

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF WESTCHESTER January 1 - February 29, 2024 | 20 Tevet - 20 Adar 5784

Comedy Night with Lisa Perlman & Joe Matarese Saturday, January 6, 7:00pm Music, 7:30pm Show



Laugh your tuchus off at the temple! Congregant and comedian Lisa Blythe Perlman will emcee a hilarious night of comedy featuring comedian Joe Matarese. Joe's been on the Late Show with David Letterman, Last Comic Standing, The Howard Stern Show, WTF

with Marc Maron, and Chelsea Lately. Come early, enjoy drinks, noshes, and live music with musician and congregant Zach Grann at 7:00pm, followed by loads of laughter when the show begins promptly at 7:30pm. Cost: \$30/person. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

Social Justice Shabbat with Myra Clark-Siegel, Regional Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester/Fairfield Friday, January 12, 7:30pm



Each year for our Social Justice Shabbat, we celebrate those areas of American life where things have become more equal, more just, more in line with the prophetic vision of our tradition. We hear from speakers who are experts on the issues of the

day to let us know where we stand and how we can help. This year, rather than looking at issues effecting others, our speaker will help us understand an issue effecting the Jewish community: the rise of antisemitism. Myra Clark-Siegel is the Regional Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester/Fairfield. She is a renowned expert and advocate for the Jewish people and will bring us the latest insights into antisemitism and, critically, help us understand what we can do about.



Film: *How Saba Kept Singing* with Filmmaker Kyra Grann and Guest Avi Wisnia Thursday, February 15, 7:00pm

David Wisnia, known to his family as "saba", had never told the whole truth about how he survived as a prisoner at the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. The family knew that he had used his singing voice to entertain the guards, and that his musical gift had changed his fate. But David's grandson, Avi Wisnia, a singer, songwriter, storyteller and educator based in Philadelphia, suspected that there was more to the story. Filmmaker (and congregant) Kyra Grann is joined by Avi Wisnia for a discussion following the film.



2024 Spring Benefit: Celebrating Israel & Jewish Peoplehood Saturday, April 6, 7:30pm

For over a decade, we have used our annual Spring Benefit to honor members of the congregation with the Emanu-El Prize which recognizes their contributions to the congregation and wider community. Celebrating individuals is deeply meaningful as they not only make our congregation strong, but, as individuals, they represent what makes Emanu-El so special. This year, in light of the war in Israel and the rise in antisemitism, rather than honor a single person, we are celebrating Israel and Jewish Peoplehood.

The reasons to celebrate Israel are manifold. It is the realization of a 2,000 year old dream. Half of the Jews in the world live there. It is the strongest democracy in the Middle East. And, while it has many unresolved issues, for the last 75 years it has been both refuge and inspiration for Jews around the world. And, while celebrating Israel, we also want to celebrate the idea at the root of Zionism: Jewish peoplehood. For all our differences, we are one people. Yes, Jews are wildly diverse in religious practice, race, ethnicity, cuisine, music, and geography. And still, we understand ourselves to have a common history and a common destiny. We are all part of the same story, the greatest story ever told. And THAT is worth celebrating.

A portion of the proceeds from this year's benefit will be donated to support Israel in this time of need. The rest will go to the congregation so that we can continue to foster love of the Jewish people in our congregation, in the community and around the world.

More information to come!



SNAPSHOTS

Lower East Side

Hineini families had a wonderful trip together to the Lower East Side - even the rain couldn't dampen their spirits. They traveled back in time to the early 1900's at the Tenement Museum and learned about the Jewish immigrant experience. They are delicious traditional "Jewish" foods at Katz's Deli and ended the day at Economy Candy!



Some of our programs and services remain multi-access. The icons below let you know how you can take part in services and programs. Check the weekly Emanumail for the most up-to-date information, as well as links to livestream or Zoom multi-access and online programs.

ext. 1013

In-person Livestream/Zoom Multi-access Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester 2125 Westchester Avenue, Rye, New York 10580 www.c-e-w.org - 914-967-4382

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B'nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov!

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

Jordan Friedman Rae Katz



I Couldn't Believe My Ears

I could not believe what had just happened. As the grandchild of four Holocaust survivors, it was simply beyond imagination. Young people saying things I never expected to hear come out of their mouths. And in German, no less! Given the current state of the world, you probably think



I'm speaking about some act of antisemitism or some anti-Israel demonstration. But - pleasantly - you would be wrong. I was at the German International School of New York in White Plains. I was the honored guest at an assembly that was the culmination of weeks of study and projects about Judaism and Chanukah. There were Chanukah songs, posters about Judaism, and presentations of Judaica-inspired artwork. And the people were very proud 6th graders, excited to demonstrate what they had learned, excited to welcome a rabbi to their school.

We have had a lovely relationship with the German International School for a number of years. Initiated by former president Emily Cohen and the indefatigable Jane Dubro, their older students come for a model seder every other year. Their middle school students come to synagogue for a tour and introduction to Judaism each spring. But, outside of one visit to help them with a Holocaust project, I had not spent time on their beautiful White Plains campus. So, when their teacher Ruth Boser reached out about a visit, I quickly said, "Yes!"

I was not sure what to expect when I arrived. Ruth told me to meet her at the front office. When I rang the bell and was admitted I walked into a gracious lobby that featured not only a beautiful Christmas tree, but also a large menorah. The menorah was clearly set up for the full season and not only the rabbi's visit. I was then ushered into their auditorium and given a seat in the front row. Students in white shirts and black pants (they had decided on the outfit together) went to the risers with one on drums, another on bass, and another took lead vocals. Expecting Oh Tannenbaum or something similar, I was pleasantly surprised when they started with the classic Israeli folk song Shalom Chaverim. After an eight or nine minute medley they took their seats with great applause.

