



Jewish Genealogy Workshop with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff (Zoom) Thursdays, January 7 & 14, 7:00pm

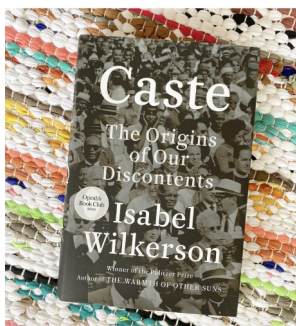
Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff was born and raised in Staten Island and grew up in a two family home where he lived with his parents, younger brother, and maternal grandparents. Rabbi Kalmikoff had a particularly close relationship with his grandparents who shared many stories with him about their family history. These family stories inspired him to learn more about his family tree.

Rabbi Kalmikoff has traced parts of his family tree as far back as the 1600s and has made trips to visit the towns his ancestors emigrated from, meeting distant relatives and collecting even more stories of his heritage along the way.

At these workshops, you will learn the methodology of searching for records and documents, analyzing them and using the information they contain to build your own family trees. The workshop gives attendees an overview of online Jewish genealogical resources to use in the comfort of their homes.

Register with Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x21.

Racial Justice: Community Read of *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson (Zoom) Mondays, January 11, February 1, February 22 & March 15, 11:30am and Monday, April 5, 10:30am

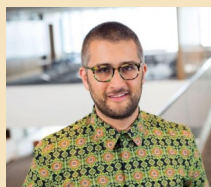


We continue our congregational engagement with racial justice with a community read of *Caste* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Isabel Wilkerson. Over the course of several months we will delve into this important work examining the ways our society is divided by race.

Register with Dan at doconnor@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x11.

Please note that these sessions will run for 90 minutes.

Social Justice Shabbat featuring the Isaac Memorial Lecture: A Look at the Political Divide on Morality with Professor Adam Waytz (Zoom) Friday, January 22, 6:00pm



We cannot fully address the social justice issues facing our nation without first learning to understand and speak with one another. But, in these divided times engaging across the political spectrum is more difficult than ever.

Professor Adam Waytz, the Morris and Alice Kaplan Chair in Ethics and Decision Management at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, has devoted much of his academic career to understanding what divides people and how they can effectively engage across that divide. Using his insights derived from social psychology and cognitive neuroscience, Professor Waytz will help us understand the left-right divide in America today and begin to consider how we might chart a path towards cooperation and unity.



WishMakers Screening and Q&A with Director Cheryl Halpern Sunday, February 7, 4:00pm

WishMakers is the story of the Tulip Winery that was established in a residential adult special needs community, the Village of Hope, in Israel's Jezreel Valley. The winery fosters a caring environment while providing employment, dignity and purpose for the residents. In addition to the satisfaction of producing world class wine they find joy and self worth in helping to grant wishes for children with life threatening illnesses.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with director Cheryl Halpern.



Students in The Farah Family Hineini Program Volunteer with The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York

In November, our Hineini teens and parents volunteered with The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York to help convert a former 1885 Quaker Meeting House in Chappaqua into a two family affordable housing residence. In response to a lack of affordable housing in the Westchester area, The Fuller Center has made it their mission to match financial opportunities and volunteer interest with the needs of those seeking simple, decent places to live in both Westchester County and New York City.



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Welcome Jamie Villarie: Our Director of Technology, Facilities & Events

It is a pleasure to welcome our new Director of Technology, Facilities & Events Jamie Villarie.

Jamie is responsible for all facilities-related functions, our growing and evolving technology needs, event rental management, and generally making sure things run smoothly at Emanu-El.

Jamie has a long career of event planning and execution, technology support, audio/visual production, general contracting, and hands-on facilities work. His broad range of skills will provide us with what we need to improve our space and keep moving forward in the future. Jamie has lived in Westchester all his life and currently resides in Valhalla with his family. He loves music, baseball, skiing, and family time.

You can reach Jamie at jvillarie@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 ext. 26.

Confronting Racism

We will begin a community read of Isabel Wilkerson's book Caste to continue our congregation's discussion of race and racism. See page 1 for the discussion dates.

I am not a racist. I benefit from racism.



I benefit because it was easier for me to get a good education as a child. It was easier for me to get into Cornell, to get a good job as a business consultant, to do well on the GRE, to get into graduate school, and to enter a respected profession.

I have never had someone cross the street or give me a wide berth for my looks. At fundraisers and social events, I have never been called over to clear a plate or take an empty glass – unless I was working as a waiter at the event. I have only had good relationships with law enforcement – even serving as a police chaplain myself. To me, a badge only means someone who will help. I have never suffered from the low expectations of others. Quite the opposite, I have been given every advantage and encouragement to reach my full potential, to exceed it.

And as I have received every advantage that comes with my skin color and the other accidents of my birth, people of color in America have suffered countless disadvantages caused only by their skin color, the accidents of their birth. While we cannot link all success and failure to skin color, it plays a very real role in our lives no matter our individual beliefs, talents, skills, exertion, morality, actions, education, profession, or convictions.

Entering this discussion requires humility. Perhaps we can tap into that humility by remembering that ours is the first generation in 2,000 years where Jews are so fully integrated in the society. Jews are allowed to be part of the upper echelons of wealth, power, influence, arts, and culture. For most of our history, we experienced untold discrimination, discrimination due to the accident of birth. Discrimination both unique and emblematic of the human instinct to rank people into caste.

Rabbi Hillel taught: *אל תדין את חבֿרֶךְ עד שִׁתְּגִיעַ לְמִקוֹמוֹ* *Al tadin et chavercha ad shetagiach limkomo* - Do not judge your fellow man until you have stood in his place.” And so, as a formerly oppressed minority newly welcomed into the upper socio-economic strata, and, as people who benefit from racism even though we do

not actively engage in it, we have an obligation to understand racism. And, from there, we have an obligation to fight racism.

