

STORAHTELLING: SOCIAL JUSTICE SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

7:30PM

Each year we come together on the Shabbat of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend to celebrate our commitment to social justice. This past year our nation faced terror attacks, Islamophobia, gun violence, and so many other critical issues. And so we need to recommit ourselves to our social justice core values more than ever. With beautiful music, inspiring readings and a Storahtelling-style interpretation of the Torah portion, our traditions will help to shed light on the issues of our day as never before.

**HAVE A HAPPY
& HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
CONGREGATION EMANU-EL**



ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016

We are thrilled to announce the winner of this year's Emanu-El Prize is Rabbi Emeritus Daniel S. Wolk.

INVITATIONS TO FOLLOW...

ISAACS MEMORIAL LECTURE WITH ETHICIST MICHAEL GILLETTE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:30PM



With his background in philosophy and clinical medicine, Michael Gillette has carved a niche for himself helping create medical ethics policies for a variety of organizations including: hospitals, long

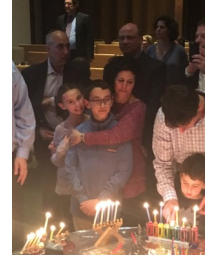
term care facilities, medical schools, mental health facilities, community-based service providers and intellectual disabilities facilities.

Dr. Gillette is a dynamic speaker, often presenting at seminars and conferences or guest lecturing at universities around the country.

Sponsored by the Isaacs Memorial Lecture Fund.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

On one of the darkest nights of the year our sanctuary glowed with the lights from dozens of menorahs as over 100 people lit candles in celebration of Chanukah at our Chanukah Shabbat Service. A delicious dinner, a lively service (including a congo line of children led by Rabbi Goldsmith), bright lights, favorite songs and our annual Spinagogue game made this a night to remember.



GILDA'S CLUB

Our Youth Group hosted the arts and crafts room at the Gilda's Club Noogiefest, providing a fun activity for youngsters and families dealing with cancer and/or loss.



FAMILY EDUCATION MORNING & MITZVAH MOMENT

Families worshipped, learned and performed mitzvot together.



SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY

Emanu-El, Rye Community Synagogue, KTI, and JCCH received a \$4,000 grant this year to create Social Action Sundays for all of our teens. On November 22 over 60 teens came together to make blankets for Project Linus and care packages for Lone Soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces.





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**To contact Rabbi Goldsmith
directly: 914-967-4382 ext. 13**

**To contact Abbie Levitt
directly: 914-967-4382 ext. 18**

**Questions about your bill?
Contact Lori Bluberg
directly : 914-967-4382 x16**

ICON GUIDE

With myriad ways to engage at the synagogue, our icons make it easy to recognize those things that interest you.



REFLECT & ELEVATE

Find peace and inspiration from these worship, meditative, reflection-filled experiences that will elevate your mind and spirit.



MIX & MINGLE

Connect with others to find true joy. These social and cultural events create the space to gather together around fun, engaging and interesting topics and activities.



FAMILY TIME

Spend a few hours with the people you hold most dear. Our strongest link to Judaism is through our family. Refresh those bonds with your spouse, parents, children, and grandchildren to create memories that will endure for decades to come.



STEP-UP & GIVE BACK

Stand up for the values you espouse and give your time, energy, and resources to the community. There is no better way to express gratitude for the blessings in our lives.



SEEK & DISCOVER

Expand your mind. Find new ways to think about our world rooted in innovative perspectives on our ancient tradition.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Chanukah brought untold joy and celebration to Emanu-El this year. The glow of lights, the celebration of freedom, the rededication to our tradition, the sounds of children laughing, the smiles of parents “*schepping nachas*” (feeling pride) – all of it brought a sense of wholeness and contentment to those who gathered together for our festival of lights.



And yet, our celebrations of light took place under a looming shadow, a shadow that darkens our society and threatens our way of life, the values that we hold dear as Americans and as Jews. Millions of Americans now openly discuss excluding Muslims from civil society: forcing them to register, forbidding them from traveling to our shores, excluding them as refugees because of their religion. As a pulpit rabbi, I do not take a position on the candidacy of any one candidate. As a pulpit rabbi, I must speak out against rhetoric and proposals that threaten our way of life.

“The whole world is a very narrow bridge. The secret is not to be afraid.”
- Rav Nachman

My grandparents had to register as Jews in Nazi Germany. My great-grandfather died in Cuba of a simple infection. Antibiotics in America would have saved him. But America refused him entry because of his religion. And now Muslims die in refugee camps and drown in oceans because the world will not accept them. Of all people on earth, we know what happens when a nation vilifies and excludes an entire group. If they will vilify one group, they will eventually vilify another. No one is safe. I *am* afraid of people who support anti-American policies that contradict our highest values. I am afraid of the millions of people who confuse the victims of militant Islamic extremism with its perpetrators.

This vile rhetoric springs from a toxic stew of fear and politics. The attacks in Paris and San Bernardino and around the world have done more to advance ISIS's agenda than any attack in the Middle East. How? Their agenda has moved forward not from loss of life or violence, *per se*. Instead, they have stoked fear and the West has responded by questioning our own values of freedom, pluralism and openness. When we close borders, when we discriminate based on religion, when we turn away the “tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to be free,” when we do these things we help ISIS defeat the very values they profess to hate. And so they win.

The great Hasidic master, Rav Nachman of Bratzlav, taught “*Kol haolam kulo, gesher tzar meod, v'haikar lo l'fached klal.*” “The whole world is a very narrow bridge. The secret is not to be afraid.” He lived in a time when Jews knew fear day-to-day, a time when Cossacks destroyed villages, when Christian clerics accused Jews of using the blood of Christian children to make matzah, when broader society walled us off and attacked whenever they felt like it. Today we know security and safety and prosperity as never before. If Rabbi Nachman could live life without fear, than surely we can, too. If Rabbi Nachman could live according the Jewish values, than so can we.