It was time for me to speak - and I was speechless. After collecting my emotions, I said, "You have no idea what you just did for me. This has been an incredibly lonely time to be a Jew. We have seen antisemitism all around and, worse, we have felt like allies have turned their backs on us. But this, to be greeted by you with the words 'shalom chaverim', 'hello friend', it helps me see that we are not alone, that you stand with us, that you care. All I can do is say, 'thank you.'" I then shared the story of my maternal grandparents' nightmare on Kristallnacht and their miraculous emigration to England. Some of the older students who had been fussing around in the back of the auditorium became silent and solemn. They listened intently, bearing witness.

After I finished, there was a pause while they were getting organized for the next presentation. A 10-year-old girl came up to me and said, "If it was bad when the Nazis kicked the Jews out of their homes, then why is Israel kicking Palestinians out of their homes? Why are they killing them?" It was not the ignorant chant of a naïve college student nor the vitriol of a rabid antisemite. It was the sincere sadness of a child with tears in her eyes. After the assembly we were able to sit together with one of her teachers. We were able to agree that neither of us want terrorists leading Gaza. We were able to agree that we both loved humanity and did not want to see any civilians die. We were able to agree that Palestinians and Israelis both deserve self-determination and dignity. We both hoped for a guick conclusion of the war. And, while we did not solve the intractable problems of the region, this 10-year-old girl and I affirmed the humanity in one another, the humanity in all of God's children.



And then the fun continued! More singing, a presentation of posters about Judaism, the proud display of model torah scrolls and dreidels, a gallery walk featuring light-based holidays from religions around the world, and a delicious lunch. I even got to sing *Shalom Chaverim* with them before heading back to the temple. I can't wait for a visit this spring!

Howard J. Goldsmith,

In The New Year: Strengthening Our Friendships As A Key To Happiness

A year ago, on New Year's Day, the New York Times published a "7- Day Happiness Challenge." Each day's challenge presented a way to strengthen friendships, which are integral to a person's happiness. While I did not participate in the challenge itself, the article inspired



me to focus more intentionally on my friendships. I was motivated to do so because of my ongoing clergy "Mussar*" group, led by Rabbi Pam Wax. Each month we take on a different "middah" (personal characteristic, trait or virtue) to ponder as a spiritual practice. When friendship came up as a topic, I took it on in earnest.

A great deal has been written about the importance of friendship. Strong relationships come up as a key element in the research into both happiness and aging. Yet maintaining and cultivating friendships can be difficult, especially at times when family and work may take precedence. It is all too easy to take friendship for granted, and to assume it will be there when we need it. But do we have someone we can call in the middle of the night if we need help? How about someone who can pick up our kids in a pinch, or water our plants when we're away? While we may have long time friends who will always stand by us, friendship in general requires energy and initiative.

Judaism has much to say about having friends. The Talmud stresses the critical need for friends, and not to be without them: "Either friendship or death"! Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) urges us to learn from friends, and choose them wisely: "I have learned so much from my teachers; but from my friends more than my teachers." "Select a Rav (teacher/rabbi) for yourself. Acquire a chaver (friend or study partner). When you assess people, tip the balance in their favor. Distance oneself from a bad neighbor, and do not befriend an evil person." A commentary on Pirke Avot adds specific ways to make friends: "A person should acquire a chaver (friend) by eating and drinking with them, by studying Torah and debating with them, by lodging with them and by sharing private thoughts with them."

The great medieval philosopher Maimonides goes further and designates 3 types of friends: A useful friend (for the sake of "benefit"), a pleasant friend (for the sake of satisfaction) and a spiritual friend (for the sake of a higher purpose) who helps the other be a better person. I wondered if I could divide up my own friends into Maimonides' categories. I couldn't! The groupings overlapped and a "useful" friend felt too transactional. How many people have even one "spiritual" friend, so lofty and rare? But I nonetheless took stock of the people in my life and made a list to see what kinds of categories emerged. Here is what I learned: scrolling through the contacts on my phone, I was surprised by the number of people I don't usually think of as friends per se - a neighbor, a cousin, a colleague. Acquaintances, with some attention, might become friends. I asked myself how often I see or reach out to others, and how often I wait for others to initiate. I targeted a few people to reach out to more often.

A suggestion from the "Happiness Challenge", the 8-Minute Phone Call, intrigued me. Though some may consider phone calls a quaint relic, I still like them. There's something special about hearing someone's voice. I wondered if in this era of digital communication I might find a taker. I took a chance with a long time acquaintance who liked the idea, so once a week, we'd text to see if a call might happen that day. It was easy to connect, we supported one another's little victories, and it all took very little time. We still occasionally make quick calls to say hi and touch base. Thanks to my car's excellent bluetooth, I also enjoy regular leisurely conversations with friends and family during my commute to and from the city to temple.

During my month of focus on friendship, I also took into account "weak ties": neighbors, the local pharmacist, the grocer. I thought about how my attitude in public can affect the mood of others. The Mussar masters suggested greeting people with a pleasant countenance because it makes others feel good and binds people together.

Another aspect of the *New York Times* article addressed canceling plans, which has become much more prevalent in the digital age when we don't need to call to explain the cancellation. So many of us withdrew into our homes during the pandemic and we became insular, with Netflix as our nightly friend. It is tempting to stay at home rather than socialize. It is worthwhile trying not to cancel plans!

After my month of focus on friendship, my Mussar class turned to a new topic, and the energy I put into reaching out to the people in my life diminished somewhat. But the experience left a strong enough imprint on me to make a difference in my life. A great way to start the year is to be more intentional about tending to your friendships. Your friends will be grateful and your life will be enriched.

*Mussar is virtue-based ethics – based on the idea that by cultivating inner virtues, we improve ourselves.

Meredith

Meredith Stone, Cantor

A Tallit Gadol

Every Shabbat I intentionally wear the exact same tallit, my tallit gadol. It is large, woolen, striped with a silvery blue, and fills me with a strong sense of grounding. Wrapped around me, I feel the security of its cloth. Draped over my shoulders, I feel the weight of my prayer. My tallit is part of how I pray – it is part of my story.