...I have received every advantage that comes with my skin color and the other accidents of my birth...

In the fall we began this effort to understand with a series of lectures and classes, beginning with one by Eric Ward, an activist who illuminated the connection between classical anti-Semitism and racism. (View it at <https://tinyurl.com/CEWRacism>.) We will continue this winter with a deeper dive into the place of racism in America with a community read of the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Heralded by the critics, the book explores the idea that “the hierarchy of caste is not about feeling or morality. It is about power – which groups have it and which do not.” My hope is that congregants of all political stripes will join us for this community read and discussion so that we can wrestle together with ideas which resonate and ideas that chafe; ideas that excite and ideas that make us uncomfortable. And, hopefully, there will be many ideas that make us uncomfortable.

Wilkerson not only explores our history and the racism inherent in our society, she also offers a vision of a shared humanity that can offer a new way forward. Perhaps in reading and discussing her book, we too will discover how to help move our society forward in ways large and small. This is only the next step in what will be a generational reckoning with race. I hope you'll join us.

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

Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi

Ritual Corner: Shabbat Candle Magic

There is a beautiful custom that you may have seen – or done – when lighting Shabbat candles. Some people light the candles, wave the light towards themselves, and then cover their eyes before saying the blessing.

Why do we wave? There is a Chassidic teaching that we spend all week expending energy and creative power, sending it out to the world. As Shabbat sets in, we gently wave our hands to gather our energy and creativity back to ourselves so that we may rejuvenate during the rest of Shabbat.

So, what about covering our eyes? According to Jewish law, a blessing must be said before we perform a mitzvah. But, once the candle blessing is said, it would be as if Shabbat had already started and therefore would be forbidden to light the candles. We solve this by understanding the mitzvah of candle lighting as a two-part commandment: one part is the lighting itself, the other is deriving benefit and enjoyment from the candles.



So, we light the candles (part of the mitzvah) then cover our eyes to say the blessing. After the blessing, we move our hands and see the light as if for the first time. We thus fulfill the second part of the mitzvah of candle lighting: deriving benefit and enjoyment from the glow of Shabbat candles.

Physically Separate Always Together: Women's Study Group Winter Weekend

We invite *all* women of Congregation Emanu-El to experience a Women's Study Group-style Shabbat, on the weekend that marks the 20th anniversary of our annual winter retreat. While we can't hunker down in a country inn as usual, we're excited to offer two wonderful events to welcome and then conclude Shabbat.

RSVP to Abbie at alevitt@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x18.

Shabbat Service (Zoom)

Friday, January 29, 6:00pm

Come to our unique Shabbat service on Friday evening ("doors" open at 5:45pm) with its mystical bent, inspirational readings, meditations, and special melodies. Best of all, though we are apart we can still come together as the vibrant, warm community we've been for more than two decades. Copies of the service booklet will be sent in advance, and also available for download.



Tu BiSh'vat Celebration and Havdalah (Zoom)

Saturday, January 30, 4:00pm

On Saturday we reconvene for a Tu BiSh'vat celebration for your tastebuds! Join us for an interactive discussion led by our Director of Education, Naomi Fabes, and inspired by the Kabbalists of Israel as we explore the spiritual elements of the holiday while relishing in the fruits of our world.



Tyrrell Ben-Avi

It's always gratifying, and sometimes surprising, to discover you've made an impact on someone, or played a role in their life of which you were unaware. From time to time I've had the pleasure of hearing from former congregants, usually young adults who grew up in the congregation.



This past fall, Rabbi Wolk, Marcie and I received a special New Year message (right), an exceptional and heartfelt thank you letter. It was from 43 year-old Tyrrell Ben-Avi, a congregant of ours from decades ago. What is unusual is that Tyrrell is black as well as Jewish, had been abandoned by his father and suffered many hardships as a child, and had come to our temple "barely out of the fourth grade searching for answers, finding a safe space to learn, worship and become." Tyrrell thanked us each respectively, and effusively, for "taking me in without question and understanding me in a way I didn't realize for a long time...caring for me as one of your own...pushing me to do great things" and for making him feel "special, cared for and supported".

Through Tyrrell's trials and successes, it is heartening to know that Judaism and our temple provided a bedrock of support in Tyrrell's life. In response to the recent racial unrest in our country, Tyrrell wrote a letter to his college fraternity brothers, describing the pangs of being black in America (see page 7).



Tyrrell walking through Jerusalem (above). A more recent photograph of Tyrrell (right).



Tyrrell's Letter to Rabbi Wolk, Marcie & Me

Dear Rabbi Wolk,

Happy New Year! I wanted to write to you, Marcie and Cantor Stone and first say thank you. I came to Emanu-El as a child barely out of the fourth grade searching for answers, finding a safe space to learn, worship and become. I remember you taking me in without question and understanding me in a way I didn't realize for a long time. I was abandoned by my father and didn't understand what it meant to be Jewish- our conversations in your study are still etched in my brain. Your constant support with my education and your willingness to see beyond my battered and bruised childhood and see some good. Thank you.

Cantor Stone,

You helped me focus my singing and gain confidence in chanting Torah, the countless tapes you made for me and the smiles of encouragement were all a kid needed to feel special, cared for and supported. I marveled at how you were able to reach each of us individually and really push us to be great in what we were doing. Every time I've chanted Torah, I carried you with me. Thank you.

Marcie,

What can I say to you except, thank you Momma Marcie for always having my back and caring for me as one of your own. I didn't have parents to nurture me in a way I needed but you were always there to support and push me to do great things. Our trips to NYC to serve were unforgettable and when you see Mrs. Cole, tell her I love her as well and thank you.