Some politicians and groups take our fear and offer simplistic “solutions”. They make some people feel good. Yet they ultimately betray all that we stand for as Americans, all that we strive for as Reform Jews. If our ancestors had given in to fear, if they had given up their values when faced with threats, we would not be here today, we would have disappeared from the face of the earth. Like our ancestors, like the Maccabees of old, we must now stand up against fear and stand up for those values that define us. If we do not, then our people will fade, if we do not, than all that makes America great will vanish. Will we move toward a darkness that makes the heart tremble? Or, will we make the light shine brighter? To brighten our world we need only “not be afraid.”

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard'.

Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi

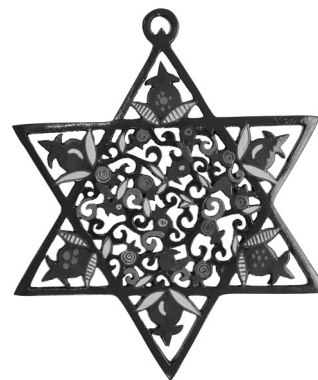


B'NEI MITZVAH MAZEL TOV!

We would like to honor the following students who are celebrating their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies in January. It is a pleasure and a joy to welcome them as full members of our congregation.

OLIVIA PERINI

ETHAN WIEDERKER



RITUAL CORNER: PIKUACH NEFESH TO SAVE A LIFE & ORGAN DONATION

Saving a life serves as the highest principle in Jewish law and tradition. Indeed, we may transgress nearly any law in order to save a life. We find the Biblical rationale for this principle in Leviticus 18:5 "You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall **live** by them: I am the LORD." In other words, we ought to "live" by the laws of the Torah, not die because of them.

The Talmud (Yoma 84b) elaborates that we should not hesitate to break the Sabbath in order to save a life or even to treat a sick person. The Talmud (Sanhedrin 74a) lists a few exceptions to this principle, things that tradition teaches Jews must not do even if their lives are in danger: idolatry, blasphemy, murder (self-defense and wartime killings are not considered murder), incest and adultery.

For Reform Jews one very practical application of this principle is organ donation. Organ donation would typically be considered a violation of the commandment to honor the body of a deceased person. But all Jewish authorities agree that the value of saving a life through organ trumps this other commandment. Thus, all Jews ought to register as organ donors.



To sign-up as an organ donor or to find out more about organ donation, please visit the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Donate Life webpage at:

www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/donation/organ.

EXPLORING OUR PRAYERS FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30PM

5th and 6th grade students will share their own interpretations of the prayers in our liturgy during the service.

Followed by a Make-Your-Own
Ice Cream Sundae Oneg!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: PIZZA TRUCK FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER & SERVICE

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

DINNER 5:30PM

SERVICE 6:30PM



Dinner: \$15 per child,
\$20 per adult, \$60 family maximum.

RSVP for dinner to Jen at 914-967-4382 x12
or jberman@congregationmanuel.org.

CANTOR'S MESSAGE

REPORT FROM URJ BIENNIAL 2015

For me, the most exciting part of attending Biennial is taking the pulse of the Reform Movement today, and figuring out how I can do my part to embody the new directions the movement is taking. Once again, I have come home brimming with new ideas to implement!



Choosing carefully from hundreds of workshops, I was drawn mainly to those in the “Audacious Hospitality” track. This “Audacious Hospitality” initiative, introduced at the last Biennial, encourages congregations to open our doors. Now, two years later, changes in our culture are making us ever more aware of the need to welcome everyone who enters our synagogues, regardless of race, gender identity or disability. In this spirit, the URJ unanimously passed a resolution regarding the Reform Movement’s positive stand on transgender issues. An example of one of these issues is that as of last summer, our Reform Jewish camps are now able to accommodate transgender campers.

One of the most interesting workshops I attended, “Beyond Counting Heads,” addressed new ways of measuring the success of our programming, to keep up with the times. In the 1950’s the focus of the Reform movement was on our buildings: “If you build it, they will come.” In the 1980’s we shifted emphasis to programs, the success of which is largely measured by how many people show up. Nowadays, we are evolving from buildings and programs to people and relationships. Therefore, instead of “counting heads” (and seeing that there is enough seating and food, for example) we are now increasing our awareness

of creating meaningful experiences that both deepen relationships and “strengthen the Jewish DNA” of our participants.

Actually, much of what we have been offering at the temple in recent years has been going in this direction; our Women’s Study Group is a great example of a vibrant and warm community that has developed through building authentic relationships within a joyous Jewish context. Another example is that you may have noticed congregants relating short personal stories at services, as introductions to prayers. These little “sacred stories” are culled from my *Reflections* workshops, in which we “reflect” on ordinary moments from our daily lives (see below). In sharing parts of ourselves with the community, we foster a greater sense of connection and meaning.

New ideas and perspectives gleaned from Biennial are invaluable in helping the rabbi and me - and our entire temple staff - to keep current and creative. The ideas that are born, the personal interactions, the abundance of resources, and the camaraderie of attending Biennial as a temple delegation are all very exciting for me. It is invigorating to come back and evolve what we do to be ever more aligned with a greater vision, and with serving the needs of all our congregants. The beauty of Reform Judaism is that it is always renewing itself. This is exactly what attending the Biennial does for those of us participate.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend every two years, and enthusiastically urge YOU to join our team in Boston in 2017!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Stone".