Near the end of my first year of Rabbinic School, when I was living in Jerusalem, I decided that I wanted something tangible to remind me of my experiences, something that I could use every day with intention. I would buy a tallit gadol, one of the large tallitot that my teachers wore, and looked more like a majestic prayer cape than a prayer shawl.

Accompanied by one of my friends, we went from shop to shop searching until we found a small tallit shop on Ben Yehuda Street. I had been to the shop before, when looking to buy some new kippot, but I hadn't looked at their selection of tallitot. Almost as soon as we entered, the shopkeeper approached, and, upon hearing that I was looking for a tallit asked, I'chatein," - "For marriage?". I didn't fully hear him, and instead heard him say, "katan," as in "small."

"Lo, gadol," - "No, big" - I said in response. I didn't need a small tallit; I needed a big tallit.

Back and forth the two of us went, speaking the same language, but clearly unable to communicate with one another. This farce lasted for a minute or so before my friend turned to me and blurted out, "Zach, he wants to know if the tallit is for a wedding!" In some communities, it is the custom for a groom to only buy a tallit gadol for his wedding day, to serve as his shawl and chuppah – a big moment for the buyer.

However, I wasn't getting married. Any lack of levity that existed prior to that moment was gone. With a laugh and a half-embarrassed, half-entertained smile on my face, I apologized and began to see the shopkeeper's selection: A traditional, bleach white, tallit, an Ethiopian tallit with multicolored stripes, and a woolen tallit with silvery blue stripes – it was a difficult choice, but with my friend's support, I found my tallit gadol. After chatting with the shopkeeper for a few minutes I made my purchase and a few days later I was flying back to the United States. This moment was one of my last in Israel. I sometimes remember this story when I wrap my tallit around me before prayer, of the silliness and the joy, and it feels like it was yesterday. We all have certain things that remind us of our pasts or ground us in the present. A cherished necklace, a favorite pair of shoes, a grandparent's tallit, each of us can find something that truly makes time feel timeless. It can be an action as well; a preferred prayer



or musical tune, or just the simple act of coming to Emanu-El for Shabbat services. These are precious to us, and as each of us bring ourselves to this shared space, so to do we bring them, and they become holy.

When I wrap myself in my tallit, time, for a moment, stands still, and as we pray together, time flies. It is a true blessing for us to share these moments, to each bring a piece of ourselves into our worship, and I look forward for our continued time together in the New Year.

charge Mr. Com

Zachary Canali, Rabbinic Intern

REFLECT & ELEVATE



Ritual Corner by Rabbi Goldsmith

The prayers we say at services are not random. Religions tend to fall (roughly) into two categories: liturgical and non-liturgical. Non-liturgical religions include Baptists, Quakers, and Evangelical Christians. When they gather for prayer they recite sections from the bible, hear sermons, sing hymns, and offer spontaneous prayers - but there is no fixed order or content. On the other hand, Catholicism, Islam, and Judaism are all liturgical, meaning we have fixed prayers meant to be said at certain times and in a certain order. The Jewish worship service follows a pattern whose foundations were laid about 2,000 years ago in the land of Israel and in Babylonia. The service developed over hundreds of years and was comprehensively written down for the first time in about 875 CE.

My teacher Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman teaches that for the first 1800 years or so, the Jewish prayerbook (siddur) was like a hoarder's closet: things go in but never come out. What started as a loose framework used by itinerant preachers in Israel first developed in a relatively brief set of fixed prayers. But people soon found the service to be rote and boring. So, they added in some new Hebrew poetry. Within a generation or two, that novel poetry became, itself, fixed and rote and boring. So – more poetry! Yet, nothing was ever taken out to make room for the new stuff. Until the Reform Movement came around.

In the 19th century, early Reformers in Germany and the United States decided that services were too long, too repetitive, and too superstitious to truly lift the spirit. So, they started cutting some of the longer sections, the repetitive bits, and prayers about things like the resurrection of the dead. They also added things like mixed gender seating, a regular sermon, and musical accompaniment. Yet, even with the deep cuts that brought the service from 4+ hours to around an hour, they remained faithful to the millennia old patterns. And at Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, we, too, remain faithful to those patterns, even in our most innovative, contemporary services.

So, what is the pattern?

 \cdot First are a series of introductory prayers to help get everyone in the mood for worship.

· Next, are a selection of psalms.

• The third section is called the Shema and its Blessings. This section starts with Barchu, then prayers for creation and Torah, then the Shema itself, then V'ahavta and a prayer for redemption which includes Mi Chamocha.

• The next section is the Amida or Shemona Esreh, a series of 19 prayers, the middle 13 of which are petitionary (except on Shabbat).

· If there is a Torah service, it comes next.

 \cdot The service ends with a series of concluding prayers including Aleinu and Mourner's Kaddish.

As you might imagine, there are many variations on this for holy days and festivals: prayers added or removed, entire sections swapped out to match the mood of the day, etc. But this is the overall structure. The structure is readily apparent in our siddur, *Mishkan Tefilah*, and our machzor (High Holy Day prayer book), *Mishkan HaNefesh*. But it is there, too, in the slides we create for many of our services. For example, after the Barchu we will often have a reading on the theme of nature to honor the tradition of a prayer for creation after Barchu.

As a Reform synagogue dedicated to innovative worship, we do take license with the prayers and, occasionally, their order. But the foundation, structure, content, and themes of the prayers remain as relevant today as they did for thousands of years ago.

Repairing Our World: Social Action, Social Justice, and the Caring Community

Be the change you want to see in the world.

עלינו להיות השינוי שאנו רוצים לראות בעולם

Aleinu lihiyot ha`shinui she`anu rotsim lir-ot ba`olam.

As we embark on the New Year, I find myself reflecting on the meaningful

impact of our Emanu-El community through ongoing efforts in social action, social justice, and cultivating a caring community. By integrating Jewish values of responsibility and compassion into practical initiatives, we build a culture of kindness.