I wrote a letter to my fraternity this week in response to some of the unrest in our country. It wasn't until I left for college did I feel the pangs of being black in America. But I am stronger now for all of my experiences but did not want another day to go by without telling my foundation THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

Meredith

Meredith Stone, Cantor

Tyrell's Letter to His Fraternity Brothers

6th of Tishrei 5781

Dear Brothers,

L'Shana Tova! During this time of civic unrest and a global pandemic, I was compelled to write to the members of our fraternity and share my thoughts and feelings as a black Jewish man in America. It has taken some time for me to be able to speak freely and share my thoughts. I wanted to give perspective to this issue from a personal experience.

This month, I celebrated 23 years since I was initiated into Sigma Pi Chapter at American University. I was a sophomore architectural student from New York, who never saw my being Jewish as unique or questionable until I arrived to Howard University. I was active on campus, serving as president of the NAACP, traveling and speaking on black/Jewish relations, participating in Hillel etc. but I dealt with anti-Semitism on campus and from others in the community.

I was a target of a lot of attacks. From name calling to hits in the campus newspaper, I feared at times for my life and safety. Couple that with racists comments made when I went to Shabbat services, it was hell for a while. I grew up in an atmosphere of acceptance and tolerance, so to be isolated was devastating for me. I continued to lead student organizations and speak out, but began to feel like my voice was muffled and didn't matter anymore.

I've lost jobs because of my race, have been mistreated in conflicts because of my race or faith, and have walked around in fear of retaliation when something happens and I speak out. I have been pulled over more times than I care to mention and treated like a criminal or animal because of the color of my skin.

My white counterparts professionally are exceeding me because there hasn't been a support system or network for a unicorn, a black Jewish male. Black leaders have made comments about me going to my rich Jews to get me ahead while Jewish leaders ignore me and question if my Jewish identity is authentic. I can say that being a member of AEPI has caused some issues, because I chose to join a non-black Greek letter organization that has not always supported me. No man is an island, but there have been times the isolation and loneliness has overtaken me.

COVID-19 destroyed not only my businesses, but a prospective assignment in New York City. It devastated my family and we have lost loved ones to this pandemic. The George Floyd incident and others have has really forced me to live my life in way that I have to understand who I am and fight for myself a little more. I have to stand for my community even when I don't feel supported and my voice has been silenced in the past. It is difficult not to be angry and walk around hating the world for how they treat black men in the country. It destroys your sense of self and challenges you on levels that would cause most people to break mentally and emotionally. Our cries for help, support, love, understanding,

and healing are coming to the surface and now society has to determine how they want to proceed.

I decided a few weeks ago, that I was going to run for public office and make a difference. So, after the general election in November, I will officially be a candidate for Mayor of the City of New York. I am planning and setting up the framework for the campaign as we speak and understand the weight of my candidacy, as a black Jewish man. I am no longer afraid to speak up for what I believe and I am more conscious that my voice has meaning and merit and must be heard.

If you have black friends and family members, check on them and make sure they are feeling supported in this time. If you know any black members of this fraternity support and love them while they navigate life in a climate and culture that does not value us as equal. We need you, I need you, and the growing movement of change needs you. I love you all brothers old and new and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Tyrrell L.S. Ben-Avi, MBA CFRM CMM
Sigma Pi-97, Howard University



Tyrell chanting Torah in Israel.



Tyrell at the Israel Museum.

STEP-UP & GIVE BACK

It is more important than ever that we continue our acts of *tikkun olam* (repairing our world) in our communities. With social distancing as our new norm, volunteering looks a lot different than it did even two months ago, but there is no shortage of opportunities to help those in need of support at this time. To learn more about how you can get involved, contact Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com.

2020-21 Collections

September	High Holy Day Food Drive - DONE!
October	Coats for Hope Coat Drive - DONE!
November	Have A Heart Gift Drive - DONE!
December	Afya Collection
January	Afya Collection
February	Feeding Westchester Cereal Drive
March	Hope Community Food Pantry Drive
April/May	Mitzvah Shabbat Book & Pajama Drive
June	Gently Used Backpack Collection for Midnight Run

Thank you: Have A Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive Success!

Together, our congregation donated 50 toys and \$300 in Amazon gift cards to the WJCS Have A Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive. Your donations went to children and teens in underserved communities throughout Westchester.

Afya Reusable Face Masks, Vitamins, Hand Sanitizer & Medical Supply Collection Now through Friday, January 29

We are accepting donations Mondays - Thursdays from 9:00am - 3:00pm of the following unused items for Afya Foundation: Reusable children's masks, Band Aids, gauze bandages, antibiotic ointment, first aid tape, hand sanitizer, and children's vitamins. Afya collects surplus medical supplies and delivers them to underserved health systems around the world.

For more information, contact Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com.

Feeding Westchester Cereal Collection Monday, February 1 - Thursday, February 25

Mondays - Thursdays from 9:00am - 3:00pm we are accepting donations of your favorite cereal(s) for Feeding Westchester.

For more information, contact Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com.



Social Justice Committee Update

Beginning in June, the Social Justice Committee participated in the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's Civic Engagement Campaign to increase voter participation in the 2020 elections. Based on the premise that democracy is strongest when everyone participates and the rabbinic teaching that we are not required to complete the task nor can we desist from doing it, our movement partnered with the Center for Common Ground on their Reclaim Our Vote Campaign. Committee members ordered multiple postcard kits from RAC and mailed information on registering and voting to more than 500 citizens, who may have been purged from voter rolls, to help them exercise their right to vote.

On November 15, the RAC held a Zoom for congregants and clergy throughout the country to share their experiences in promoting maximum voter engagement in this election. Our campaign reached 325,000 voters. Reform Jews living in states in all regions of our country described successfully advocating for issues, not candidates, that represent core Jewish values. The excitement and passion that was evident throughout this Zoom made us feel proud to be part of such a caring and activist community.

Now that the election is over - how can we continue working together to make our community, state and nation a better place for all of us? In partnership with RAC-NY, New York's Reform Jewish Advocacy organization, congregations choose one issue each year that reflects Jewish values and is of vital importance to the citizens of New York to advocate for in the state legislature. RAC-NY will present three possible issues to all participating congregations via Zoom on January 13 or 14, and we will vote on which to pursue.