Meredith Stone, Cantor

REFLECTIONS: AN ONGOING WORKSHOP WITH CANTOR STONE

In this workshop we find out how our daily life experiences, observations and anecdotes can illuminate and give deeper meaning to our prayers. Through writing on various topics, learning about the themes of prayers, and sharing as a group, we will see prayer in a new light and strengthen connections to one another and our tradition.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 6:30PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 12:00PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 6:30PM

RSVP to Cantor Stone at 914-967-4382 x19
or mstone@congregationmanuel.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS SOCIAL ACTION IN 2016

UJA Families Feeding Families

January 10 - February 7

DOROT Passover Package Delivery

April 10

Mitzvah Day

April 10

Brunch Run

May 1

Interested in participating in any of these great efforts? Contact Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18 or alevitt@congregationemanuel.org.

KNITZVAH CORPS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
& FEBRUARY 25

5:30PM

Our Knitzvah Corps meets monthly to knit baby clothing, blankets, and chemo caps to donate to those in need.



We enjoy an evening of knitting and schmoozing in our cozy Berger Family Library while performing a lovely mitzvah. This is a group activity that enables us to experience a true sense of social action. All are welcome.

RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x21 or jdbro@congregationemanuel.org.

DOROT WESTCHESTER VISITING OPPORTUNITY

There are lonely seniors waiting in neighboring towns for a friendly visitor. Can you visit them? Volunteers are matched with seniors for weekly home visits. DOROT social workers maintain a supportive presence for the duration of your relationship.



To sign up contact Emily Cohen at 914-381-1260 or emilydcohen@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME FOR ESL PROGRAM

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS,
AND WEDNESDAYS
9:30 - 11:00AM

Volunteers are needed to teach English as a Second Language to a very eager-to-learn immigrant community. No knowledge of Spanish or a teaching background is necessary. Come one morning to observe other volunteers and see what a rewarding experience it is for both tutors and students. You may volunteer any or all three mornings.

Classes are held at the Don Bosco Community Center, 22 Don Bosco Place, Port Chester, NY (near Costco).

For more information or to volunteer, email: Doreen Kushel at dkushel@icloud.com or Emily Cohen at emilydcohen@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST. THOMAS CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

MONDAYS
10:30AM

Volunteers help with Thrift Shop sorting and set-up on an ongoing basis. The shop serves the local community with affordable clothing for men, women and children.

For more information, please contact Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18 or alevitt@congregationemanuel.org.

St. Thomas Church is located at 168 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck.

YOUTH AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

MLK & JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*



The Jewish community was very involved in the Civil Rights movement.

Our history is one to be proud of. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and religious leaders marched for Civil Rights in the 1965 Selma Civil Rights March. Rabbi Heschel asked: "Who is a Jew? A person whose integrity decays when unmoved by the knowledge of wrong done to other people". MLK and Heschel are role models for how we should respond to injustice. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's memory is celebrated because of his greatness.

This past year we saw the deaths of unarmed black men such as Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice. Their deaths confirm that much work is needed to have a just and equal society. Stereotypes and ignorance are at the core of hatred. As Jews who have suffered persecution we know that all lives matter and that we value *Emet V' Tzedek* - truth & justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others? For, an individual has not started living until he can rise above

the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Our temple marks this date with a special MLK Storahelling Social Justice Shabbat on Friday, January 15th at 7:30PM. The service will explore social justice issues of today through the lens of our heritage. Our Youth Group will volunteer with J'Teen at Afya on Monday, January 18. This event started after the earthquake in Haiti and brings teens from J'Teen, Harrison High School, synagogues & churches together to sort medical supplies. This is a day *on* not a day *off* for our teens.

We continue to be inspired by the work of Afya to bring medical care to people that do not have access. Afya has partnered with public health missions in 53 countries around the world but is particularly active in Haiti, where the foundation manages a network of rehabilitative medicine clinics.

May we continue to perform Tikun Olam-repair of the world.

Jane

Jane Dubro, Youth Activities and Program Director

HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT EMANU-EL



Let Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester be a part of your special day!

With the Berger Family Library, the Kaye Family Room, and the Susan Schweitzer Family Learning Center, we have beautiful and unique rooms to host an intimate party or grand affair.

For more information, contact Events Manager Christina Rosenfeld at 914-967-4382 x25 or crosenfeld@congregationemanuel.org.

ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPENING IN YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS?

We'd love to share your news in the bulletin!

If you have any exciting announcements from your life that you would like to appear in the bulletin, contact Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18 or alevitt@congregationemanuel.org.





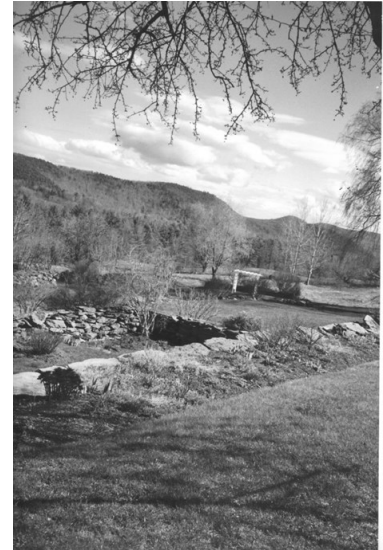
GALLERY OPENING: SUSAN SUSSKIND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

12:00PM

Susan Susskind has been a resident of Westchester for many years. She attended college at NYU and earned a graduate degree in education from the College of New Rochelle. She taught for many years and is now retired.

Susan has always had a passion for the arts which comes through in her work. She feels that art should be something to be shared and enjoyed, "Art is all around us and I hope my work conveys these ideals."



Refreshments served, free and open to the public.

A portion of the proceeds from the exhibit will be donated to Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester Social Action Committee.

WALK WITH THE RABBI

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 & 22

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00AM

What better way is there to discuss a Torah portion than walking at Playland with our community of energetic congregants and our fearless walker, Rabbi Goldsmith?

Meet at the Oakland Beach Lot,
94 Dearborn Avenue, Rye.



NEXT STEP

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 31

& FEBRUARY 28

11:00AM

A group of men in their 60's and 70's meeting to talk about anything but sports, politics and the market!