Emanu-El goes beyond discussing positive change we take action through collections, volunteer work, educational offerings like the ESL program and more. These demonstrate our commitment to both supporting individuals and driving broader community impact. This involvement in making a difference in the world around us begins with our youngest members in Religious School and carries through to our adult members—everyone has or can have a role!

Our community also personifies this ethos. From supportive phone calls to delivering care packages during difficult times, we foster connections and comfort among members. This emotional support system strengthens bonds within our community and creates a sense of belonging and care. The Social Action Committee's collaborative efforts with organizations like Children's Hope Chest, Lasagna Love, Afya, Midnight Run, Pleasantville Cottage School, and 914Cares, further demonstrate our commitment to addressing diverse community needs and promoting social responsibility.

Our Social Justice work within the community encourages members to be actively involved with government representatives and the world around us. Diverse opinions and healthy and respectful debate are welcome and encouraged.

As Emanu-El continues leading by example in building a compassionate and equitable society, I am proud to be a part of this community. If you are already involved, let's keep up the great work. If not, there is no time like the present to join in CEW's chessed (acts of kindness) initiatives. I am certain that our Social Action, Social Justice, ESL, and Caring Community committees would be thrilled to have you on board. Email me at jdubro@c-e-w.org for more information.

Wishing our community a year filled with continued success in our efforts to repair the world.

Peace & Love,

ane

Jane Dubro, Director of Programming & Engagement

STEP-UP & GIVE BACK: SOCIAL ACTION & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteer to Teach Adult ESL at the Carver Center in Port Chester

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30am

Our ESL program is up and running again (in a new location)! Volunteers are needed to tutor adult English language learners, no experience necessary, just a passion to help. Contact Jaime Morris at jaime-morris@hotmail.com or Amy Schulhof at alschulhof@hotmail.com if interested.



Join the Emanu-El Caring Community

Being there for one another in difficult times is a vital piece of who we are. The Emanu-El Caring Community is a volunteer-run group that makes certain that our congregants experience a sense of support after the loss of a loved one. We are looking for volunteers to help assemble and deliver bereavement baskets on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Caring Community, contact Michelle Schwartz at prettypaper1@gmail.com.

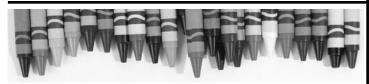


STEP-UP & GIVE BACK: SOCIAL ACTION & SOCIAL JUSTICE

2023-24 Social Action Collections

We are committed to tikkun olam, repairing our world. Help make our community a better place and participate in the important drives scheduled throughout the year. For more information, contact co-chairs Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com and Lauren Shalem at lauren.beitman@gmail.com.

September	Food Drive for Feeding Westchester \checkmark
October	Coat Drive 🗸
November & December	WJCS Have A Heart Gift Drive \checkmark
January & February	Cottage School Art Supply Drive
March	HOPE Community Pasta Collection
April	Midnight Run Collection
May	914Cares Book Collection
June	Midnight Run Gently Used Backpack Drive



Cottage School New Art Supply Drive Tuesday, January 2 - Friday, February 16

We are collecting new art supplies for the children and teens at the Pleasantville Cottage School. New art supplies will be brought to the school in January and April when CEW teens spend the morning with kids living on campus. Art supplies needed: marker sets, colored pencils, crayons, craft glue, drawing paper, and tracing paper (or similar items–just no glitter!).

New art supplies can be dropped off in the temple lobby during normal business hours.



Bake Lasagna at Emanu-El for Lasagna Love Sunday, February 11 , 9:30am

Lasagna Love is a grassroots effort to provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need. Congregants are invited to lasagna-making sessions to benefit HOPE Community Services in Port Chester. A \$10 donation from participants will go towards the purchase of ingredients. RSVP to Abbie at alevitt@c-e-w.org.

Social Justice Committee Update

Throughout the first half of 2024, the Social Justice Committee will continue to pursue our Climate Covenant by participating, in conjunction with RAC-NY, in lobbying sessions with our elected representatives in Albany in order to encourage their support for both the Heat Act (A4592A/S2016A) and the Superfund Act (A03351-A/S02129A).



The Heat Act: The purpose of the bill is to give the Public Service Commission the authority and direction needed to align gas utility regulation and gas system planning with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates. Overall the bill removes the legal basis and subsidies driving the expansion of statewide gas systems and requires the commission to adopt rules and develop a statewide gas service transition plan that is consistent with decreasing gas reliance and, where appropriate, decommissioning gas systems.



The Superfund Act: The bill establishes a climate adaptation cost program in NYS that requires fossil fuel companies that have significantly contributed to greenhouse gas emissions to share the cost of infrastructure investments required for adaptation and mitigation needed because of damages resulting from damage done by the fossil fuels.

We will also be working in collaboration with RAC-NY to create resource guides specifically geared to each county in the state to help congregants and congregations green their homes and synagogues.

As always, if you would like to join the Social Justice Committee in our efforts, please reach out to Committee co-chairs, Hedy Cardozo (hedozo@aol.com) and Marcie Aiuvalasit (marciena33@gmail.com).

ADULT LEARNING

Some of our programs and services remain multi-access. The icons below let you know how you can take part in services and programs. Check the weekly Emanumail for the most up-to-date information, as well as links to livestream or Zoom multi-access and online programs.

In-person	Livestream/Zoom	Multi-access



Beit Midrash with Rabbinic Inter Zachary Canali Saturday, January 6, 9:00am

The sacred books of the Jewish people are a sort of time machine. Each successive layer of Jewish writing - from the Torah to today - reflects the period in which it was written. When we study these texts, we discover an endless diversity of perspective and thought. Each generation's interpretation is shaped by time and place, received tradition and folkways, host culture and ethical norms. What do they all have in common? This year, we will look at the weekly Torah portion and discover how it filters through the prism of time and through each generation. Come every session or just drop in – all are welcome!

