Shalom, love and music. Words which personify this year’s honoree, our beloved Rabbi Howard Goldsmith. Come celebrate as a community as this year’s Spring Benefit takes us into the world of “Groovy Elegance”. Experience the best that the culinary world has to offer with superior hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Dance the night away as we celebrate Howard’s 10th anniversary as our spiritual leader and friend.

Invitations should be arriving in mailboxes any day. Ticket, journal, and package details on pg. 8.

The Garden of Gratitude

In the hustle and bustle of our lives, it is good to know that we have a sanctuary at Emanu-El that affords us a place for calm and reflection.

Just to the left of our beautiful sanctuary we have the Garden of Gratitude. Tucked between our building and the woods, is a lovely patch of green dotted with benches, sculptures, and flowers. Congregants are welcome to use the Garden of Gratitude as a place to reflect on the blessings in our lives, have a chat with a friend, or simply find a moment of peace and calm. After Hebrew School drop-off, before Friday night services, or anytime you happen to be driving by, never hesitate to visit the garden, take a deep breath, and allow nature to fill you with a sense of gratitude.

The Garden of Gratitude is supported, in part, by family and friends in memory of Steven Klebanoff. Donations toward its upkeep are welcome.

Fifty for Fifty...Almost there!

We are 66% of the way towards achieving our goal of 50 new donors to our mortgage campaign. Once we reach that benchmark, a generous benefactor will donate $50,000 towards paying off our mortgage.

If you have not already participated, please give today at www.e-e-w.org/50for50.

Purim Shabbat: Will Burt Bachrach Finally Meet the Megillah?

Friday, March 6, 7:30pm Service

Esther will tell us “What the World Needs Now,” Haman will kvetch that “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head” and Vashti will ask “What’s New Pussycat?” as we “...Say a Little Prayer” at our Shabbat Purim celebration in the festive and famous Kaye Kafé. You will enjoy this fun evening of song, story and silliness!

Meet Naomi Fabes, Our New Director of Education

After a thorough, nationwide search, we have found the ideal leader for our religious school: Naomi Fabes. Down to earth and deeply knowledgeable, passionate and caring, experienced and enthusiastic, Naomi will bring spirit and joy and depth to our education programs. Naomi is thrilled to join the team at Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester as our Director of Education. She is passionate about crafting meaningful experiences that allow families of all ages to find their connection to Judaism in a personal and authentic way.

Hailing from the Lone Star State, Naomi earned her B.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was also involved in Jewish campus life and Israel activism. She moved to Manhattan to pursue an M.A. in Jewish Education from The Jewish Theological Seminary, with a concentration in Experiential Education. While in school, Naomi taught in multiple religious schools, served as the Education Intern at Baruch College Hillel, spent summers as a ropes course instructor at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, and taught as an assistant teacher in Jewish early childhood programs. In July 2014, Naomi began as a Full-Time Educator at Central Synagogue where she redesigned the religious school’s K-2nd grade curriculum, played an integral role in the development and expansion of the Family Engagement department, and founded Camp Central, the synagogue’s early childhood summer camp.

During her free time, Naomi can be found dancing along to live music, gardening, doing puzzles, exploring the beautiful outdoors and enjoying the culinary experience that is New York City. She lives on the Upper East Side with her husband, Sherman, and their dog, Mallomar.
**Women’s Study Group Retreat**

This year’s Women’s Study Group Retreat at the Interlaken Inn was a full 24 hours of shared community, worship and study. We welcomed Dr. Betsy Stone to teach us about Mussar, the Jewish practice of self-awareness and character strengths. Below are some testimonials from participants.

“To spend Shabbat learning with a group of wonderful women makes Judaism very real.”

“An annual event that I look forward to...time for meaningful study that addresses Jewish values...time with temple women who are smart and thoughtful. It’s like going back to the well, where the water is always cool and fresh.”

“A perfect way to spend Shabbat.”

“My favorite Shabbat of the year...for spiritual growth, reconnecting with old and new friends, and being renewed and restored.”

“Always a special experience that sends me home with a glow.”

“It feels like the quintessential Shabbat experience - community, learning together, sharing, carving out time to exhale, to pray and sing together. By the end of our Shabbat, I feel more spiritual, more connected and more Jewish!”

“...thought provoking self examination.”

“We laughed… we ate, we got to know each other better and became friends.”

“The topics are always interesting and the time commitment is not onerous. The company of the other women and the leadership is enriching.”

“...fascinating group of women who I don’t get a chance to see and talk to often enough... magical experience.”

“I expanded my knowledge of Judaism and of myself.”

“A unique opportunity to press the pause button and to reflect, listen, learn and connect...a time to BE with our Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester sisters.”

“An opportunity to step back from the day to day and reflect.”

“Fabulous...an amazing group of women.”
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B’nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov!

We would like to honor the following students who will become B’nei Mitzvah in March and April:

- Josh Paterno
- Zachary Taerstein
- Tyler Taerstein
- Rebecca Tanenbaum
I Believe In America

“Welcome the stranger for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”
– The Torah, 36 times.

I believe in The United States of America. I believe in our institutions and our traditions, in our history and in our future. I believe that we are a nation that will withstand the challenges of any given moment, a people who – over the course of generations – will bend the arc of history toward justice. I believe in the abilities of those who work for the betterment of our society: elected representatives, civil servants, military and our diplomatic corps. Why do I believe this?

On the one hand, it is easy to have this faith as someone with my level of privilege: male, white, upper-middle class, the right schools, a good job, and the right connections. But I also have this faith because this country took a bet on my refugee grandparents. America bet that it could take in my minority, immigrant, German-speaking grandparents and that they would make good for themselves and for our country. No country had records on Lisa and Fred Grubel and Henry and Gertrude Goldsmith when they arrived on these shores. Besides the stamps in their passports, there were no criminal databases to check, no social media history, no terrorist databanks. Instead, America’s diplomats and civil servants interviewed them, used their discretion, and took a chance on them as they fled the Nazi atrocities of the 20th century.