Next Step started with a concern about the transition from work to retired life and has developed into conversations about personal issues in our lives. The group is facilitated by congregant Paul Spindel (retired executive). Join us!



MAH JONGG & CANASTA

MONDAYS 7:00PM

Drop in for a game of Mah Jongg or Canasta!
Bring your foursome or come alone and join a pick-up game.

Refreshments served and friends are welcome.
Contact Jane for a schedule of Mah Jongg games
at jdubro@congregationemanuel.org or
914-967-4382 x21.

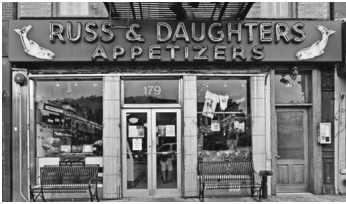




FILM: THE STURGEON QUEENS

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

12:00PM



This delicious documentary about Russ & Daughters tells the story of the founder, Joel and Bella Russ, penniless immigrants from Eastern Europe, who sold

herring from a pushcart on the Lower East Side before opening a smoked fish store 100 years ago at 179 Houston Street, where the store still does business.

Cost including lunch: \$10/person for congregants; \$18/community members. Friends are welcome!

Please RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x21 or jdubro@congregationemanuel.org.

PARENT & KIDS NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

5:00PM

A time for parents to enjoy a night out of the house while the kids are kept busy with fun activities and snacks in another part of the temple!



More details to follow in Emanumail about the grown-up activity and food for the evening.

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES: FILM SERIES

The series showcases films exploring the Jewish experience. This diverse selection of films includes dramatic features, riveting documentaries, and entertaining comedies.



SPECIAL SCREENING FOR JEWISH DISABILITIES MONTH

THE BEST OF MEN

FEBRUARY 28, 4:00PM

The inspiring story of Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, the man who founded the Paralympics. *Directed by Tim Whitby. Rated PG.*

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



APRIL 17, 4:00PM THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

A boy is left alone in a Jewish neighborhood in 1970, when both world cup soccer and dictatorship happen in Brazil. *Directed by Cao Hamburger. Subtitles. Rated PG.*



JUNE 5, 7:00PM THE OTHER SON

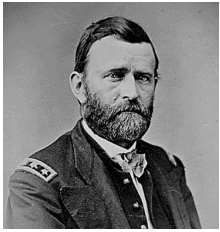
Complex repercussions face two families - one Israeli, one Palestinian - after learning that their sons were accidentally switched at birth.

Directed by Lorraine Levy. Subtitles. Rated PG13.



TEMPLE BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
10:30AM



**When General Grant
Expelled the Jews**
by Jonathon Sarna

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
10:30AM



Book to be announced

Rabbi Goldsmith will be our guest facilitator in March.

Interested in speaking to someone about the Book Club?
Contact Marcie at 914-967-4382 x15.

SINGLE MALT TORAH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21
8:00PM



Men of the congregation gather in Rabbi Goldsmith's study for some Torah learning and refreshments.

Explore the wisdom of our tradition and enjoy some fine scotch. Bring a friend!

TORAH STUDY

Saturday morning. A time of rest. A time of study. A time for conversation. A time to discuss the Torah. Our sessions include a brief worship service with an opportunity to recite Kaddish and celebrate the Sabbath. No need to sign up - just drop by!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 9:00AM
Torah Portion: Yitro

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 9:00AM
Torah Portion: Ki Tisa

CHAI MITZVAH

"If you truly wish your children to study Torah, study it yourself in their presence. They will follow your example. Otherwise, they will not themselves study Torah but will simply instruct their children to do so."

- Rabbi Menahem Mendel of Kotzk.

This special program deepens engagement in our tradition and Jewish knowledge for the parents of 6th graders.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 10:45AM
Mindfulness & Conscious Living

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 10:45AM
Did the Exodus Happen?

UPDATE ON ENGAGING AGING

This year our congregation continues our important discussion about aging, and what it means to live "the third-third of life" with dignity, meaning, connection, fun and holiness.

For those of you who attended the November 1 panel discussion, please fill out your survey and return it to Marcie. If you have not filled out a survey, please contact Marcie and she will send you one.

Marcie can be reached at 914-967-4382 x15 or maiuvalasit@congregationemanuel.org.

Watch your e-mail for our next program on a topic to be determined from the results of this survey sometime in January or early February.

THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP SHABBAT RETREAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Learn, bond, and enjoy the beauty of rustic New England. This year we will spend our time together at the Blackberry River Inn, in Norfolk, CT.

The Blackberry River Inn is a historic Colonial home dating back to 1763, situated on 27 acres in the beautiful Southern Berkshires of Connecticut.

For more information about the Shabbat Retreat, contact Marcie at 914-967-4382 x15 or Meredith at 914-967-4382 x19. Please RSVP by January 3.

To visit the Blackberry River Inn online, go to www.blackberryriverinn.com.

Room rates:

\$280/person double occupancy (includes 3 meals)

and \$330/person single occupancy (includes 3 meals)



ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBINIC INTERN CHASE FOSTER

FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 19, FEBRUARY 26 & MARCH 4

12:00PM

Join our Rabbinic Intern Chase Foster for a journey into the depths of Jewish learning that have provided nourishment for the soul for thousands of years.

With his enthusiastic teaching style and love for Jewish texts, both old and new, be prepared to find new meaning in parts of our tradition from all parts of Jewish history.

Exact details of the course are still forthcoming, and Chase is open to input.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Chase at cfoster@congregationmanuel.org.