Next Step

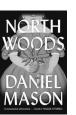
Sundays, January 7 & February 11, 11:00am

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, contact Paul at 914-632-1264.



Mah Jongg & Canasta Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & February, 6, 13, 20, 27, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Come and enjoy both of these classics on Tuesday afternoons. Friends and family are welcome! RSVP to Jane at 914-967-4382 x1021or jdubro@c-e-w.org.



Book Club on Zoom Thursday, January 18, 11:00am

North Woods by Daniel Mason A novel about a single house in the woods of New England, told through the lives of those who inhabit it across the centuries.

Books & Bites at North Street Tavern Thursday, January 18, 7:00pm Book to be announced.



Book Club on Zoom Thursday, February 15, 11:00am

The Fraud by Zadie Smith The novel explores the Tichborne case, in which a lower-class man claimed to be the lost heir to an aristocratic family fortune.



Art Nouveau Style Painting with Artist Terry Schwarz Thursday, January 25, 1:00pm

Art Nouveau was a popular design movement dedicated to nature that flourished in Europe and the United States from 1890- 1920. Come and learn about several of the important artists practicing this style, such as William Morris and Louis Comfort Tiffany. Using Art Nouveau examples as inspiration, create your own colorful designs using various painting and drawing media. All materials are provided. Cost: \$36/person. Space is limited. RSVP to Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org. (



Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone Monday, February 12, 12:00pm

It's never too late to join this ongoing workshop, in which we explore how our daily life experiences and observations can give deeper meaning to worship. Using writing prompts, the Torah parsha, or whatever may come to mind, we share as a group, learn about the themes of our prayers, and weave our words into our Sacred Stories Shabbat services. In so doing, we strengthen connections to one another and to our tradition. A light lunch will be served. RSVP to Cantor Stone at mstone@c-e-w.org.

ADULT LEARNING

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH



Women's Study Group Annual Retreat at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville, CT. Friday, February 2 - Saturday February 3

"The quintessential Shabbat experience," "magical," "my favorite Shabbat of the year" are what's been said about our annual Women's Study Group retreats.

Join the women of Congregation Emanu-El for a wonderful overnight getaway at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville, CT. Connect, reflect, renew, restore! Guest teacher to be announced soon. Check Emanumail for RSVP information.



Film: Life Animated Thursday, February 29, 7:00pm

At the age of 3, Owen Suskind suddenly became silent. His father observes: "It's like we were looking for clues to a kidnapping." After therapy and testing, Owen was diagnosed with autism - but the diagnosis did nothing to help his family communicate with him. Then, one day, his parents discovered that Owen, who loved Disney animated movies, was communicating with them using movie dialogue. He was especially attracted to Sidekick characters. As he got older, they became the subjects of his drawings and stories. The movies not only help him communicate; they express his understanding of purpose and meaning in the world.

The film is based on the family memoir by the Pulitzer Prize-winning political journalist Ron Suskind. Check Emanumail for RSVP information.

The Bauman-Greene Pre-K & K Program 🌒

This program gives your little ones a taste of Religious School! Each session highlights the unique rituals and celebrations of Jewish holidays through a variety of artistic explorations. Sessions are followed by Young Family Celebrations at the temple - fun for the whole family. Free and open to the community.

RSVP to Jackie at jkurland@c-e-w.org.

Tu Bishvat Purim Passover Dr. Caroline Bauman. Sunday, January 21, 9:30am

Sunday, March 17, 9:30am Sunday, April 7, 9:30am This program is funded by the generosity of



Young Family Programs 🌒

We are committed to helping young families begin their Jewish journeys! Bring your little ones (children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren) to Emanu-El to discover the joy of Jewish life through holiday celebrations overflowing with food, song, movement, crafts, stories, community, and fun!

These events are free and open to the community and are appropriate for kids up through 2nd grade.

RSVP to Jackie at jkurland@c-e-w.org.

Tu Bishvat Purim Passover Mitzvah Shabbat & Pizza Truck Dinner Sunday, January 21, 10:30am

Sunday, March 17, 11:30am Sunday, April 7, 10:45am Friday, May 10, 5:30pm

MESSAGE FROM JACKIE KURLAND

Semester At A Glance

Last month, I sat around a table with a group of Jewish educators who, understandably, seemed depressed about what was going on in the world. We took a few moments to express our emotions: a mix of anger, frustration, fear, numbness, and exhaustion. From seeing antisemitic



rallies all over the world to unacceptable levels of hatred on college campuses, we then face our students who are asking us questions like: "why does everyone hate Jewish people?" It is heartbreaking to hear this from a child and it is not easy to explain how for thousands of years, the Jewish people have been turned into scapegoats and targets for no reason other than their religion. But while I sat in this meeting, when asked if anyone had anything positive that they wanted to share, I was the first to raise my hand.

Even though these are some of the darkest days that I have lived through, I have also felt an overwhelming

sense of solidarity and community and I have great hope for our people and for our students. Our Religious School program is thriving. We have over 40 new students this year who we celebrated during Consecration, 35 teens work in our school on Sunday mornings, we had over 200 people attend our Chanukah Shabbat, and at a family service in October, we were standing room only in the sanctuary. Led by enthusiastic and dedicated teachers, our classrooms are alive with students who are celebrating their Jewish identities by acting out Torah stories, writing original holiday songs, creating values based artwork, and engaging in acts of Tikkun Olam. While we may feel powerless during these times, teaching our children to love Judaism and to feel proud of who they are is the best thing that we can do for our future. Here is a glimpse into Religious School life over the last few months!

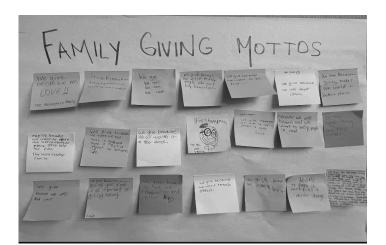
ackie

Vackie Kurland, Director of Education

Family Programs

This fall, we had our 3rd and 5th grade family programs. For our 5th grade program, our students learned about the importance of the Hebrew phrase *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba Zeh (all of Israel is responsibility for one another)*. Families spent time talking about why it was important for them to give to others and they created their own family giving mottos. We then heard presentations from students and voted on organizations where we wanted to donate money to help with the war in Israel. Our students chose Friends of the IDF and United Hatzalah (both of whom received \$500 as a result of the program).