The Trump administration’s recent decision to block travel from six more nations is based on the premise that those countries do not maintain enough information on travelers to admit them to America. These countries do not have the information because they are riddled with war and persecution and violence. What will be the fate of those we turn away? What would have been the fate of my grandparents if the US had refused admission because Nazi Germany would not share records? Actually, we do know the answer to that question – it is an answer too horrible to contemplate.

I believe that America grows stronger when we welcome the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to be free. I believe in our diplomats and career civil servants. I believe that they know how to guide people fleeing war and persecution, repression and violence. I believe that gun violence is much more dangerous – has killed more people – than brown-skinned immigrants and travelers within our borders. I believe that there are American synagogues and churches, civic groups and benevolent societies who will help to welcome these people and integrate them into our society. I believe that by celebrating what unites us as humans and honoring our differences, we can – in all of our diversity – become an even stronger, more prosperous, more compassionate, more peaceful nation.

The America I know is courageous. It is filled with people willing to take risks for the sake of our flag, for the sake of their fellow Americans, for the sake of our fellow humans. Americans do not shy away from new projects and businesses, new medical experiments and new forms of religious expression. Difference does not scare America, it strengthens us. Each and every generation of Americans have faced a xenophobic moment which, in the fullness of time, has proven baseless. The same will be true in this moment. We will look back on travelers kept out by the travel ban and on refugees kept out by low quotas. We will look back and wonder how much stronger we could have been with the help of their grit and determination, their drive to succeed, their rich cultural heritage.

We are a brave and strong nation. We can act like it. We can allow in the refugees of 2020 just as America let in my grandparents when they were refugees. When we do, we will realize the fullness of the American promise, and the American dream will come true.

Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi
**Union Prayer Book Service: A Tribute to Our Reform Heritage**
**Friday, March 13, 7:30pm**

Our congregation began with a group of families committed to worship in the Classical Reform style of the day. Grandeur and transcendence found expression in formal prose and poetry, classical organ music, and a dignified atmosphere. Each year we honor this heritage with our Union Prayer Book Service at which we use this beloved prayer book and familiar music to connect with our past and to consider the ways that beauty and majesty echo not only in the sanctuary, but in the world around us.

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**Community Yom HaShoah Service at Community Synagogue of Rye**
**Monday, April 20, 7:30pm**

Together as one community with KTI, JCCH, and Community Synagogue of Rye, we gather for a program of readings, music and prayer in remembrance of the 6 million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust.

Community Synagogue of Rye is located at 200 Forest Avenue in Rye.

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**I'm A Cultural Jew: Wine**
**Friday, March 27, 7:30pm**

One glass of wine for Shabbat Kiddush. Two glasses at a wedding ceremony. Four glasses at the Passover Seder. Mixing red and white at Tu B'Shvat. Too many glasses at Purim. Used both to enjoy the moment and to make it holy, wine plays a big role in Jewish tradition. In modern times, too, wine has impacted the trajectory of Jewish history. The very first Zionist-Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel in the 19th century planted vineyards in our ancient homeland. Today, kosher and non-kosher wineries have popped up all over the State of Israel, producing world class wines that put Manischewitz to shame. On this night, we will celebrate Shabbat with music, good company, and plenty of wine.

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**Yom HaAtzmaut & Honoring Our Graduating Seniors**
**Friday, April 24, 7:30pm**

Every year we look forward to planning a special and interactive Shabbat service, all while celebrating Israel! Our graduating high school seniors will be honored on the bimah.

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**Morning Service**
**Thursday, April 9, 9:00am**

In the book of Leviticus we read “…on the 14th (of Nissan), at twilight, there shall be a Passover offering to God, and on the 15th of that month, God’s Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you shall celebrate a sacred occasion; you shall not work at your occupations…”

We will celebrate the first day of Passover as a “sacred occasion” with a brief, meaningful morning service. Use this moment of reflection between seders to appreciate the blessings of freedom that we all enjoy.

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**Yizkor Memorial Service**
**Wednesday, April 15, 7:30am**

There are four times throughout the year when we traditionally come together as a community to remember those who have passed away: Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot.

We have scheduled the service at this early hour so that those who work can attend and honor the memory of their loved ones.

There will be one more Yizkor service following this one in the Hebrew year 5780. The Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service will take place on Friday, May 29 at 7:30am.
Ritual Corner: What’s with the Book of Esther?!

In just a few days we will celebrate the festival of Purim. It is another in the long line of ‘They-Tried-To-Kill-Us-We-Survived-Let’s-Eat’ holidays. One curious aspect of this holiday is its source. Yes, it comes from the bible, from the Book of Esther, but this book does not contain the word “God”. On its face, this is a story about human affairs with the Holy Blessed One playing no roll at all. On top of that, the story is completely over the top: months long parties, threats of genocide, Jews killing tens of thousands of non-Jews, lots of sex, and wine flowing freely throughout the tale. The first question we need to ask is: Why did the ancient rabbis include this book in the bible? The only answer can be that it was a very popular story that people would read one way or another. So, better to include it and make it an official part of the canon. The next question: Why on earth do we read it each year and, more than that, why do it with song and dance and laughter?! We read it – and make fun of it – precisely because it is over the top and farcical. Our people have lived through very dark times. Dark times require deep reflection, thoughtful discussion, and serious responses. And, sometimes, we need to remember to laugh, to find the humor in troubling times. Ultimately, the Book of Esther reminds us that its okay to laugh at the king, to poke fun at his advisors, to find heroism in unlikely people, and to have a little fun.

Adults will bear (at least part of!) the Megillah on Friday, March 6 at 7:30pm. Religious School students will bear (a little bit less of!) the Megillah on Sunday, March 8 followed by the Purim Celebration at 11:30am.

