BULLETIN

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF WESTCHESTER

November 1- December 31, 2026 | 21 Cheshvan–22 Tevet, 5787

Installation of Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor
Friday, November 13, 7:00pm



Welcoming is a central Jewish value, embodied by Abraham and Sarah and generations of our people.

On Friday, November 13, we will officially welcome Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor as Cantor of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester. This special installation service will weave together the familiar rituals of Shabbat, the beautiful melodies of our tradition, special musical guests, meaningful words from Isaac's mentors, and, of course, the warmth and spirit of community for which Emanu-El is known.

Elevating a clergy person to a position of sacred leadership in a congregation is a rare and meaningful milestone, and we hope you will join us for this joyous occasion.

And the celebration does not end when the service does! Stay for a festive Oneg Shabbat featuring delicious food, sweet treats, and the opportunity to spend time with Isaac, his family, and fellow congregants. It will be a wonderful chance to celebrate together, reconnect with friends, and share in the joy of this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation. RSVP information appears in Emanumail.

Come for the music, stay for the celebration, and be part of this special moment in Emanu-El's history!



The Museum of Jewish Heritage Trip
Will These Words Reach You? The Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto
Thursday, December 3, 11:00am

This powerful exhibition The Museum of Jewish Heritage explores the creation of the Oyneg Shabes Archive, an extraordinary act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. Led by historian Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum, a clandestine group risked their lives documenting Jewish life in the Warsaw Ghetto, collecting nearly 35,000 diaries, letters, photographs, and other records. As deportations intensified, members buried the archive to preserve their stories. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of its recovery, the exhibition features original artifacts, historical documents, multimedia displays, and footage of the postwar excavation. It is a moving tribute to Jewish resilience, courage, and remembrance. Cost: $36/person. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.





Fleurs de Villes: *The Gilded Age* at Lyndhurst
Friday, December 11, 11:00am

Explore an extraordinary display of one-of-a-kind floral mannequins throughout Lyndhurst, one of America's finest Gilded Age estates. Inspired by *The Gilded Age*, Julian Fellowes' acclaimed HBO drama, the exhibition brings the glamour, ambition, and social tensions of late-19th-century New York to life through imaginative floral design.

Overlooking the Hudson River, Lyndhurst is one of America's most celebrated Gilded Age estates and a stunning filming location for HBO's acclaimed series *The Gilded Age*. With its grand interiors, striking architecture, and breathtaking grounds featured throughout the show, Lyndhurst offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore the exhibition in the very setting that helped bring the series to life. Cost: $40/person. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Sushi & Sangria in the Sukkah with the Sisterhood

The Sisterhood came together for a wonderful Sukkot celebration filled with sushi, sangria, laughter, friendship, and meaningful connections! A special thank you to Debra Cohen for organizing such a warm and joyful evening, and to Cantor Meredith Stone for sharing the beautiful traditions and symbolism of the lulav and etrog. We look forward to bringing women together to connect, celebrate, and strengthen our Sisterhood!







Sisterhood Fundraiser: Mahj, Melds, Mazel & More

The Sisterhood brought an evening of fun, laughter, and connection to Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester! It was wonderful to see friendships forming, old friends reconnecting, and our community coming together.

A special thank you to Lauren Posner and Shannon Rosenberg for organizing such a fantastic evening, and to the Shuffle Sisters for their support!















Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester
2125 Westchester Avenue, Rye, New York 10580
www.c-e-w.org - 914-967-4382

Staff Directory

Howard J. Goldsmith Rabbi	ext. 1013 hgoldsmith@c-e-w.org
Isaac Sonett-Assor Cantor	ext. 1015 cantor@c-e-w.org
Jonathan Kabiri Rabbinic Intern	rjtKabiri@gmail.com
Jackie Kurland Director of Education	ext. 1015 jkurland@c-e-w.org
Jane Dubro Director of Programming & Engagement	ext. 1021 jdubro@c-e-w.org
Abbie Levitt Executive Administrator	ext. 1018 alevitt@c-e-w.org
Denise Eisler Senior Accountant	ext. 1014 deisler@c-e-w.org
Arnold Pitre Director of Facilities	ext. 1026 apitre@c-e-w.org
Suzanne Saperstein Religious School Administrator	ext. 1012 ssaperstein@c-e-w.org
Dan O'Connor Administrative Assistant	ext. 1011 doconnor@c-e-w.org
Rocio Veletanga Facilities	
Teo Balazero Facilities	
Marcie Aiuvalasit Religious Educator Emerita	marciena33@gmail.com
Meredith Stone Cantor Emerita	mstone@c-e-w.org
Daniel S. Wolk, z'l Rabbi Emeritus	

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Assistive Listening is now available!

LISTEN TECHNOLOGIES

Emanu-El offers ListenWifi, an innovative Wi-Fi streaming solution for those attending in-person services and events in the sanctuary. This new service enables individuals with hearing devices to easily connect to the audio in the sanctuary via their Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids or ear buds, providing a more seamless and enhanced auditory experience during worship or other activities. It ensures that everyone, including those with hearing challenges, can fully engage with the community experience.

To use the streaming system, please follow the steps below:

1. Scan the QR code with the smartphone you will use when at temple.

2. Install the ListenWifi app on your smartphone – you must install the app in order to use the technology.

3. Come to temple to finish set-up! The staff will assist you in making sure your **Bluetooth hearing aids or ear buds** are connected to the dedicated Wi-Fi in the sanctuary.