Our 3rd Grade Family Program occurred just before Chanukah so we took the time to talk about Jewish values that are important to our families and how we could put thoe values into action during the holiday. For each night of Chanukah, families chose one value and came up with something that they could do to highlight that value, like reading a book together if they chose "education" or inviting in guests to celebrate with them if they chose "hospitality." Our values took the place of flames as we made our own menorahs to take home.





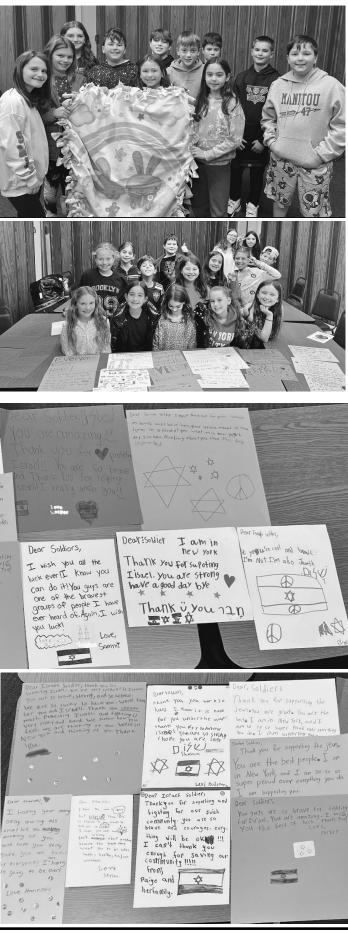
Torah Time

Our fourth and fifth grade students are currently participating in a new Torah curriculum. Each week, they learn a different Torah story and then they connect the values of the story to something relevant in their lives through different projects and activities. Through Torah Time, we have been able to connect many of the stories to Tikkun Olam, as we did with the story of the Garden of Eden where we decorated planters that were donated to a senior home and we made no-sew blankets after learning about Abraham's hospitality to strangers in his home. When we learned about Noah's Ark and the rainbow that serves as a covenant for God to never destroy the world again and to always accept all people, our students created inclusion posters that are now displayed in their classrooms. Our teen madrichim often act out the story through entertaining skits, and it has been a great opportunity for them to take on new leadership roles in teaching our students. We're excited to meet more biblical characters as the year continues!

Tikkun Olam

From our tots to our teens, Tikkun Olam has been woven into all aspects of our curriculum this year. Our social action committee has helped provide projects for our students to do at Young Families programs and at Family Shabbat dinners, from making breakfast bags and soup in a jar for food pantries to wrapping holiday toys and making cards. In Religious School, in addition to our Torah Time social action projects, our students have made cards for soldiers in Israel to show their support and they also made Chanukah cards for Jewish soldiers who serve all over the world.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our community offers our deepest condolences to

Fran Friefeld on the death of her son Matthew Friefeld David Gibbs on the death of his mother Phyllis Kursch Amy Lamensdorf on the death of her father Leslie Loffman James and Jonathon Stern on death of their brother Casey Stern

Yahrzeit Remembrances for the Memorial Fund

In memory of: Albert Cohen Arthur Barry Baum Michael Benerofe Fanny Berg Clara Bernstein Barbara Bright **Beatrice Burak** Alfred Burin Bernice Carton Esther Cohen Judith S. Cohen Jerry Cohen Laurence Cole Sybil Cole Diane Colish **Richard Alan Cotton** Donald Lee Duncan Alan Epstein

Lorraine Flocks Herbert Friedman Stanley Goodman Edwin "Ed" Greenhaus Theodore Hamber Leonard Heinberg Alexander Hersh William Hersh

Roberta Hodes Sally Josephberg Anna Kabchefsky Mildred Kassan Frederick A. Klingenstein Ernest Kovacs Michaele Lefferman Joseph Lefft V. David Levitt

Remembered by: Anne Gottlieb Jessica & David Gordon Shelly Benerofe & Family Stan & Estelle Berg Marty & Pat Bernstein Al Bright Sandy Grundman & Family Hilda & Peter Spitz Wendy Rowden & John Carton Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder Naomi Cohen & Family Stacey Cole & Mark de Jong Stacey Cole & Mark de Jong **Bill Colish** Patty & John Bottomley JoAnn Terdiman Yvonne Tropp Epstein, Liz Kadin Epstein & Peggy Tanner Epstein Margery & Edgar Masinter Joanne Friedman Rick & MJ Wolff Martin & Pamela Winter Clark & Debra Pager Jack & Melissa Heinberg Myra Hersh Myra Hersh, Andrew Hersh & Emily Pollack The Hodes Family Arline & Richard Josephberg Stanley & Evelyn Lobel Rich & Arline Josephberg Lucy Klingenstein Jessica & David Gordon

The Stergiou Family

Roger & Fran Lefft

Valerie Levitt

In memory of: Leon Lobel Morris Lobel Janice Dietz Madoff Madelyn Wattenberg Marshak Gazella S. Masinter Joseph Nelson Murray Perlman Burton P. Resnick Baetrice Rosenberg Linda Rosenblut

Samuel Roth Alan Salzman **Beatrice Schlesinger** Ruth Schlosberg Grace Ehrlich Schneider Irving Schulweis **Rosalind Schulweis** Nathan Schwartz Harriet Shenk Adele Sicular Solomon Sinder Blanche & Joseph Slotnik Gertrude Sokoloff Louis Steiner James Stuart Milton M. Stuart Judy E. Tenney Leon Tepper Alan Tropp

Murray Wadell Henry Weinberg Larry Weiner Anne Weinstein Howard Wohl Ronald Zuckerman