A Discussion at Emanu-El with County Legislator Nancy Barr

County Legislator Nancy Barr and Legislative Aide Debbie Friedman, who represent District 6, Harrison, Rye Brook and Port Chester, met with congregants at the Political Staffers meeting on February 13. Legislator Barr has been an active member of the Rye Brook community for many years and served on the Blind Brook School Board for 6 years as well as on the district’s facilities committee. She currently serves as the Legislative Liaison to the Westchester County Airport Advisory Board, chairs the Legislature’s Environment, Health and Energy Committee and is Vice President of the Council of Community Services. She has created a Westchester County Advisory Board for people with disabilities.

We discussed the rise in hate crime incidents and housing discrimination in the county. She and her fellow legislators are working to enhance the county’s Human Rights Commission by hiring a new director and educator for this agency. A question was asked regarding what actions the county is taking to assist lower income residents. Barr explained that there are many local programs such as Open Door in Port Chester and food banks that receive some of their funding from the County government. Legislator Barr is a member of the Families Task Force, a committee that meets monthly. They oversee numerous programs and services provided by various non-profits that work directly with immigrant citizens in the district.

The upcoming Census was also discussed. The County has a “Complete Count Committee” that is charged with getting as many residents as possible to participate in the Census. This includes those who will reply online, those who will need assistance to complete the census and encouraging all of the undocumented residents living in Westchester to be counted.

Rabbi Goldsmith spoke about his concern for the smaller local county parks like the Edith G. Read Sanctuary and Marshlands Conservancy. He asked if there was a way for the County Parks Department to assist with a mentoring program for their “Friends” groups that might help them to attract more local membership and financial support, and of the possibility for them to have a more of a presence on the County Parks website that would enhance their visibility.

We briefly discussed the status of Playland, the Water Filtration Plant that will be built soon near the airport, and the newest master plan proposal that is currently in the works for the airport. We covered a lot of ground in a very limited time and learned quite a few new things about the Westchester County government.

Our next meeting will take place on Friday, May 1 at 9:30am. Our guest will be Legislator Catherine Parker, who is serving her third term for the 7th district (Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye, and parts of Harrison and New Rochelle).
It is not surprising that many followers of Eastern religious traditions are Jewish, having veered away from their roots in search of something more “spiritual.” What is surprising is that Judaism has its own “mindfulness” tradition, called Mussar, which most of us had never even heard of until recently. It was founded in the mid-19th century to help people focus on improving their character. Mussar is based on the injunction from Leviticus “You shall be holy,” meaning that it is the task of every individual to become spiritually refined and elevated. Although we are created in the image of God, the Talmud tells us that we are imperfect and need improvement: “Anything created in the first six days [of Creation] needs further actions—for example, mustard seeds need sweetening, peas need sweetening, wheat needs grinding, and even humans need fixing.” Since our Women’s Study Group always integrates a personal approach to whatever Jewish theme we engage with, “A Taste of Mussar: Your Spiritual Curriculum” was an apt topic for those of us who participated in the 19th Annual Women’s Study Group Retreat in early February.

Although we are created in the image of God, the Talmud tells us that we are imperfect and need improvement.

In a Mussar group, participants meet to study and reflect upon one middah (or soul trait, such as gratitude, trust, patience, generosity) at a time. During the following week or two, they increase their awareness of how this soul trait plays out in their daily life and take some steps to improve in this area.

During our women’s retreat, we focused on a fundamental middah, humility, which is not to be confused with being humble, meek, or overly deferential. Humility refers to occupying one’s rightful space, neither too much nor too little. When we constantly interrupt, when we fail to make room for others, or we are puffed up by our own ego, we need to work on taking up less space; we need to exercise more self-restraint. Conversely, when we don’t speak up for ourselves and others, or are deflated and lacking in self-esteem, we need to learn to take up more space. Practicing this middah of “limiting ourselves to an appropriate amount of space while leaving room for others,” according to Alan Morinis in Everyday Holiness, makes us ever aware of when we should expand or contract ourselves. As we calibrate our relationship to ourselves and those around us, we become better people. In the practice of Mussar, we don’t do this merely for our own benefit. Rather, we do it to fulfill the purpose of our lives in line with the divine plan, to become holy—whole and complete—through our own efforts and intentions.

Meredith Stone
ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

Shalom, Love and Music

A CELEBRATION HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF

Rabbi Howard J. Goldsmith

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00 PM

RSVP & Journal Deadline: March 30

Benefit Tickets
$200 each

Ticket & Journal Packages
Shalom $5,000 8 Tickets/Blue Page Journal Ad
Love $2,500 4 Tickets/Red Page Journal Ad
Music $1,000 2 Tickets/Yellow Page Journal Ad

Journal Ads
Blue Page $2,000
Red Page $1,000
Yellow Page $500
Friend Listing $100

Register online: please go to www.c-e-w.org and click on the link for the Spring Benefit

For further information call Abbie Levitt at 914-967-4382 x18
or email cewtemplebenefit@gmail.com
The center of our congregation is our sense of community. We celebrate together, comfort each other, forge friendships and make connections - that is what we can uniquely offer as a synagogue.

**Mah Jongg & Canasta**
Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
& April 6, 13, 27, 6:45pm

From the tenements of New York City to the bungalows of the Catskills and the vast American suburbs, Jewish women have kept Mah Jongg alive enjoying the betting and matching of tiles into Rummy-like patterns. Speaking of Rummy, did you know that Canasta is the only member of the family of Rummy games to achieve the status of a classic?

Contact Robin Herko at rherko@rmfriedland.com if you are interested in playing. Friends and all levels of players welcome!

**Former & Current Board Member Dinner**
Friday, March 6, 6:00pm

Former and current board members are invited to this wonderful opportunity to reconnect and get an update on temple happenings. Following the dinner, stay for our Burt Bachrach-themed Purim Shabbat at 7:30pm.