So, to quote an old song, "We've only just begun..." We look forward to working with our fellow Social Justice Committee members and invite any congregant who would like to join us in this important work to contact us.

Hedy Cardozo
hedozo@aol.com

Marcie Aiuvalasit
maiuvalasit@c-e-w.org

We Are All Created in the Image of God

“If there be among you a person with needs, you shall not harden your heart, but you shall surely open your hand.” (Deuteronomy 15:7).

In February we will observe Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), established to celebrate Jewish community members of all abilities, to raise awareness of the need to respect all, to dissolve stereotypes and to foster inclusion. This is an important annual observance in Jewish communities near and far, and our programming each February reflects the goals of JDAIM. That being said, I am proud to say that at CEW, the values of respect and inclusion are not limited to one month a year.



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Prior to the pandemic, our Farah Family Hineini Program students volunteered with children on the autism spectrum at Friendship Circle, an inclusive community that values all individuals and helps create friendship for those facing isolation. Each year, I am impressed with the sensitivity and sincerity that our students exhibit towards their new friends and I leave each encounter with renewed pride in our Hineini students.


This year our efforts to promote awareness and inclusion continue, though virtually, with the screening of *WishMakers* followed by a Q&A session with director Cheryl Halpern on Sunday, February 7 at 4:00pm.

Award-winning *WishMakers* is the inspiring story of the Tulip Winery, which was established in a residential adult special needs community in Israel. In this amazing community known as Kfar Tikvah, Village of Hope, Tulip Winery partners with residents with special needs. From assisting with the harvest and the bottling operations to working in the tasting room and creating works of art, the residents are an integral part of this heart-warming wine story. During the screening we will ‘meet’ the key employees of the winery as well as residents of Kfar Tikvah, all of whom take pride in being integral members of a successful winemaking team and find joy in knowing

that profits from their WishMaker wine goes to the Make-a-Wish Foundation Israel to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

WishMakers is the story of individuals who personify the values of respect, dignity, and compassion for one another regardless of ethnicity, gender, age and physical or mental handicaps. It also celebrates the dignity of every individual regardless of his or her physical and mental capacity. The residents of the Village of Hope and the Tulip Winery extended family serve as reminders that each and every one of us can be a valued member of our community and our world. I look forward to sharing this remarkable story with you.

Peace & Love,



Jane Dubro, Youth Activities & Program Director

P.S. Check out the inspiring Shalva Band, an Israeli musical troupe comprised of eight talented musicians with disabilities. A recent musical sensation in Israel, the band reached the finals of Israel's reality TV show *The Rising Star*, and performed at the Eurovision competition held in Tel Aviv in 2019. Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/cewshalva>

ADULT LEARNING & PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, the video Zoom address for programs and services is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9149674382>

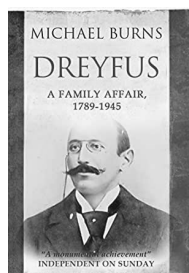
Worship services may also be viewed on our Facebook page or website. The audio only dial-in is: 1-646-558-8656 (use Meeting ID 914 967 4382).

Books and Bites (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 6, 7:00pm



A discussion of mass incarceration and racial equality led by Books & Bites member and professor Dr. Mikki Shaw. Dr. Shaw has worked in education for over 40 years, as a high school teacher and as a teacher educator. She is also a part time professor at Sing Sing Maximum Security Correctional Facility. Dr. Shaw has a deep commitment to public education and to students at risk. In preparation for this discussion, please contact Marcie for a reading list at maiuvalasit@c-e-w.org.

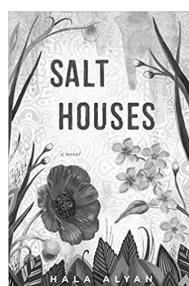


Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, January 21, 10:15am

Dreyfus - A Family Affair, 1789-1945
by Michael Burns

A biography of the Dreyfus family, whose name is linked with the notorious Dreyfus Affair, traces the clan from the French Revolution to the Second World War.



Books & Bites (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00pm

Salt Houses by Hala Alyan
The story of generations of a Palestinian family, the Yacoub, who originally lived in a villa in Jaffa on the Mediterranean seashore until the 1967 Six-Day War forced them inland to Nablus as refugees.

To RSVP for any of these sessions, contact Marcie at maiuvalasit@c-e-w.org. Newcomers welcome!

Next Step (Zoom)

Sundays, January 10 & February 14, 11:00am

This group of men meet to discuss personal issues that they face in retirement. The bonds of friendship and a deep sense of trust have allowed this group to continue for many years. Next Step is facilitated by Paul Spindel (retired executive). For more information and a special Zoom link, contact Paul at 914-632-1264.

International Holocaust Remembrance

Last Letters: The Prison Correspondence 1944-45 of Freya and Helmuth Von Moltke (Zoom)

Monday, January 25, 7:15pm

An intimate and affecting correspondence between a woman and her imprisoned husband awaiting execution by the Nazis. The book is both a remarkable historical document and a powerful testament of imperishable love and unwavering devotion. Discussion and book excerpts read by Johannes von Moltke and Dorothea von Moltke, the book editors and grandchildren of Freya and Helmuth Moltke.

Single Malt Torah (Zoom)

Thursday, January 28, 8:00pm

Grab your favorite beverage and log on for Single Malt Torah with other men from the congregation!

Can't make this session? The group will meet again on Thursdays, March 18 & and May 20.

Beit Midrash (Zoom)

Sundays, January 10 & 31 and February 7, 10:30am & Saturday, February 27, 9:00am

This year's Beit Midrash will continue our deep exploration of Jewish ideas and the ways they shape us as Reform Jews today. Jewish Study with a special focus on Jewish thought in the late 20th and early 21st Century. Using the recently published book, *The New Jewish Cannon*, edited by Yehuda Kurtzer and Claire E. Sufrin, we will examine the ways that Jewish thought and ideas have evolved with incredible speed.

Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone (Zoom)

Monday, February 8, 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. RSVP to Cantor Stone at 914-967-4382 x19 or mstone@c-e-w.org.

Current & Former Board Member Gathering (Zoom)

Friday, February 26, 5:15pm

We will gather online to share updates and news about Emanu-El, with a chance to connect with past and present board members. More details to come.

As the tradition has been the last few years, the gathering will be followed by our Purim Shabbat Celebration at 6:00pm (see pg. 20 for details).

Eat, Drink, & Be Merry: What Purim Can Teach Us About the Pandemic

Many of my favorite childhood memories revolve around the holiday of Purim. I remember admiring my older sister sauntering across the stage in a crown when she played the part of Queen Esther in our school's Purim Spiel. I remember eagerly waiting in line for my chance to hold whatever cute rodent was brought to the petting zoo at the JCC's annual Purim Carnival. I remember the adrenaline I felt when we began our class-wide exchange of *mishloach manot*, gift baskets filled with food traditionally given to friends during the holiday. I remember my family getting dressed up as Ozzy, Sharon, Jack, and Kelly Osbourne just months after their MTV reality series, *The Osbourne's*, exploded across the country (mostly because my straight-laced father let us cover him with fake tattoos!). Even in recent years, I remember the elation I felt balancing on a ladder while I hung decorations from the ceiling of the Pavilion, transforming Central Synagogue into a magical carnival filled with fun for the whole family.



That is precisely what Purim is all about: a larger-than-life celebration chock-full of costumes, games, skits, feasts, and for the 21+ club, booze. As I often describe it to my non-Jewish friends: "If Disney World & Mardi Gras had a baby, it would be Purim." It's a day where nothing is as it seems, so much so that our early rabbis teach us to imbibe until we can no longer discern our hero, Mordechai, from the villainous Haman. While Purim isn't the only holiday in which we commemorate the survival of the Jewish people, it is the only one in which we are subject to this level of indulgence. But why? The very premise of the holiday is taken from a phrase in the Megillat Esther, *V'nahafoch hu*, which translates to "turned upside down." It comes at the very

moment in the Purim story when the fate of the Jewish people is reversed: "... the very day on which the enemies of the Jews had expected to get them in their power, the opposite happened [*v'nahafoch hu*]" (Esther 9:1).

How fitting, then, that our world was turned upside down - *v'nahafoch hu* - during the week of Purim last year, as we watched synagogues cancel their Purim carnivals, companies halt their business operations, schools and college campuses shutter, and the most jarring of all, people isolate themselves from their family, friends, and community as a means to survive. As we enter a new year with the hope of a vaccine and a return to our pre-Covid life, I ask myself, "What can Purim teach us about the Pandemic?"

The most obvious takeaway from this notion is that our lives can change in the blink of an eye. For the Jews of Persia, their existence was threatened by the appointment of an anti-Semitic grand vizier, propelling them into a state of fear, panic, and desperation. Today, our existence has been threatened by a merciless and unpredictable virus, forcing us to isolate ourselves from the world around us, especially those we love.

A more optimistic interpretation is that after every storm is a rainbow. While the Jews of Persia were anticipating a calamitous ending, they ultimately found themselves triumphantly celebrating their resilience. While we've spent the past ten months mourning the loss of milestones, memories, and the lives of loved ones, we too will come out victorious when we can safely return to work, school, houses of worship, and the homes of our friends as we come together to celebrate the grit of humanity.

Another important lesson that we can distill from the concept of *v'nahafoch hu* is that the world will never stop spinning and that no matter how hard we convince ourselves that we are in control, the truth of the matter is that we do not have control, nor can we predict or even be certain that our lives, or the world around us, won't venture into uncharted territory. Maybe it is for this very reason that we have been given the mandate of *mishenichnas Adar marbim b'simcha*: when the month of Adar comes (the month of Purim), we increase our joy. Or, as Dave Matthews simply put it, "Eat, drink and be merry."

(continued on pg. 12)

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This year, though, has highlighted what I believe to be the most poignant takeaway of this holiday. The upside-down -topsy-turvy nature of Purim provides an escape from the obligations of our everyday lives. It gives us time, space, and permission to shed our inhibitions and deviate from our normal way of living. While the circumstances surrounding the pandemic are vastly different, we have been forced to deviate from our normal way of life and we've been given more time and space than we had ever imagined possible. The pandemic has held up a mirror to the mirage of our lives, giving us a unique opportunity to sincerely contemplate the meaning of necessity. I've grappled with this very question each time I open my closet filled with clothes that I don't wear; each time I peer into my refrigerator that is fully stocked with fresh and healthy food; each time I call an airline to cancel a vacation that will remain on my bucket list indefinitely; each time I get off the phone with my parents and celebrate that they've made it another day without contracting a lethal virus.

Purim has taught me to look inward when the world turns upside down - *v'nahafoch hu*. I am entering 2021 with a newfound appreciation for what I have instead of a longing for what I want, because what I really want is to be in a confined space (with little ventilation) with the people I love!



Naomi Fabes, Director of Education

Family Learning Shabbat Friday, February 5, 6:00pm



Experience the magic of Shabbat with your family! Join us for a vibrant service filled with music and learning as we unwind from the busy week and welcome

Shabbat. Our family learning experiences are a core component of Jewish education at Congregation Emanu-El, and will take place on Friday evenings to bring together all our students have learned as we celebrate Shabbat with family and friends.

The Bauman-Green Pre-K & Kindergarten Program: Chag-in-a-Box!

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



Our Pre-K & Kindergarten program is coming right to your home! Each month, you will receive a Chag-in-a-Box, a holiday-themed care package filled with crafts, recipes, and games for you to make Jewish memories with your loved ones.

Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ftma3x>

For more information, contact Director of Education Naomi Fabes at nfabes@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x15.