Remembered by: Stanley & Evelyn Lobel Stanley & Evelyn Lobel Harriet Madoff Parker Bill & Fran Klingenstein Edgar & Margery Masinter Laurie & Bob Fishbein Lisa Perlman & David Kaufman Jonathan & Joelle Resnick The Levy Family Hedy R. Cardozo & Michael N. Rosenblut **Golden & Charles Families** Sherry Salzman Stanley & Evelyn Lobel Joan & Steve Kass and Family Al Bright Harvey Schulweis Harvey Schulweis Ilene Schwartz Andy & Marcia Patel Lilian Sicular Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder Stacey Cole & Mark de Jong Helena Sokoloff Stuart & Sheila Steiner Alan & Jackie Stuart Alan & Jackie Stuart Alice Tenney Elyse Nathanson Yvonne Tropp Epstein, Liz Kadin Epstein & Peggy Tanner Epstein Danny & Rhonda Chestler Phil & Karen Drogin Terry & Herb Feldman Ruth Weinstein Michael & Jennifer Zinn Terry Zuckerman Feldman & Family

Garden of Gratitude Fund

Jane Meryll in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Memorial Donation Fund

Carol Brickman in loving memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Neil & Loren Canell in memory of Roger Canell Neil & Loren Canell in memory of David Grossman Kerry Heilbron in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Craig, Roger, Jim, Mark Hoffheimer & Family in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Steve & Debbie Prince in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Susan Sekulow in memory of Gene Sekulow Gail & Edgar Steinitz in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Jonathan & Sydney Stern in loving memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern

General Contribution to the Annual Fund

David Hoguet & Karen Hoguet in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Doreen Kushel in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah Bob & Babs Mann Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut

Jared Dubro Legacy Fund

Michael & Lauren Baruch Shelly Benerofe Lorraine Benowich Kevin & Carrie Berg in honor of Jane Dubro Elana Bernstein & Geoffrey Bauer Denver & Alison Brown Marisa & Ben Crasper Andrew & Sonja Davies Yvonne Tropp Epstein Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder Lauren & Matt Friedman Jim & Elaine Glover Sandy Grundman Rich & Arline Josephberg Marc Kaplan & Vera Allain Matthew & Jill Kunkes Steve & Margie McCabe Lauren & Mark Posner Jonathan & Joelle Resnick Michelle & Marc Schwartz John & Terry Schwarz JoAnn Terdiman Gabriella & Austin Wiley Katie & Will Wolff

Music Fund

Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder in memory of Matthew Friefeld Jane Meryll in memory of Evelyn Wigooshin Raphel

Rabbi Goldsmith's Discretionary Fund

Kevin & Carrie Berg in honor of Chloe and Carrie Berg becoming b'nei mitzvot

Neil & Loren Canell in memory of Roger Canell

Danny & Rhonda Chestler in appreciation for officiating Emily & Max Chestler's wedding

Michael & Arleen Cohen in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Rich & Arline Josephberg in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

David & Niki Levy in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Tom & Peggy LoCastro in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Elizabeth Miller in memory of David Miller

Brian & Jaime Morris in appreciation of Layla Morris becoming Bat Mitzvah

Mina Raskin in honor of Julian & Emilia Austrian becoming b'nei mitzvah

Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy R. Cardozo in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Jim & Jane Stern in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Gil & Kathy Stiefel in appreciation of the Rabbi's leadership during the High Holy Days

The Tenney Family in memory of Judy Tenney

Rick & MJ Wolff in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah

Social Action Fund

Michael & Lauren Baruch Larry & Debra Cohen Alyssa & Paul Cullagh Paul & Marina Glezer Abby & Andy Hodes Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory of Arthur "Casey" Stern Kathlen Mayorga Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy R. Cardozo Sam & Jill Sheppard in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah Paul & Ann Spindel

Annual Fund: 2023-24 High Holy Day Appeal

Bruce & Dana Freyer Richard & Lucille Goldsmith Mark & Helana Jaffe Sydney & Susan Katz Brett Silverbush

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Annual Fund: 2023-24 Year End Appeal

Michael & Denise Barnett Boris Belilovsky in memory of Helen Belilovsky Lev & Alya Belilovsky in memory of Helen Belilovsky Shelly Benerofe in honor of Rabbi Goldsmith and Cantor Stone Kevin & Carrie Berg Judith & Robert Bernstein in honor of Mark Bernstein and Jake Gordon Josh & Nancy Blaine Adam & Marj Blinderman John & Patty Bottomley Daniel & Carole Burack Danny & Rhonda Chestler **Richard & Emily Cohen** Bill Colish & Ellen Levitt in appreciation of Rabbi Goldsmith officiating at their wedding Gabriel & Sarah Cowles Ben & Stacey Cross Richard & Peggy Danziger Earl & Diane Doppelt Phil & Karen Drogin Lois Falberg & Brian Sinder Terry & Herb Feldman Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein Scott & Stefanie Goldman Sandy & Brianne Goldstein in appreciation of Ethan and Abby Goldstein Anne Gottlieb in memory of Albert Gottlieb Dick & Susan Hecht in memory of Emma & Leonard Levy Dick & Susan Hecht in memory of Jane and Charles M. Hecht Myra Hersh in memory of William B. Hersh Chip & Sheryl Kaye Matthew & Jill Kunkes in celebration of the clergy and staff for creating a wonderful community Roger & Fran Lefft Jan & Ellen Linhart in memory of Judith & Sidney Schneider Mark & Carla Lobel Elaine Losquadro in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah Lauren & David Marcus Lisa & Gary Matthews Norman & Joanne Matthews Yuval & Jana Meron Jane Meryll in celebration of our clergy and staff Marcelo & Marcy Modica Brian & Jaime Morris Josh Perlman & Yan Yunging Ken & Amy Pollinger Gene & Susan Resnick in celebration of Rabbi Goldsmith Rebecca & Eric Roseman in celebration of Rabbi Goldsmith Tara Rosenblum & Joseph Apicella Peter Schweitzer & Anne McBride Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut in honor of Melissa & Tony Shapiro-Bey's 5th anniversary

(Annual Fund: 2023-24 Year End Appeal cont.)