RSVP to Dan at 914-967-4382 x11 or doconnor@c-e-w.org.

**Challah Baking with Baker Debra Cohen**
Wednesday, March 4, 12:00pm

Learn how to bake delicious challah from start to finish with congregant and baker Debra Cohen. $36/person. Bring a mixing bowl!

RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x21 or jdubro@c-e-w.org.

**Book Club: Peony by Pearl S. Buck**
Thursday, March 5, 10:15am

Meet with fellow congregants for a discussion about *Peony* by Pearl S. Buck

RSVP to Tal at 914-967-4382 x12 or to Marcie at maiuvalasit@c-e-w.org. Newcomers always welcome!

**Drinks with the Clergy at The Crooked Knife in NYC**
Thursday, March 5, 6:30pm

Have a grown child living or working in New York City who wants to meet for drinks, food, and conversation with old and new friends?

Let them know that drinks and bites are on us at The Crooked Knife, 29 E. 30th Street, New York.

RSVP to Dan at doconnor@c-e-w.org.

**Book & Bites at North Street Tavern: The Liar by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen**
Wednesday, March 18, 6:30pm

Meet with fellow congregants for a dinner discussion about *The Liar* by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen.

RSVP to Tal at 914-967-4382 x12 or to Marcie at maiuvalasit@c-e-w.org. Newcomers always welcome!

**Sunday Film Series Shmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags**
Sunday, April 5, 7:00pm

Midtown Manhattan was the backbone of the fashion industry. This documentary explores the rise and fall of New York’s fabled schmatta (rag) trade as a microcosm of the economic realities of the present.

RSVP to Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21. Open to the community.

**Congregant Art Show Call for Artwork**
Deadline: Friday, May 1
Opening Reception: Friday, June 12, 6:00pm

Showcase your talent in our beautiful, light-filled gallery! This show will highlight the artistic perspectives of the artists in our midst. All mediums are welcome. We encourage all congregants of all ages to participate in this celebration of art and culture. For more information, contact Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21.
SEEK & DISCOVER

Jewish study leads to vitality that keeps our minds sharp and our souls searching. Rather than relativism, Judaism confronts us with issues that help to clarify our place in history and our place in our world. Classes, lectures, text study, book clubs, Single Malt Torah, and the Women’s Study Group; see what you can discover.

Beit Midrash

In Beit Midrash (which means House of Study) we take an in-depth approach to Jewish Study using the Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism to examine the theologies, practices, and notions of peoplehood that define us as American Reform Jews.

To learn more about Beit Midrash, contact either Rabbi Ross (x15) or Rabbi Goldsmith (x13) at 914-967-4382.

March & April Sessions

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zionism</td>
<td>Saturday, March 14</td>
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<td>Worldwide Jewish Community</td>
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<td>Tikkun Olam &amp; Justice</td>
<td>Saturday, March 21</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>The Future of American Jewry</td>
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Single Malt Torah

Thursday, March 19, 8:00pm

Men of the congregation gather in Rabbi Goldsmith’s study for Torah learning and refreshments. Explore the wisdom of our tradition and enjoy some fine scotch. Bring a friend!

RSVP to Rabbi Goldsmith at 914-967-4382 x13 or hgoldsmith@c-e-w.org.

Transformative Torah For Your Seder at Temple Israel Center in White Plains

Sunday, March 29 - Tuesday, March 31

Prepare for your Passover Seder with some of the New York area’s most innovative, engaging teachers! Join Rabbis Avi Killip, Aviva Richmond, Elie Kaunfer and Shai Held to make matzah and learn on Sunday, then continue the experience on Monday and Tuesday, taking a deep dive into the Haggadah and exploring ideas to take back to your seder. For more information and to register, visit https://tinyurl.com/hadarpassover or email programs@hadar.org.

A Morning with Holocaust Survivor

Dr. Moshe Avital

Sunday, April 26, 9:30am

Dr. Moshe Avital was born in Bilke, a village on the Eastern part of the former Czechoslovakia called Ruthenia (now Ukraine), and brought up in a traditional Jewish home and environment.

During the Holocaust, Dr. Avital was imprisoned in Ghetto Berhovo, deported with his entire family to Auschwitz, then transferred to Plaszow, Gross Rosen, Bolkenheim, Reichenau, and finally to Buchenwald from which the United States Third Army liberated him on April 11, 1945.

RSVP to Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21. Open to the community.

Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone

Monday, April 27, 12:00pm

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. A light lunch will be served.

RSVP to Cantor Stone at 914-967-4382 x19 or mstone@c-e-w.org.

Luncheon with Sacred Shelter: Thirteen Journeys of Homelessness and Healing

Author Susan Greenfield and Contributor Dennis Barton

Thursday, April 30, 12:00pm

Through frank, honest interviews, editor Susan Greenfield follows the lives of thirteen people who experienced homelessness and graduated from an interfaith life skills empowerment program in New York City. Interspersed among their stories are reflections from directors, clerics, and volunteers involved in the life skills empowerment program.

Cost: $20/person, friends welcome. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

RSVP to Tal at 914-967-4382 x12 or tdrori@c-e-w.org.

Women’s Study Group Passover Seder

Thursday, April 2, 6:30pm

Come enjoy our popular Women’s Passover Seder gathering as we share holiday traditions and also participate in a special project for My Sister’s Place.

RSVP to Tal at 914-967-4382 x12 or tdrori@c-e-w.org.

Jewish study leads to vitality that keeps our minds sharp and our souls searching. Rather than relativism, Judaism confronts us with issues that help to clarify our place in history and our place in our world. Classes, lectures, text study, book clubs, Single Malt Torah, and the Women’s Study Group; see what you can discover.
Rabbi Ross’s Message

**THE GOOD PLACE: LIVING A GOOD LIFE**

This article contains spoilers for Michael Schur’s NBC comedy, *The Good Place*.