BOARD BUZZ & TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

In early November, Susan Amkraut and I had the privilege of attending the URJ Biennial in Orlando. Five thousand strong, clergy, educators, administrators, and lay leaders came together to learn, share, listen, and worship. Informative workshops, plenary sessions, networking meetings, and Shabbat services all reflected the current priorities, mission, and values of the Reform movement. The 2013 Pew Center's "Portrait of American Jewry" reported that thirty-five percent of American Jews consider themselves Reform. In his opening plenary address, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ, emphasized the uniqueness of the Reform movement and its ability to blend ritual observance and text study with a public and private value system. "Just as we cannot build and sustain our Jewish community on ritual and study, neither can we build and sustain our Jewish identity solely on being good citizens of the world."

Susan and I were eager participants in informative workshops covering topics ranging from strengthening synagogue life, to inclusion strategies, to social justice, to Jewish tradition and text. The sessions provided us with unparalleled learning opportunities as Board

members, and I am confident that we developed skills which we will use in our roles as lay leaders at our temple. Among the many workshops I attended, a most interesting one was entitled, "Actualizing Audacious Hospitality through Adaptive Leadership". Working in small groups, we discussed practices and developed tools to confront the challenges facing congregations as we all journey towards growing and transforming modern Jewish life.

At the final plenary, in his standing room only address, Vice President Joe Biden thanked the Reform Jewish community for leading the way on social justice issues, gun violence prevention, marriage equality, and more. "You didn't just lobby me, you educated me." Those words and his sentiment made me very proud to be a Reform Jew, and very happy to be a member of a congregation which is committed to fostering and strengthening Reform Jewish life.



Emily Cohen, Board of Trustees

URJ BIENNIAL 2017 - JOIN US!

The next URJ Biennial will take place December 6 - 10, 2017 in Boston, MA.
Please speak with Rabbi Goldsmith if you are interested in attending.

This past November I attended my first Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial. Biennial is a time and place when Reform Jewish professionals, clergy and lay leaders learn, pray, and share ideas with one another in a thoughtful, focused way.

There were four tracks Biennial attendees could follow: Strengthening Congregations, Audacious Hospitality, Transforming Texts, and Tikkun Olam. I followed the Audacious Hospitality track, listening to experts and sharing ideas with colleagues about how to make our temple community even more welcoming and all inclusive. It is in these focused tracks that deep connections to our practice are born.

While it's my job to make sure that we are a welcoming community at Emanu-El, inclusivity has always been important to me - it's in my nature to include, support and uplift. For years before I came to Emanu-El, I was an elementary school teacher. My job was multifaceted and ever-evolving as a teacher, but my focus was *always* that my students

felt welcomed, included and important, no matter their strengths or perceived weaknesses. My core belief that people need to feel included and important carries over to my work with the temple.

As I unpack ideas from Biennial about ways to enhance our growing community, to include, support and uplift, it occurs to me how well we already do this. I see it at Shabbat services, social action events, in the hallways, and during religious school. However, there is always room to grow and learn! Ensuring that all people feel comfortable in our temple community will advance our principles of inclusion and *tikkun olam*, and strengthen the core of our congregation. I look forward to being a part of this growth within the temple.



Abbie Levitt, Temple Administrator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

"Tzedak, Tzedak, Tzedak – Justice You Shall Pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20) inspired Dr. Martin Luther King and is central to my identity as a Reform Jew. A prayer often read in translation after the Sh'ma begins with: "When Justice burns within us like a flaming fire..." has since my teenage years represented my obligation as a Reform Jew to make the world a better place.



I am proud to be part of a movement committed to...doing Tikkun Olam, making our world a better place for all.

As your Religious Educator, I am fortunate that I have many opportunities to practice my Jewish values and pass them on to the next generation. Last November at the URJ Biennial, I participated in the Tikkun Olam – Repairing our World track of classes and speakers, attending these workshops: "The Power of Mindsets," "Beyond Bathroom Signs, Creating a Culture of Inclusion," and a "Youth Social Action Symposium." I was honored to vote as a delegate from Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester for the "Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People" that was unanimously passed by all the members in attendance at the plenary session.

I am enthusiastic about acting on all that I learned and working with our congregants and our movement in the continuing struggle to bring equal rights and dignity to all of us who are created in God's image.

Once again, with our Rabbinic Intern Chase Foster and chaperone Eric Abbot, I traveled with sixteen of our eighth and ninth graders to Washington, DC to participate in the L'Taken Political Action Weekend led by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). They engaged in learning activities around crucial social justice issues, chose one and lobbied passionately on it in the offices of Senator Schumer and Congresswoman Lowey. Congresswoman Lowey was there to listen to our students urge her to support the Equality Act for LGBTQ persons and Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act and to respond affirmatively to them. Photos of our students and quotes from their lobbying presentations can be found below and on page 15.

The RAC hosted the NAACP, Dr. King and other Civil Rights leaders when they helped draft in their offices the language for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. As Reform Jews we marched with Dr. King in Selma and St. Augustine over 50 years ago and again with black leaders in Selma last summer. I am proud to be part of a movement committed to our Prophetic values, to acting on them to do Tikkun Olam, making our world a better place for all people.

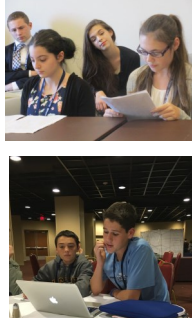
Marcie

Marcie Aiuvalasit, Religious Educator



SNAPSHOT: 9TH & 10TH GRADE L'TAKEN WEEKEND

Our 9th and 10th grade students traveled to Washington, D.C. this past December for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's L'Taken Program with nearly 2,000 other high school-aged students. Students studied public policy issues, explored the Jewish values surrounding these issues, and learned effective advocacy skills as they presented their positions on Capitol Hill to Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Senator Chuck Schumer. Below are some highlights of our weekend, along with thoughtful quotes from students.



"We get this backing [for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities] from two examples from the Torah, the first of which comes from Leviticus, "you shall not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind." This shows that the Torah states that the people should not make life harder for those with disabilities of all sorts. Passing the CRPD treaty will make life easier for those with disabilities and reflect the values of Reform Judaism."