Melissa & Tony Shapiro-Bey Michael Sharkansky & Jennifer Borak Sam & Jill Sheppard in appreciation of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester and all who work there Peter & Hilda Spitz Alan & Jackie Stuart John & Amy Tanenbaum in honor of Talia Goldsmith becoming bat mitzvah David & Nora Tulchin Maj Wickstrom Gabriella & Austin Wiley Rick & MJ Wolff

Community Challah Bake for Israel

Ali & Matt Altman Rebecca & Gil Amado Lisa & Douglas Antonacci Gary & Jill Baker Mark & Allison Baumrind Stephanie & Eric Biderman Wendi Cassuto Sean & Jaime Coffey Amanda Cohen Donna DeLynn Stacey & Bill Geller Ryan & Lorri Goldstein David & Jessica Gordon Jamie & Darin Hecht Sandy Klein Shana & Evan Koransky Hilary & David Liebenstein Tom & Peggy LoCastro John & Dana Montone Jack & Karyn Moore Brian & Jaime Morris Jon & Donna Ostrau Leslie Phillip-Kellman Tish Richard Jason & Jessica Riesel Shannon & Paul Rosenberg Michael N. Rosenblut & Hedy R. Cardozo David & Emily Sausen Elly Short Valerie Siebenberg **Rebecca** Spooner Julie & Daniel Taub Shari & Scott Turner Evan & Lindsay Weinberg Scott & Ginny Weisman Erica & Matthew Wiener

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Temple closed for</i> <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	3	4 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	5 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	6 9:00am Beit Midrash 7:00pm Comedy Night
7 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School 11:00am Next Step	8 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	9 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp 7:30pm Board Meeting	10	11 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	12 7:30pm Social Justice Shabbat Service	13
14 No Religious School	15 No Academy & Confirmation <i>Temple closed for</i> <i>Martin Luther King</i> <i>Day</i>	16 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	17	18 11:00am Book Club 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 6:00pm Committees in Community	19 7:30pm Shabbat Service	20
21 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School 9:30 - 10:30am Pre-K/K: Tu BiShvat 10:30 - 11:45am Young Families Tu BiShvat Celebration	22 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	23 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	24	25 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	26 7:30pm Band Gone Bananas Shabbat	27 11:00am Jordan Friedman Bat Mitzvah 1:30pm Rae Katz B Mitzvah
28 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School 12:00pm Madrichim Training	29 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	30 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	31		1	1

		Feb	ruary 2	024		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	2 Women's Study Group Retreat 7:30pm Shabbat Service	3 Women's Study Group Retreat
4 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School	5 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	6 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	7	8 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	9 5:30pm Shabbat Dinner 6:00pm Family Shabbat Service: Pizza, Pasta & Prayer	10 9:00am Beit Midrash
11 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School 9:30am Lasagna Love 11:00am Next Step	12 12:00pm Reflections Workshop 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	13 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	14	15 11:00am Book Club 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 7:00pm Film: How Saba Kept Singing	16 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	17
18 No Religious School	19 No Academy & Confirmation <i>Temple closed for</i> <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20 No Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom & B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	21	22 No Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	23 6:00pm Lay Led Zoom Shabbat Service	24
25 No Religious School	26 7:15pm Academy 7:15pm Confirmation	27 2:00pm Games 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	28	29 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom		

SNAPSHOTS

Challah Bake in support of Israel

Special guest speakers Phil Steinmetz (IDF Lone Soldier) and Mindy and Andrew Feldman (parents of two IDF Combat Unit soldiers) joined us at the recent Challah Bake in support of Israel (thank you to Debra Cohen for organizing and teaching!). Phil shared details about his experience in the IDF and his recent trip to Israel delivering tactical equipment to soldiers. Mindy and Andrew spoke about their two children: their son Corey was stationed in Gaza and their daughter Tara was stationed at a kibbutz in southern Israel following the October 7 attack. Proceeds from the challah bake will support soldiers in Israel.



Family Bingo in support of the Jared Dubro Legacy Fund

A fun activity for a good cause! The money that was raised during this family event has been donated to Friends of the IDF and Midnight Run. Jane Dubro appreciates the ongoing support of the congregation in keeping her son Jared's memory alive.



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JANUARY & FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

January 5 (in-person & livestreamed) 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service

January 12 (in-person & livestreamed) 7:30pm Social Justice Shabbat Service

January 19 (in-person & livestreamed) 7:30pm Shabbat Service

January 26 (in-person & livestreamed) ♬ 7:30pm Band Gone Bananas Shabbat Service

February 2 (in-person & livestreamed)7:30pmShabbat Service

February 9 (in-person & livestreamed) 🎜 🙂

5:30pmShabbat Dinner6:00pmFamily Shabbat Service:
Pizza, Pasta & Prayer

February 16 (in-person & livestreamed)

6:00pm Early Shabbat Service

February 23 (Zoom)

6:00pm Lay Led Zoom Shabbat Service

🞵 Band 🛛 😳 Especially Family Friendly



Band Gone Bananas Friday, January 26, 7:30pm

The talented members of our band will delight us with music and melodies to infuse our Shabbat with an additional dose of joy!

A calypso Shema? How about a jazzy Barchu? And have you heard a reggae V'shamru?



Pajama Shabbat with Pizza, Pasta & Prayer Friday, February 9, 5:30pm Dinner, 6:00pm Service

A special service focused on our younger members, bring your kids in their PJs to enjoy a delicious pizza and pasta dinner followed by a child friendly, musicfilled service. What better way could there be to end the week and begin our day of rest?! Appropriate for children up through 2nd grade. Cost: \$15/person. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.