Following the exodus from Egypt, with the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, the Torah spends much of the final chapters of the book of Exodus and the early chapters of Leviticus focused on mitzvot (commandments) and the creation of an Israelite society. As the Israelites build the mishkan, the dwelling place of God in the wilderness, and begin to establish rituals and offer sacrifices, we are taught, in great detail, what actions we ought to take to serve God and our community. With so many laws and precepts, instructions and specifications, the underlying question of these chapters is undoubtedly, how do we live a good life?

Many of the commandments laid out in the Torah are still applicable today, like pursuing justice or loving your neighbor as yourself, and many that appear in these final chapters of Exodus and the start of Leviticus are not, like the laws of priestly purity. However, whether or not the laws themselves are still relevant today, the message that is conveyed to us in the Torah is clear: living the good life is all about doing - living out the timeless value of being God’s partners in creation.

In the hit NBC comedy, *The Good Place*, viewers primarily follow the relationship between moral philosophy professor, Chidi and shrimp-loving Arizona native Eleanor. Eleanor, believing that she has died and is indeed in “the good place” (i.e. heaven) during the early episodes, and that she does not belong there, wonders if she can change her ways and blend in. Initially, she attempts to take action--she holds doors for others, attempts to stop gossiping and makes her best effort to suppress her exasperated eye rolls. After a while, she seeks out Chidi’s help. Chidi’s primary role throughout the series is teaching Eleanor and others, helping them to study and learn, and based on those studies, make positive changes and live good lives.

In the 2nd century, years after Moses’ biblical leadership of the Israelites, and millennia before the series finale of *The Good Place*, the rabbis of the Talmud wondered, “Which is greater, study or action?” In other words, if what we do is so important according to the Torah, should we prioritize studying, even the Torah’s many antiquated laws, when we could otherwise just focus on the immediately actionable parts of our tradition? Should Eleanor spend time studying moral philosophy when she could otherwise just start acting better?

“Which is greater, study or action?”

Rabbi Tarfon suggested, “Action,”- Eleanor’s initial inclination. But Rabbi Akiva concluded, “Study, because it leads to action,”- Ultimately Eleanor’s course. Our studies, that is, reading the Torah, including the ancient laws, learning Jewish traditions and history, studying Hebrew and inculcating Jewish values, is really all about learning how to live a good life (Talmud, Kedushin 40b).

*The Good Place* concludes that human experiences are meaningful precisely because of our mortality—and how we treat one another in that finite window is the greatest measure of our lives (Giorgis, Hannah, The Atlantic, “The Most Optimistic Show on TV is Over,” January 31, 2020).” What ends up mattering most at the end of the series is not the morals and ethics Eleanor learns but rather the relationship that she develops with Chidi and the show’s other characters. It is through these relationships that an unlikely team takes on one of life’s most fundamental questions: can humans ever truly change? The show resoundingly concludes, yes. “Ethics and morality can be a losing game, but how people show up for one another will always matter most (Giorgis, Hannah).” Ultimately, what we learn from *The Good Place* is that our relationships are ultimately what change us and truly enable us to live good lives. Like Eleanor, we can study Torah and take action - we can honor our parents, leave the corners of our fields for those in need, and even observe Shabbat - but what really matters is not just the action itself, but the act of partnership in those actions. Studying, like our ancestors did in the Talmud, is not done in solitude. We learn together. The Israelites in the wilderness built the mishkan together. As Rav Hamnuna says in the Talmud, “One who recounts the creation of the world, it is as if he becomes part of the story - God’s partner in completing creation (Shabbat 119b).” Only together can we truly live good lives.

Jade Ross, Assistant Rabbi
Our pre-k & kindergarten classes are a wonderful introduction to the Religious School experience. Each class focuses on a Jewish holiday with a fun-filled program including music, storytelling and arts and crafts. Classes meet on occasional Sunday mornings during Religious School and are open to the community.

This program is funded by the generosity of congregant Dr. Caroline Bauman.

**Purim Program**
Sunday, March 8, 9:30 - 10:45am
Drop your little ones off to learn about the joyful holiday of Purim through music, crafts and storytelling. Followed by Young Families Purim Celebration and Carnival.

**Passover Program**
Sunday, March 29, 9:30 - 10:45am
Our youngest students will answer way more than four questions! Followed by Young Families Passover Celebration.

RSVP for all sessions to Tal at tdrori@c-e-w.org

**Save the Date:**
**Yom HaAtzmaut Program**
Sunday, May 3, 9:30 - 10:45am

Please bring a donation of diapers or wipes for Baby Bank Westchester.

**Save the Date:**
**Mitzvah Shabbat & Pizza Truck Dinner**
Friday, May 8, 5:30pm

**Religious School Purim Celebration**
Sunday, March 8, 11:30am - 1:00pm
Come in your favorite costume to celebrate this over the top holiday! Games! Prizes! Food! Excitement! After the schpiel, enjoy our annual Purim Celebration sponsored and run by our Youth Group. The Susan Schweitzer Family Learning Center will overflow with popcorn, lunch, face painting, Gaga, Pin the Hat on Hamen, prizes and much more! $10/20 tickets; $20/40 tickets. Games and snacks are 2-4 tickets each.

All proceeds benefit the Religious School.

**Youth Group Cereal Drive**
Sunday, March 1 - Sunday, March 29
Bring a shopping bag filled with boxes of your favorite cereal to your Religious or Hebrew School classroom. Donations will be given to Feeding Westchester.

**JTeen J-Serve Day of Service**
Sunday, March 29, Time TBD
Every year, Jewish teens around the world join each other on this special day to make their community and the world a better place. J-Serve is the International Day of Jewish Teen Service. Details to follow!

RSVP to Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21.