- Sam Glaser and Cole Wyman

"Jewish tradition is clear on the treatment of refugees and immigrants. Our faith demands of us concern for the stranger in our midst."

- Matthew Griff, Justin Grootbuis, Jimmy Hefter, and Reese Ptashnik

"As young women in high school, we have a personal connection with the issue of reproductive rights. It is important to us that women have the right to choose what they can do with their bodies, because this affects us all negatively."

Sarah Birnbaum, Ari Daniels, Rebecca Daniels, and Shosbi Daniels

"Climate change caused by global warming is an issue that we place as a priority, as we are already seeing its negative effects. Luckily, there are bills pending in the House that you [Congresswoman Lowey] could support in order to better the environment and the well being of our children."

- Ben Stein and Alex Kaplan

"Stem cell research is extremely important and we really hope that you [Senator Schumer] will co-sponsor legislation like the Stem Cell Research Advancement Act, which was introduced in the house in 2013."

- Rose Baranowski

"Gun violence causes the deaths of almost 30,000 Americans every year. This horrifying statistic alone is unacceptable, not to mention the hundred billion dollars that are spent on the medical and social costs of these attacks, 80% of which is paid for by taxpayers. Financial loss, not to mention tragedy and death, can be prevented if background checks on people buying guns are more strict."

- Lila Rutishauser

FAMILY TIME & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Introduce your kindergarten & pre-school aged children to Jewish life and celebration Congregation Emanu-El.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes are a wonderful introduction to the Religious School experience. Each class focuses on a Jewish holiday with a fun-filled program including cooking, music, storytelling, and arts and crafts. Classes meet on Sunday mornings, and are open to the public. Bring friends!

2016 WINTER/SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 24
TU B'SHEVAT

FEBRUARY 7
TZEDAKAH

MARCH 13
PURIM

APRIL 3
PASSOVER

MAY 1
YOM HA'ATZMAUT/ISRAEL

For more information about this program or to enroll your child, contact Religious Educator Marcie Aiuvalasit at maiuvalasit@congregationemanuel.org or 914-967-4382 x15.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

**PRE-K & K PROGRAM:
TU B'SHVAT**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
9:30 - 11:45AM

**PRE-K & K PROGRAM:
TZEDAKAH**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
9:30 - 11:45AM

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF WESTCHESTER

YOUNG FAMILIES COMMITTEE

**CELEBRATE JEWISH LIFE WITH YOUR LITTLE ONES
AT THESE 2016 HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Cuddle Up Shabbat

Friday, January 29, 5:30PM

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 13, 11:30AM

Purim Celebration

Saturday, March 19, 9:30AM



Mitzvah Day

Sunday, April 10, 9:30AM

Passover Celebration

Friday, April 15, 5:30PM

School's Out Carnival

Sunday, May 22, 11:00AM

RSVP for Young Families events with Jane at jdubro@congregationemanuel.org or 914-967-4382 x21.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH

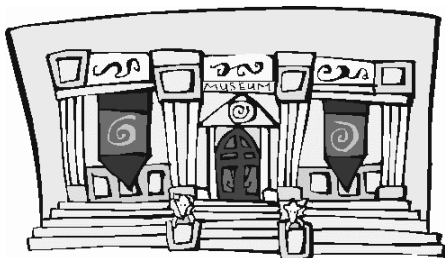
3RD & 4TH GRADE GENESIS MUSEUM FAMILY EDUCATION MORNING



SUNDAY, JANUARY 10
9:30 - 11:45AM

Tour the 3rd and 4th grade Genesis Museum and experience what our Biblical ancestors taught us.

Enjoy a special parent's only learning session with Rabbi Goldsmith.



ATTENTION: GRADE 5 PARENTS! PROPHETS FOR PRESIDENT SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 9:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY



Your 5th grader needs you to help elect a prophet president! Jeremiah, Amos, Isaiah and Micah are hoping to win the race - the pollsters are predicting a close election.

Enjoy a special parent's only learning session with Rabbi Goldsmith.



FAMILIES FEEDING FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE

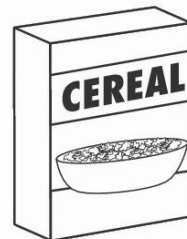


SUNDAY, JANUARY 10
– SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Please bring in a shopping bag filled with your favorite cereal to your Religious School or Hebrew School classroom.

The religious school class that collects the most cereal wins an ice cream party!

Cereal will be donated to Hope Community Services Food Pantry.



TEEN & YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY: COOKING FOR A LOCAL SOUP KITCHEN



SUNDAY, JANUARY 10
12:00PM

Cook for a good cause!

Students in 8th - 12th grades are invited to cook alongside teens from the Community Synagogue of Rye, the Jewish Community Center in Harrison and Congregation KTL. Teens will also participate in the Stop Hunger Now meal packaging program, which will be facilitated by Ryan Baker and Zach Evans.

RSVP to Jane at jdubro@congregationmanuel.org or 914-967-4382 x21. Community Service Certificates are available for all volunteers.



The event will be hosted at Community Synagogue of Rye, located at 200 Forest Avenue, Rye.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP MAD SCIENCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
11:45AM

For students in 5-7 grades, join your friends as we encounter some big bangs at Congregation Emanu-El. We will do some of the most fun, exciting, and mildly explosive experiments.

Cost: \$20/student; includes a pizza lunch and all program supplies.