2020-21 Chag-in-a-Box Monthly Jewish Holiday Projects

September: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

October: Sukkot

November: Shabbat

December: Chanukah

January: Tu B'Shvat

February: Purim

March: Passover

April: Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May: Shavuot



**Fred Guttenberg discusses his book *Find the Helpers: What 9/11 and Parkland Taught Me About Recovery, Purpose, and Hope*
Program for Academy, Hineini & Youth Group
Monday, January 11, 7:00pm**



Fred Guttenberg is an American activist against gun violence. His 14-year-old daughter Jaime was killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on February 14, 2018. His son, also a student at the school, ran from the shooting to meet him at a nearby store.

Intertwining his experiences of losing his brother from a 9/11-related illness and his daughter to gun violence, Guttenberg finds hope within the darkness and fights to make lasting change. "I have come to find greatness in people who do unexpectedly generous things in the moment — people who never intended to become heroes," he writes.

**Jews & Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Today
Program for Academy, Hineini & Youth Group
Sunday, January 17, 6:00pm**



Explore the reality of the relationship between the Jewish and Black communities during the Civil Rights era. The Jewish narrative of that era is not completely seen the same by everyone or grounded in the reality of

what was truly happening. We were participants in the Civil Rights movement but it is not our story. Explore some historical events that impacted Jews in America including the Leo Frank and Temple bombing in Atlanta to the sociological and generational issues that shaped Jewish activism and participation, or lack of, on both sides of the movement. Also, how does all of this impact what is happening in the streets of America today?

**How to be Comfortable Having Uncomfortable Conversations
for Academy, Hineini & Youth Group
Sunday, January 31, 6:00pm**

America is so split that trying to speak across the divide feels impossible. Whether it is one on one, with friends, family or your community, discussions about race, politics, or Israel seems to be too heated and contentious to have.

How can we have these important and necessary conversations without "all the heat"? How can you practice self-care as you enter into uncomfortable conversations? How can we rethink what success looks like during a difficult conversation?

B'nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov!

We would like to honor the following students who will become B'nei Mitzvah in January and February:

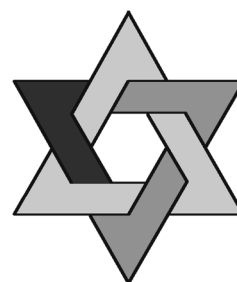
Lexie Music

Harper Canell

Samantha Motola

Lucy Modica

Simon Modica



**Food Insecurity in Westchester
Program for 6th Grade & Hineini
Sunday, February 28, 10:00am**

Ahead of our annual cereal drive, we are joined by congregant Jeanne Fogel from Feeding Westchester for a discussion about the local issue of food insecurity. Feeding Westchester sources and distributes food and resources to feed people who are hungry in every town in Westchester.

**Teen Purim Comedy Workshop with Comedian Joel Chasnoff
Sunday, February 28, 12:00pm
Program for Academy & Youth Group**

Join students from JCCH, KTI and other local synagogues to learn the tools of comedy from Joel! Details to follow.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our community offers condolences to

Jaime Coffey on the death of her mother Adrienne Weissman
 The Colnes Family on the death of Sandra Colnes
 The Epstein Family on the death of Alan Epstein
 Terry Feldman on the death of her brother Larry Weiner
 The Leitman Family on the death of Joyce Leitman
 Marc Schwartz on the death of his brother Michael Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrances for the Memorial Fund

In memory of:	Remembered by:	In memory of:	Remembered by:
Martha Astrove	Nancy Gladstone	Anthony LoCastro	The LoCastro Family
Michael Benerofe	Shelly Benerofe & Family	Johanna Loeb	Evelyn & Nick Beilenson
Clara Bernstein	Martin & Patricia Bernstein	Gazella S. Masinter	Margery & Edgar Masinter
Bernice Carton	Wendy Rowden & John Carton	Yetta Goodman Myers	Jacqueline Neimark & Robin Neimark Seegal
Diane Colish	William Colish	Cecile Naumberg	Doris Judell & Family
Richard Alan Cotton	The Bottomley Family	Murray Perlman	Lisa Perlman & David Kaufman
Donald Lee Duncan	JoAnn Terdiman	Burton P. Resnick	Jonathan & Joelle Resnick
Kate Emil	Judy Tenney	Linda Rosenblut	Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy Cardozo
Rabbi Harry W. Ettelson	Sandra & William Ettelson	Samuel Roth	Dorothy Golden
Herbert Friedman	The Friedman Family	Anthony Frank Santaniello	Joelle, Jonathan, Jacob & Eli Resnick
Myron I. Garber	Lawrence & Sachiko Goodman	Rosalind Schulweis	Harvey Schulweis
Eileen & Stanley Goodman	MJ & Richard Wolff	Willem Schupf	Sara & Axel Schupf
Charles M. Hecht	Richard & Susan Hecht	Julia Seligson	Nancy Gladstone
Leonard Heinberg	Jack & Melissa Heinberg	Adele Sicular	Lilian Sicular
William Hersh	Myra Hersh and Family	Etty Silverman	Richard & Emily Cohen
Alexander Hersh	Myra Hersh and Family	Solomon Sinder	Brain Sinder & Lois Falberg
Archer J. Israel	The Geller & Ifrah Families	Joseph Slotnik	Arlene Cole
Sally Josephberg	Arline & Richard Josephberg	Louis Steiner	The Steiner Family
Mildred Kassan	Arline & Richard Josephberg	Beatrice Rothschild Stotter	William & Sandra Ettelson
Benjamin Boris Laskawy	Patricia & Philip Laskawy	Milton M. Stuart	Jacqueline & Alan Stuart
Joseph Lefft	Fran & Roger Lefft	James Stuart	Jacqueline & Alan Stuart
Rita Levis	The Salzer & LoCastro Families	Leon Tepper	Elyse Nathanson
Leon Lobel	Stan & Evelyn Lobel	Marcia Wolff	MJ & Richard Wolff
Morris Lobel	Stan & Evelyn Lobel	Ronald Zuckerman	Terry Zuckerman Feldman & Family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Garden of Gratitude