**6th Grade Retreat**
Friday, April 17, 6:00 - 10:00pm
Location: The Shames JCC on the Hudson
Saturday, April 18, 8:00am - 12:00pm
Location: Congregation Emanu-El

The all-new B’nei Mitzvah Retreat for 6th grade students and their parents/guardians will help adults and students alike learn everything there is to know about the b’nei mitzvah process at Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester from “alef to tav”.

All 6th grade students are expected to attend with a parent or guardian.

**Save the Date:**
**Religious School Open House**
Sunday, May 3, 9:30am
Tell your friends to check out Emanu-El!
JANE DUBRO’S MESSAGE

**HONORING RABBI HOWARD GOLDSMITH**

It’s hard to believe that a decade has passed since Rabbi Howard Goldsmith joined the Congregation Emanu-El family. And what a decade it has been!

Whether engaging our youth, meeting with new members, interacting with young families, or teaching our adult Beit Midrash, Rabbi Goldsmith shares his knowledge, personality and love of Judaism. He understands the importance of community being central to our lives and makes sure that the temple fulfills that mission. He also extends himself and our congregation to members of the community at large. He is a talented Rabbi and educator, has an astute business sense and keeps a steady stash of Hershey’s kisses at the ready!

On a personal note, Rabbi Goldsmith has supported my vision for our youth and has allowed me to create meaningful and relevant programs. Hineini, the pre-B’nei Mitzvah program has become one of service and learning. What better way to prepare for young adulthood than to turn what we learn into action.

A few years into his tenure, Rabbi Goldsmith realized the need for expanded programming for all community members, not just our youth. He entrusted this new role to me and has guided and supported me every step of the way. Our annual theme serves as a vehicle for all programs and activities throughout the year and engages the entire community in innovative learning and thoughtful programming.

Ten years of growth
Ten years of creativity
Ten years of collaboration
Ten years of building community
Ten years of strengthening our Jewish values and connection to Israel

Join us at the Spring Benefit, as we celebrate Rabbi Goldsmith’s first ten years at the helm of Emanu-El, Saturday, April 25 at 7:00pm.

Jane Dubro, Youth Activities & Program Director

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**STEP-UP & GIVE BACK**

We live in safety and security, with an abundance unimaginable for past generations. Donating our time and resources to worthy causes shows our gratitude for the plenty we enjoy. These acts of tikkun olam (repairing the world) allow us to express our Jewish identity in a fulfilling, important way.

**Volunteer with Baby Bank Westchester**

Last fall, (914) Cares launched Baby Bank Westchester, which provides underserved families with six months of new, basic necessities for their babies. Since then, 36 babies throughout Westchester were supported with more than 33,500 diapers and over 550 packages of wipes, as well as clothing, strollers and other baby essentials.

Now, as Baby Bank continues to provide this service, we will continue to partner with (914) Cares to help stock the shelves throughout the year. How can you help? Order supplies directly from Baby Bank’s Buy Buy Baby and Amazon wish lists, or drop off new items and gift cards at the temple. Donate new or gently used baby clothing sizes 0-24 months or a box of diapers (especially sizes 5 & 6) or a package of baby wipes. If you have Amazon credit, consider putting it towards a car seat or stroller or bathtub.

In addition, congregants have been providing hands-on assistance to the Baby Bank by visiting the (914) Cares headquarters in North White Plains once a week to help sort and organize donated items. If you are interested in participating or want more information regarding Baby Bank Westchester please visit www.914cares.org, or contact Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com.

Save the date: Baby Bank’s first fundraiser will be during the day on Friday, May 8. More details to follow!

**Social Action Collections**

Help make our community a better place and participate in the important drives scheduled throughout the year. For more information, contact Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com.

**Upcoming Collections**

**Pajama Project Collection for Mitzvah Shabbat**
April (details on pg. 14.)

**Gently Used Backpack Collection for Midnight Run**
June
Intergenerational Social Action Programs

We live in turbulent times. Rather than sit and worry, we can go out in our community and counter the turbulence with acts of tikkun olam, acts that make our world a better place. Let’s join together as a temple community!

Each one of these social action programs is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in our community, the kind of action that creates ripples of hope and goodness. The time is now to take your good intentions and act on them with congregants of all ages.

RSVP for any of these events to Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21.

DOROT Westchester Passover Package Delivery

We are pleased to be the host location once again for the DOROT Westchester Passover Package Delivery. We hope that you will consider being a part of this very important and special outreach effort.

Registration is required for students, adults and families online at https://tinyurl.com/DOROT20. After picking up a bag of Passover goodies from the temple, adults and families (friends are welcome to participate, too) are asked to deliver them to a senior on DOROT’s list, followed by a visit in the home of that senior.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Emily Cohen at emilydcohen@gmail.com or 914-414-0636.

Upcoming Programs

Brunch Run
Sunday, May 3, 7:30am

Mitzvah Shabbat & Pizza Truck Dinner
Friday, May 8, 5:30pm
Jared Dubro Legacy Fund (cont.)
Ryan & Lorri Goldstein
Sondra Grundman
Lee Helman & Amy Schulhof
Richard & Arline Josephberg
Margery Katz
John & Madeleine Leigh
Mark & Carla Lobel
Tom & Peggy LoCastro
Brett & Ilissa Marks
Stephen & Margery McCabe
Yuval & Jana Meron
Jane Meryl
Jack & Karyn Moore
Robert & Randi Robinowitz
Michael Rosenblut & Hedy Cardozo
Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut
Sam & Jill Sheppard
Paul & Ann Spindel
John & Amy Tenenbaum
Maj Wickstrom
Richard & MJ Wolff
Kevin & Jacqueline Wyman

L’Dor V’Dor Capital Campaign
Marcie Aiuvalasit
Robert & Christine Baker
Cliff & Janice Kaplan
Laurence Rutkovsky & Sharon Feldman