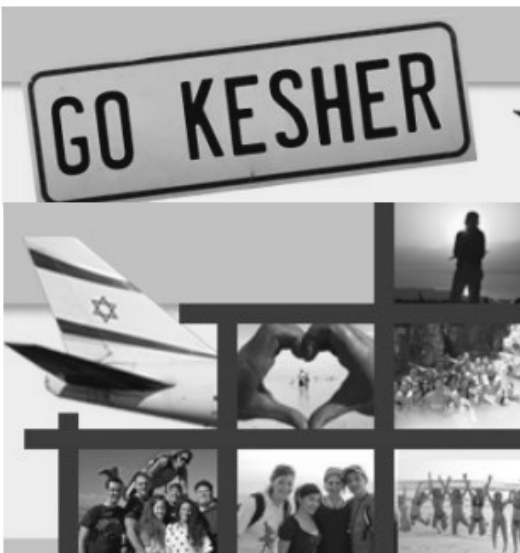
RSVP to Chase at cfoster@congregationemanuel.org.



Grab your phone or grab your camera!

We're looking for a few middle or high school photographers to snap pictures at events to appear in the bulletin and our website. Contact Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18 if interested.

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL: TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH URJ KESHER



Open to Jewish young adults, ages 18-26 who have never been to Israel on a peer program, this program offers an exceptional opportunity to experience Israel's land, culture, and people on a more intimate and meaningful level. The 10-day trip includes round-trip airfare plus ten days of touring in Israel, all site entrance fees, transportation, local health insurance, accommodations, and two meals a day.

The URJ Keshet experience embraces the values of Reform Judaism. Learn more at www.gokeshet.org and contact Rabbi Goldsmith for **priority status** at hgoldsmith@congregationemanuel.org or 914-967-4382 x13.

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April 10, 4:00pm

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For more information, please call (914)723-6192 or (914)967-7399

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CONDOLENCES TO

PATTY CHERNICK ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER ALVIN HARRIS

SHOSHANNA DICHTER ON THE DEATH OF HER GRANDMOTHER EVELYN A. ROSENFELD

JAMES, JENNIFER AND MICHAEL ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE AND THEIR MOTHER DEBBIE JOND

MJ WOLFF ON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER STANLEY GOODMAN

With deep appreciate we acknowledge the following contributions:

In memory of	Remembered by	In memory of	Remembered by
Arthur Bauman	Caroline Bauman	Reuben Keller	Brian Sinder & Lois Falberg
Albert Cohen Arthur	Anne Gottlieb	Irene Kirshen	Nina Fixler
Abram Belilovsky	Lev & Alya Belilovsky	David Levitt	Valerie Levitt Schmaier
David Blackman	Martin & Rena Blackman	Albert Levy	Jerome & Nancy Lawton
Hyman Bluberg	Lori Bluberg	Anthony Locastro	Thomas & Margaret Locastro
Joseph Burak	Sondra Grundman	Charna Lumelsky	Eugene Lumelsky
Bernice Carton	John Carton & Wendy Rowden	Janice Dietz Madoff	Harriet Madoff Parker
M. Fred Cartoun	Alan Cartoun	Gazella S. Masinter	Edgar & Margery Masinter
Thomas M. Cole	Yvette Cole	Mayr Mayrsohn	Janet Mayrsohn
Kate Emil	Judy Tenney	Jack Nathanson	John & Patricia Bottomley
Harry Ettelson	H. William & Sandra Ettelson	Robert Rosenberg	Mildred Rosenberg
Lorraine Flocks	Edgar & Margery Masinter	Samuel Roth	Matthew & Dorothy Golden
Herbert Friedman	Joanne Friedman	Samuel Salzman	Alan Cartoun
Susan Krevlin Gleicher	Sol & Barbara Krevlin	Irving Schulweis	Harvey Schulweis & Barbara Benerofe
Eileen Goodman	Richard & MJ Wolff	Rosalind Schulweis	Harvey Schulweis & Barbara Benerofe
Elizabeth Greene	Caroline Bauman	Harriet Shenk	Andrew & Marcia Patel
Neil Grundman	Sondra Grundman	Samuel Siegel	Robert Siegel
Dominick Iasparo	Elwyn & Lisa Hutter	Louis Steiner	Stuart & Sheila Steiner
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Justine Kahn	Thomas & Margaret Locastro	James Stuart	Jacqueline Stuart
Mildred Kassin	Richard & Arline Josephberg	Rose Tanenbaum	John & Amy Tanenbaum
		Regina S. Weissman	Paul & Harriet Weissman
		Marcia Wolff	Richard & MJ Wolff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANNUAL APPEAL

Douglas & Lisa Antonacci
Martin & Patricia Bernstein
John Carton & Wendy Rowden
David Fried & Kathy Marks
Frances Friefeld
Myra Hersh
Doris Judell
Kenneth & Sherri Kalt
Elaine Losquadro
Janet Laurel Mayrsohn
Laura Newman
Daniel & Stefanie Offit

L'DOR V'DOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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John & Patricia Bottomley
Richard & Emily Cohen
Sondra Grundman
Jan & Ellen Linhart
Axel & Sara Schupf

MUSIC FUND

Alison Lazarus & Babette Lazarus
Peter Schweitzer

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Kenneth & Amy Pollinger

GENERAL FUND

Nick & Evelyn Beilenson
Elwyn & Lisa Hutter in honor of Aksiniya's Mikveh
Richard & Arline Josephberg in honor of Jessica's engagement to Brandon Steiner
Richard & Arline Josephberg in honor of Bruce Paul's hole-in-one
Bruce & Audrey Nathanson
Herbert & Sherry Rosenstock in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Felice Zaslow in honor of James Glover's 70th Birthday

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

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Bob & Kathleen Mannis
Brian & Jaime Morris
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Frances Seicol
Paul & Ann Spindel
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Laura Winston

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Bruce & Dana Freyer in honor of Rabbi Goldsmith and the inspirational High Holy Days
Lewis & Gail Rubin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Maj Wickstrom
James & Elaine Glover in honor of Rachel & Will Merchan's Wedding
Alison Lazarus & Babette Lazarus
Rachel & Will Merchan
Jan & Ellen Linhart in honor of Scarlett Sidney Linhart's Baby Naming
Bruce & Audrey Nathanson
Kenneth & Amy Pollinger
Gilbert & Kathy Stiefel in honor of the Rabbi's High Holy Day Sermon

VOLUNTARY ADDITIONAL DUES

Robert & Christina Baker

All donations processed after December 15 will appear in the next bulletin. Please contact Abbie Levitt at 914-967-4382 x18 if you have any questions about the donation listings.