Marcie Aiuvalasit in memory of Henry Shyer
Terry & Herb Feldman in memory of Henry Shyer
Peter & Gina Klebanoff in memory of Steven Klebanoff
Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory of Henry Shyer
Joan Sclar in memory of Henry Shyer
Sam & Jill Sheppard in memory of Henry Shyer
Karen & Ed Weisberg in memory of Henry Shyer

General Contributions

Anonymous
Sam Bader in honor of Jackson Koslow's Bar Mitzvah
Lilian Sicular in memory of her son, David Sicular
John & Amy Tanenbaum in honor of their daughter
Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah

L'Dor V'Dor Capital Campaign

Martin & Patricia Bernstein
Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder
Howard & Jennifer Goldsmith
Eric & Regina Witkin

High Holy Day Guest Donations

Dan & Susan Kaufman
Elinor Klivans

Religious School Donations

Roger & Vivian Farah in support of the
Farah Family Hineini Program

Social Action Fund

Arlene Cole in honor of Enrique Torres
Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein
Nancy Gladstone
Richard & Susan Hecht
Yuval & Jana Meron

Memorial Fund

Arlene Cole in memory of Ellen Keller
Pam & Elliott Glass in memory of Henry Shyer
Amy & Douglas Hirschhorn in memory of Henry Shyer
Wayne Signer, Barry Schwartz & Teri Junker
in memory of Henry Shyer
Maryanne Waldman, Stephanie Shapiro, Katie Witkin,
Melissa Witkin & JD Paul in memory of Henry Shyer
Betty Weisman in memory of Henry Shyer

Music Fund

Lawrence & Debra Cohen in honor
of their daughter Hayden's Bat Mitzvah
Martin & Pamela Winter

Rabbi Goldsmith's Discretionary Fund

Jason Adler in memory of Jack Ryder Goldsmith
Andrew & Diane Alson in honor of the marriage
of their son Jay Alson to Randi Pochtar
Iris & Peter Arest in memory of Henry Shyer
Phyllis Baumrind in memory of her husband
Alvin Baumrind, and in honor of their son
Mark Baumrind & family
Martin & Patricia Bernstein in memory of Henry Shyer
Mark Bortner & Rosane Hirszman in honor of
their daughter Nina's Bat Mitzvah
Lawrence & Debra Cohen in honor of
their daughter Hayden's Bat Mitzvah
Michael & Arleen Cohen in memory of Henry Shyer
and with gratitude for Arleen's birthday blessing
Nancy Gladstone in memory of William J. Wolf
Jennie Goldstein on behalf of the Goldstein family
David & Rory Jones in appreciation of their blessing
Frances Kay in appreciation for officiating
the unveiling of Sandy Kay, father of Amanda Gitkind
Camilo Pinheiro Machado & Laura Tulchin
Sandy & Gerry Matlin in memory of Henry Shyer
Leslie & Charles Maurer in memory of Henry Shyer
Clark & Debra Pager
Bunny Rosen in memory of Henry Shyer
Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy Cardozo in memory
of Henry Shyer
Lynne Scheurer-Foster in honor of Enrique Torres
Peter Schweitzer & Anne McBride in gratitude for
officiating their wedding
Bonnie Shyer in memory of Henry Shyer
Audrey Stein in honor of Rabbi Goldsmith
and Emily Cohen
Daniel & Lindsay Tulchin
Kim & Bill Vescovo in memory of Henry Shyer
Limor & Scott Weiner in honor of
their daughter Jordan's Bat Mitzvah
Martin & Pamela Winter
Richard & MJ Wolff in honor of the marriage
of their daughter Sarah Wolff to Adam BenSimon
Faith Wolitzer in honor of Arleen Cohen's birthday

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Year End Appeal for the Annual Fund

John & Alanna Alkalay

Melissa Ashley

Gloria Batkin Kahn & Robert Wolff Kahn

Caroline Bauman

Lev & Alya Belilovsky

Shelly Benerofe

Greg & Janelle Berger

Joshua & Nancy Blaine

Alfred & Barbara Bright

Jared & Sarah Bukzin

Richard & Meredith Canter

John Carton & Wendy Rowden

Susan Chapro

Lawrence & Debra Cohen

Michael & Arleen Cohen

Richard & Emily Cohen

Arlene Cole

William Colish & Ellen Levitt

Nancy Dressler

Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder

Seth & Pam Farber

Lawrence & Harriet Feldman

Terry & Herb Feldman

Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein

Darren & Jeanne Fogel

Aaron & Kathryn Goldstein

Ryan & Lorri Goldstein

Sandy & Brianne Goldstein

Anne Gottlieb

Richard & Susan Hecht

Robin Herko

Myra Hersh

Greg Hodes & Heidi Hertel

James Jond

Richard & Arline Josephberg

Steve & Robin Kamin

Jeanne Keller

Lawrence & Julie Kirshner

Lucy Klingenstein & Brandon Sall

Stephen & Doreen Kushel

Philip & Patricia Laskawy

Roger & Fran Lefft

Mark & Fran Lerner

Randy & Jennifer Levitt

Jan & Ellen Linhart

Mark & Carla Lobel

Tom & Peggy LoCastro in honor of Ella Cohen's engagement to Zach Goldstein and in memory of Henry Greenwald

Elaine Losquadro in honor of the engagement of her son Neil Losquadro to Rayna Lopyan