Liturgical Fund
Jonathan & Shari Austrian

Music Fund
Arlene Cole wishing a speedy recovery
to Cantor Stone
Richard & Arline Josephberg in honor
of Sophie & James Rukin’s B’nei Mitzvah
Jane Meryl

Mortgage Fund Donations
& Pledges
Andrew & Diane Alson
Anonymous
Michael & Denise Barnett
David & Lisa Barse
Michael & Lauren Baruch
Mark & Allison Baumrind
Irving & Felicia Beiter
Shelly Benerofe
Joshua & Nancy Blaine
John & Patricia Bottomley
John Carton & Wendy Rowden
Susan Chapro
Michael & Patty Chernick
Daniel & Rhonda Chestler
Lawrence & Debra Cohen

Mortgage Fund (cont.)
Richard & Emily Cohen
Barrie & Joan Damson
Richard & Peggy Danziger
Alan Epstein & Yvonne Tropp
Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder
Roger & Vivian Farah
Lawrence & Harriet Feldman
Darren & Jeanne Fogel
Bruce & Dana Freyer
David Fried & Kathy Marks
William & Laurie Fried
Robert & Melissa Gaynor
Ryan & Lorri Goldstein
Elizabeth Grill
Sondra Grundman
Richard & Susan Hecht
Jack & Melissa Heingberg
Myra Hersh in honor of
Rabbi Goldsmith’s 10th Anniversary
Scott Hirsch & Christine Staeher-Hirsch
The Kahn Family in memory of
Marcella & Max Kahn
Chip & Sheryl Kaye
Doris Kemper
Lee & Daney Klingenstein
Patricia Klingenstein
Robert & Cheryl Kobre
Lindsay & Matthew Kraut
Stephen & Doreen Kushel
Mark & Fran Lerner
Randy & Jennifer Levitt
Edgar & Margery Masinter
Lisa & Gary Matthews
Norman & Joanne Matthews
Stephen & Margery McCabe
Yuval & Jana Meron
Neil & Mara Miller
Marcelo & Marcy Modica
John & Dana Montone
Michael & Leslie Mook
Brian & Jaime Morris
Lawrence & Kimberly Motola
Elyse Nathanson
Laura Newman
Clark & Debra Pager
Joshua Perlman & Yan Yunqing
Kenneth & Amy Pollinger
Gary & Michele Potkin
Jonathan & Joelle Ressnick
Jessica, Jason, Noah & Andie Riesel
in memory of Stephen Dichter
Kim & Rich Rosenbaum
Laurence Rutkovsky & Sharon Feldman
Linda Salamon
Robert Sales & Rachel Marcus Sales
Lanier Saperstein & Stefanie Kalkut
Harvey Schulweis & Barbara Benerofe

Mortgage Fund (cont.)
Axel & Sara Schupf
Adam & Jessica Schur
Peter Schweitzer
Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut
Todd & Karen Siegel
James & Jane Stern
Stuart & Lisa Sternberg
Alan & Jacqueline Stuart
John & Amy Tenenbaum
Jo Ann Terdiman
David & Nora Tulchin
Maj Wickstrom
Mandi & Evan Wiederkehr
Martin & Pamela Winter
Richard & MJ Wolff
Michael & Lynne Wolitzer
Kevin & Jacqueline Wyman

Rabbi Goldsmith’s Discretionary Fund
Bill & Hindy Bodinger
Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder
in memory of Michael Benerofe
Sanford & Brianne Goldstein in gratitude
for their anniversary blessing
Merle & Fabrice Hugon in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Steve & Robin Kamin in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Robert & Deborah Lewis in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Marnie Mallah in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Marcelo & Marcy Modica in memory of Eryk Yaffee
John & Dana Montone in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Hanna Poplausk in memory of Eryk Yaffee
James Schutzer in memory of Eryk Yaffee
Sam & Jill Sheppard
Lilian Sicular
Maj Wickstrom & Noah Birnbaum
in memory of Eryk Yaffee

Religious School Fund
Sandra Feldman wishing a speedy recovery
to Doreen Kushel

Shabbat Music Fund
Neil & Loten Canell
David Fried & Kathy Marks in memory
of Lawrence Fried

Social Action Fund
Marsha Cirulli
Peter Schweitzer in memory of Susan Schweitzer
Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut in memory
of Tony Aiuvalasit
Our community offers condolences to:

Susan Cohen and Lisa Rubenfeld on the death of their mother, Helen Wasserman
Ann Fliegenspan on the death of her mother, Rochelle Marks
Jessica Gordon on the death of her stepfather, Ernest Kovacs
Mara Miller on the death of her father, Eric Yaffee
Amanda Gitkind on the death of her father, Sandy Kay

Memorial Fund

In memory:

Gertrude Appel
Albert Cohen Arthur
Greg Benerofe
Greg Benerofe
Carolyn Bossak
Beatrice Burak
Alina Cantoni de Leon
Esther Cohen
Jerry Cohen
Thelma Cohen
Laurence Cole
Sybil Cole
Sadie Davis
Allan D. Emil
Sally Epstein
Henry Farah
Irwin M. Freyer
Rose Pasternak Garber
Sally Gardos
Lillian Gelfman
Gloria Gevirtz
Joseph Greene
Bernard L. & Ida Grossman
Warren Heilbron
Robert Herko
Alexander Hersh
Ralph & Ruth Heyman
Ronnie Hymowitz
Leslie Golden Kantor

Remembered by:

Bonnie, Henry & Samantha Shyer
Anne Gottlieb
Shelly Benerofe & Family
Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder
Jane Heilbron
Sondra Burak Grundman
Patricia & Martin Bernstein
Nina Fider
Debra, Clark, Dylan, Tyler & Austin Pager
Michael & Arleen Cohen
Arlene Cole
Patricia Klingenstein & Family
Judy E. Tenney
Alan Epstein & Yvonne Tropp
Vivian & Roger Farah
Bruce & Dana Freyer & Family
Lawrence Goodman
Elaine Losquadro
Patty & Bob Gelfman
Alison Lazarus & Clifford Gevirtz
Dr. Caroline Bauman & Family
Patricia & Philip Laskawy
Jane Heilbron
Robin Herko
Myra Hersh, Andrew & Emily Hersh
Jeanne & Bert Keller
Fran & Mark Lerner
The Golden Family

