HOPE House members**
- **Adults**
- **Meet in the parking lot at the Pepsico Sculpture Garden entrance and information building at 11:00 AM**
- **Complete walk by 1 PM**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN WESTCHESTER

Captain: Martin Burger Teacher: Ed Stotsky

An organization of thousands of volunteers who seek to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness throughout Westchester County, and to make decent, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and public action.

- **Project may entail building, painting, or planting, specifics including location tba.**
- **14 or older with adult – Meet at Temple at 9:30 AM.**

RAISE FUNDS FOR THE LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION FOR PANCREATIC CANCER - 3 MILE WALK AT RYE TOWN PARK

The Lustgarten Foundation is the nation's largest private supporter of pancreatic cancer research.

- **Individual registration fee is required. Please visit www.lustgarten.org – click on the “get involved” link**
- **Registration is at 8:00 AM at the Rye Town Park**
- **Walk begins at 9:00 AM**

MEMO FROM MARCIE

Our annual Mitzvah Day is a wonderful opportunity for families to live our Jewish values by helping others. This booklet describes each activity and asks you to indicate three choices of activities on the registration form, one of which you will be assigned.

This is the Religious School program for April 10th and all students are expected to participate with their families. Not participating will count as a class absence.

All of our teachers will be helping out with one activity. If you have any questions, please contact me at 967-4382 ext. 15.

Marcie

REGISTRATION

Please complete and return this form to the Temple by **March 28th**
or e-mail Emily or Leslie with your choices.

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PARTICIPATION


NAME: (please print)

ADULT

ADULT

CHILD

CHILD _____

 **E-MAIL (preferred for communication)** _____

DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

Please indicate your first three (3) project choices below.

Activity 1ST: _____ 2ND: _____ 3RD: _____

**You will receive confirmation of your assignment by April 4th.
(You will be called if you do not use e-mail.)**

I/WE want to help sponsor Mitzvah Day via the Social Action Fund. Enclosed find my check made out to Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester for

\$ _____



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YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP BY E-MAILING

EMILYCOHEN@OPTONLINE.NET or

MOOK1@OPTONLINE.NET

Or

on the web
CONGREGATIONEMANUEL.ORG

JUST CLICK ON THE MITZVAH DAY LINK ON THE ACTIVITIES PAGE.