Lisa & Gary Matthews

Reed & Karen Miller

Laura Newman

Andrew & Marcia Patel

Kenneth & Amy Pollinger

Cary & Michele Potkin

Robert & Nancy Rieger

Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy Cardozo

Ginny Rowen

Robert Sales & Rachel Marcus Sales

David & Jane Schaiman

Jane & Joshua Schraeter

Axel & Sara Schupf

Ilene Schwartz

Peter Schweitzer & Anne McBride

Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut

Sam & Jill Sheppard in memory of Jill's father

Maurice A. Deane, and in honor of the Rabbi & temple staff

James & Jane Stern

Peter & Laura Strauss

John & Amy Tanenbaum

Michael Temple

Judy Tenney

Maj Wickstrom

Evelyn Winick

Martin & Pamela Winter

Richard & MJ Wolff

Mortgage Donations

Lindsay & Matthew Kraut

Yuval & Jana Meron

Neil & Mara Miller

Joshua Perlman & Yan Yunging

James & Jane Stern

Alan & Jacqueline Stuart

John & Amy Tanenbaum

David & Nora Tulchin

Maj Wickstrom

Mandi & Evan Wiederkehr

Michael & Lynne Wolitzer

Donations processed after December 22 will appear in the next bulletin. If you have any questions, please call Abbie at 914-967-4382 x18.

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00pm Lay Led Shabbat Service New Year's Day: Office closed	2
3 No Religious School	4 No Academy	5 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm 7:30pm Board Meeting	6 7:00pm Books & Bites	7 7:00pm Jewish Genealogy Workshop with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff (Session 1)	8 6:00pm Shabbat Service	9 11:00am Lexie Music Bat Mitzvah Ceremony
10 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 10:30am Beit Midrash 11:00am Next Step	11 11:30am Community Read of Caste 7:00pm Hineini, Academy & Youth Group Find the Helpers with Author Fred Guttenberg	12 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm	13	14 7:00pm Jewish Genealogy Workshop with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff (Session 2)	15 6:00pm Shabbat Service	16
17 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 6:00pm Academy, Hineini & Youth Group: Jews and Blacks In The Civil Rights Era and Now	18 No Academy <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Office closed</i>	19 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm	20	21 10:15am Book Club	22 6:00pm Social Justice Shabbat: A Look at the Political Divide on Morality with Professor Adam Waytz	23 11:00am Harper Canell Bat Mitzvah Ceremony
24 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 31 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 10:30am Beit Midrash 6:00pm Academy, Hineini & Youth Group: How to be Comfortable Having Uncomfortable Conversations	25 7:15pm International Holocaust Remembrance: <i>Last Letters: The Prison Correspondence, 1944-45</i> 7:15pm Academy, Hineini & Youth Group (will attend program above)	26 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm	27	28 8:00pm Single Malt Torah <i>Tu BiSh'vat</i>	29 6:00pm Women's Study Group Shabbat Service 6:00pm Shabbat Service	30 11:00am Samantha Motola Bat Mitzvah Ceremony 4:00pm Women's Study Group Tu BiSh'vat Celebration and Havdalah

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 No Academy (students will attend January 31 program) 11:30am Community Read of Caste	2 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm 7:30pm Committees in Community	3	4	5 6:00pm Family Learning Shabbat	6 11:00am Lucy & Simon Modica B'nei Mitzvah Ceremony
7 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 10:30am Beit Midrash 4:00pm Sunday Film Series: <i>WishMakers</i> with Director Cheryl Halpern	8 12:00pm Reflections Workshop No Academy (students will attend February 7 program)	9 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm	10	11	12 6:00pm Shabbat Service	13
14 No Religious School 11:00am Next Step	15 No Academy <i>Presidents' Day:</i> <i>Office closed</i>	16 No Hebrew School	17	18	19 6:00pm Lay Led Shabbat Service	20
21 No Religious School	22 No Academy 11:30am Community Read of Caste	23 Hebrew School Individual Zoom Tutoring: 3:30-4:30pm 5:00-6:30pm T'filah (Zoom): 4:30-5:00pm 7:00pm Books & Bites	24	25	26 5:15pm Current & Former Board Member Gathering 6:00pm Purim Shabbat <i>Purim</i>	27 9:00am Beit Midrash
28 Religious School Pod 1: 9:00-10:15am Pod 2: 10:45am-12:00pm 10:45am Young Families Purim Celebration: Magic Show with Gary Ferrar						

Chanukah Drive Thru

We had fun dressing up and waving, dancing, and singing at everyone who came to the Chanukah Drive Thru. And there were a lot of Chanukah visitors! Could this be the start of an Emanu-El Chanukah tradition?



Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

JANUARY - FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

- January 1 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Lay Led Shabbat Service**
- January 8 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Shabbat Service**
- January 15 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Shabbat Service**
- January 22 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Social Justice Shabbat featuring
the Isaac Memorial Lecture: A Look
at the Political Divide on Morality
with Professor Adam Waytz**
- January 29 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Women's Study Group
Shabbat Service**
6:00pm **Shabbat Service (for those not
attending the WSG service)**
- February 5 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Family Learning Shabbat**
- February 12 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Shabbat Service**
- February 19 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Lay Led Shabbat Service**
- February 26 (Zoom)
6:00pm **Purim Shabbat**



Purim Shabbat (Zoom) **Friday, February 26, 6:00pm**

Each year on Purim we shake off the winter doldrums by dressing up, drinking, and blotting out the name of the one who tried to annihilate us: Haman! This year: Corona! Of course, both Haman's genocidal schemes and COVID are very serious. But for one night a year, we are expected to set aside the serious and get on with the gallows humor. So, pour yourself a drink, put on a funny hat, and log on for a night of pandemic pandemonium with laughter, music, and – as always – some surprises you will not want to miss!

Young Families Purim Celebration with Magician Gary Ferrar (Zoom) **Sunday, February 28, 10:45am**



The whole family is invited to join Gary the Great for a virtual performance full of unexpected moments and hysterical magic.

Gary has appeared on NBC, USA, and the Travel Channel, and is excited to blow our minds in this private performance. Due to the interactive nature of this virtual event, it is recommended that you put on pants and turn on your camera!