In memory:

Harriet J. & Nathan B. Kessler
Charles & Jeanne Korn
Charles Koty
Theodore R. Lazarus
John Lese
Michael Losquadro
Carol B. Mann
Paul Nebenzahl
Fanya Paley
Nancy Redfern
Seymour Robinson
Estelle Rod
Melvin Roseman
Enoch & Mandy Roskies
Edith Schultz
Lillian Schupf
Nathan Schwartz
Solomon Sinder
Lloyd Singer
Beverly Sternberg
Ida Suskind
Charlotte Sweig
Leonid Tisnovsky
Perry Wachtel
Jerome Wachtel
Dick Yaffa

Remembered by:

Terry & John Schwarz
Claire Yaffa
Tina Koty, Sharon Koty Cooper, Andrew, Matthew, Josh & Charlie Cooper
Alison Lazarus & Cliff Gevirtz
Linda Lese
Elaine Losquadro
Robert & Barbara Mann
The Aiuvalasit Family
Lev & Alya Belilovsky
Arlene & Rich Josephberg
Fran & Roger Lefft
Helene, Jonathan & Marc Rod
Shelly Benerofe
Doreen & Stephen Kushel
Michael & Joan Flaxman
Sara & Axel Schupf and Family
Ilene Schwartz
Brian Sinder & Lois Falberg
Madeleine & John Leigh
Stuart & Lisa Sternberg
Debra & Dan Alpert
Jeannie & Gerald Kligman
Emma Tisnovsky
Robin Herko
MJ & Richard Wolff
Claire Yaffa

Donations processed after February 19 will appear in the next bulletin. If you have any questions, please call Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18.
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<td>3:50 - 5:45pm Hebrew School</td>
<td>12:00pm Challah Baking</td>
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<td>6:00pm Former &amp; Current Board Member Dinner</td>
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<td>10:15 - 11:45am Beit Midrash: Zionism</td>
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<td>6:30pm Drinks with the Clergy in NYC</td>
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<td>11:00am Zach &amp; Tyler Taerstein B’nei Mitzvah Ceremony</td>
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<td>9:00am Beit Midrash: Three Israels</td>
<td>11:00am Zach &amp; Tyler Taerstein B’nei Mitzvah Ceremony</td>
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<td>Pajama Project Collection for Mitzvah Shabbat Begins</td>
<td>6:30pm Women's Study Group Passover Dinner</td>
<td>7:30pm Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9:00am Beit Midrash: Worldwide Jewish Community</td>
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<td>7:30pm Community Yom Hashoah Service at Community Synagogue of Rye (Academy &amp; Confirmation students to attend)</td>
<td>3:50 - 5:45pm Hebrew School</td>
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<td>7:30pm Yom HaAtzmaut &amp; Honoring Our Graduating Seniors</td>
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<td>6:00pm Pre-Neg</td>
<td>6:30pm Early Service</td>
<td>7:00pm Spring Benefit</td>
<td>6:00 - 10:00pm 6th Grade Retreat at The Shames JCC on the Hudson</td>
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<td>12:00pm Reflections Workshop</td>
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<td>12:00pm Luncheon with Author Susan Greenfeld</td>
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<td>6:30pm Committees in Community</td>
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<td>10:15 - 11:45am Beit Midrash: The Future of American Jewry</td>
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<td>4:00pm Westchester Chamber Music Society: Escher Quartet</td>
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SNAPSHOT

Blingo Bingo

Youth Group Volunteering at St. Peter's Food Pantry

Youth Group Sorting Medical Supplies at Afya on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Hineini Visiting with Residents at Willow Towers Assisted Living Home
March & April Shabbat Services

March 6
7:30pm  ♫  ♪  ♪
Purim Shabbat: Will Burt Bachrach Finally Meet the Megillah?

March 13
7:30pm  ♫
Union Prayer Book Service:
A Tribute to our Reform Heritage

March 20
6:00pm  Pre-Neg
6:30pm  Early Service

March 27
7:30pm  ♫
I’m A Cultural Jew: Wine

April 3
7:30pm  Shabbat Service

April 10
7:30pm  Shabbat Service

April 17
6:00pm  Pre-Neg
6:30pm  Early Service

April 24
7:30pm  ♫  ♪  ♪
Yom HaAtzmaut & Honoring Our Graduating Seniors

♫ Band  ♪ Prayers projected  ✨ Family Friendly

Mark Your Calendar
Samuel L. and Jane L. Friedman Lecture on Peace & Understanding with Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Friday, May 1, 7:30pm Service

We have the great honor of welcoming Congresswoman Nita Lowey to our sanctuary. Having served in congress since 1989, Mrs. Lowey currently serves as the Chairwoman of the House Appropriations. From her long career of service and her deep commitment to Judaism, Mrs. Lowey will share her perspectives on the national issues that most directly impact the Jewish community. We are honored that she has accepted the invitation to be our Friedman lecturer this year.

Mark Your Calendar
Mitzvah Shabbat & Pizza Truck Dinner
Friday, May 8

5:30pm Pizza & Social Action Projects
6:30pm Shabbat Service
7:00pm Pizza, Social Action Projects & Dessert

With fun mitzvah projects, a delicious dinner, a wonderful intergenerational community, and a brief lively service, this will be a meaningful evening.

We will also use this evening to say thank you to Rabbi Ross for her four years at our congregation. Don’t miss this special tribute to a wonderful rabbi and educator!

Remember, with a little bit of time, fueled by delicious pizza, you can make a real difference!