CALENDAR: JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed for New Year's Day 6:30PM Lay Led Early Shabbat Service	2
3 No Religious School	4 No Confirmation 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program	5 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School	6	7 5:30PM Knitzvah Corps	8 9:00AM Walk with the Rabbi 8:00PM Union Prayer Book Shabbat Service	9 7:00PM A Modest Suggestion Theatrical Performance
10 9:30 - 11:45AM Religious School and 3rd & 4th Grade Family Education Morning 12:00PM Youth & Teen: Social Action Sunday 12:00PM Gallery Opening: Susan Susskind	11 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation	12 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School 7:30PM Board Meeting	13	14	15 7:30PM Storahtelling: Social Justice Shabbat	16
17 No Religious School	18 Temple Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Confirmation No Monday Night Program 10:00AM Youth Group: JTeen at Afya	19 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School	20	21 8:00PM Single Malt Torah	22 9:00AM Walk with the Rabbi 6:00PM Pre-Neg 6:30PM Early Shabbat Service Women's Study Group Retreat	23 Women's Study Group Retreat 11:00AM Olivia Perini Bat Mitzvah
24 9:30 - 11:45AM Pre-K & K: Tu Bi'Shvat Celebration 9:30 - 11:45AM Religious School 10:45 Chai Mitzvah 11:00AM Friendship Circle Tu B'Shevat Party	25 12:00PM Film: The Sturgeon Queens 6:45 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation	26 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School	27	28 10:30AM Temple Book Club	29 5:30PM Young Families Cuddle-Up Shabbat 7:30PM Family Service: Exploring Our Prayers	30 9:00AM Torah Study: Yitro 11:00AM Ethan Wiederkehr Bar Mitzvah
31 9:30 - 11:45AM Religious School and 5th Grade Family Education Morning 11:00AM Next Step						

CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation	2 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School 6:30PM Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone	3	4 10:30AM Temple Book Club	5 7:30PM Isaacs Memorial Lecture with Michael Gillette	6
7 9:30 - 11:45AM Religious School & 5th Grade to Food Bank For Westchester 9:30 - 11:45AM Pre-K & K Tzedakah Program 10:45 Chai Mitzvah 11:30AM Youth Group: Kehillat Chasadim 11:45AM Jr. Youth Group Event	8 9:00AM Walk with the Rabbi 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation	9 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School 7:30PM Board Meeting	10	11	12 6:00PM Pre-Neg 6:30PM Early Shabbat Service	13
14 No Religious School	15 No Confirmation No Monday Night Program	16 No Hebrew School	17	18	19 12:00PM Adult Ed with Chase Foster 6:30PM Lay Led Early Shabbat Service	20
21 No Religious School	22 12:00PM Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation	23 3:50 - 5:45PM Hebrew School 7:00PM Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone	24	25 5:30PM Knitzvah Corps	26 12:00PM Adult Ed with Chase Foster 8:00PM Shabbat Service	27 9:00AM Torah Study: Ki Tisa 5:00PM Parent and Kids Night Out
28 9:30 - 11:45AM Religious School 11:00AM Next Step 4:00PM Film: The Best of Men	29 7:15 - 8:45PM Monday Night Program 7:15 - 8:45PM Confirmation					

JANUARY—FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

PERFORMANCE OF THE OFF-BROADWAY HIT A MODEST SUGGESTION



SATURDAY JANUARY 9
7:00PM

January 1 **Lay Led Early Shabbat Service**
6:30 Service

January 8 **Union Prayer Book
Shabbat Service**
8:00 Service

January 15 **StorahTelling:
Social Justice Shabbat**
7:30 Service 🎵 🖥️

January 22 **Early Shabbat Service**
6:00 Pre-neg
6:30 Service

January 29 **Family Shabbat Service:
Exploring Our Prayers**
7:30 Service 🎵

February 5 **Isaacs Memorial Lecture with
Ethicist Michael Gillette**
7:30 Service

February 12 **Early Shabbat Service**
6:00 Pre-Neg
6:30 Service

February 19 **Lay Led Early Shabbat Service**
6:30 Service

February 26 **Shabbat Service**
8:00 Service

Special presentation of the Off -Broadway hit just for us!

Four businessmen meet in an anonymous conference room over a pad of paper and a box of donuts to discuss the next item on their agenda: whether the world is a better place with or without the Jews. Comedy ensues. As the four yes-men weigh the pros and cons together (and interview a couple of mensches along the way), *A Modest Suggestion* brings up some pretty tough questions: Why do racism and anti-Semitism exist? What does it mean to be Jewish? How does racism turn into violence? And do Jews eat bacon?

Cost: free for students and \$20/adults. Refreshments served. RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x 21 or jdubro@congregationmanuel.org.

YOUNG FAMILIES CUDDLE UP SHABBAT WITH MATTY ROXX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
5:30PM

Let's welcome Shabbat together with new friends, stories, and lots of dancing, giggling and wiggling to Matty Roxx's awesome tunes! Afterwards, we will gather for arts and crafts and kid-friendly Shabbat dinner.



This program is geared toward families with children 6 months to 2nd grade (older siblings are always welcome). Feel free to bring friends, the program is free and open to the public.

RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x 21
or jdubro@congregationmanuel.org.