This technology is generously sponsored by the Jared Dubro Legacy Fund.

Installation



In just over a month we will celebrate Chanukah, our festival commemorating the rededication of our ancient Temple. While our focus these days is on presents and latkes (and I have no objection to either!) the original story of Chanukah was about the lengths to which the Maccabees went to reclaim their religious freedom and rededicate the Temple. Living in a country where we enjoy religious freedom, it can be difficult to imagine what they went through to accomplish their task. It is hard to put ourselves in their place and conjure the feelings of joy they felt as they renewed the Temple and, with it, their spiritual lives.

We nevertheless have an opportunity to participate in a rededication and spiritual renewal of our own congregation on November 13th when we install Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor as the third cantor and first full-time cantor of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester. By now you have received the invitation in the mail and, hopefully, have sent in your RSVP. But I thought it worth sharing a bit about what an installation is and why it matters.

First, the term. Installation apparently comes from medieval Latin *installare*, meaning to place someone in a seat or stall. It was a term used in the Church for the ceremony of placing a new cleric in a local parish or other ecclesiastical position. Sometimes, the person was, literally, taking their place in an assigned choir stall or seat. So, like many other things, we've borrowed the term from Christianity and made it our own. And, don't worry, Cantor Isaac will have free rein of the building and not be assigned to a single stall or seat!

Perhaps the term inauguration would be more fitting. Apparently, inauguration has roots in ancient Roman religious practice: an augur interpreted divine signs, and *inauguratio* involved religious rites associated with entering an office or establishing a sacred place. This feels a bit closer to what will happen, pagan roots notwithstanding. Surely Cantor Isaac will help us interpret the divine messages of our tradition through song, prayer, and learning. And yet, we associate inauguration with government officials: raise your right hand and place your left hand on a Bible and all of that. So, given the state of politics today, that term also does not feel quite right.

When Aaron and his sons become priests in the Torah, the word used was *miluim*. It comes from the root מלא, which means to fill. You may know the word from modern Hebrew, where it means reserve military service - as in the civilian "fills in" to bolster the standing army. In the Torah, the expression מִלֵּא יָד (*milei yad*), literally "to fill the hand," becomes a technical expression for investing someone with priestly authority. That ancient ceremony lasted seven days, during which Aaron and his sons were prepared for their sacred responsibilities. The rabbis later drew on this ceremony as a model for spiritual preparation before Yom Kippur. But the ancient priests' responsibilities included animal sacrifice and, needless to say, Isaac won't be doing any animal sacrifices on our bimah. So *miluim* isn't quite right either.

I thought it worth sharing a bit about what an installation is and why it matters.

One of the strange things about the timing of this event is that it is not, in fact, at the start of Cantor Isaac's service at the congregation. He participated in Cantor Stone's farewell service on June 12th. His employment began on July 1st. And he masterfully partnered with me over the High Holy Days. Indeed, Cantor Isaac has already been building relationships with congregants, inspiring us with music, teaching us with his wisdom, leading us in partnership with the staff, and helping to steer the vision of Emanu-El with our leadership. The ceremony on November 13th, then, is not marking the start of something - we've already begun. Instead, the ceremony will affirm the sacred partnership between Cantor Isaac and our congregation, celebrate the musical legacy of Emanu-El, and help us all rededicate ourselves to the sacred purposes of Jewish life.

We will not be Maccabees cleaning out the Temple or looking for miraculous oil on November 13th. And you may call the ceremony whatever you like - installation, inauguration, ceremony of covenant, *miluim*, whatever. But don't miss this rare opportunity to celebrate Cantor Isaac, affirm our sacred partnership, and rededicate ourselves to the congregation we love.



Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi

A Sweeter Cheshvan



T'kiyah G'dolah! Rabbi Goldsmith sounds the shofar's final cry to end Yom Kippur. Our amazing facilities staff stays late to switch out the High Holy Days seating for our more spacious rest-of-year chairs and closes the classroom doors at the back of the sanctuary to get set for the new school year. We enjoy one last gasp of the holiday season: we rejoice in the sukkah (as much as we can through all the wind and rain!) and dance with our Torah scrolls before we complete and begin the story anew.

And now, here we are in the month of *Marcheshvan*, or *Cheshvan* for short. There is a play on words labeling the month as "Mar" or "bitter" (think *Maror*, the bitter herb!) for its lack of traditional holidays. And while synagogue professionals certainly appreciate the breath of calm after the intensity of the holidays, I do feel a bit of the letdown that comes with the relief. I miss seeing the extended sanctuary filled to standing room only, the spacious holiday dinners, the cello music that helps me breathe and focus on the loved ones I am missing.

Marcheshvan is where the routine and, at times, the drudgery of life takes over. The school work, the grown-up work, the housework, the childcare, the parental care. The days grow shorter and colder. Thanksgiving and Chanukah and the holiday season still feel far off. And the inspiration and spiritual uplift of the High Holy Days feels all but a distant memory.

Except, this is the time when we see what is really sticking with us from those special days together in September: our Rabbinic Intern Jonathan's step-by-step guide to repentance, forgiveness, and beginning again; Rabbi Goldsmith's messages on finding joy and belonging in Jewish identity, and thriving amid the bewildering technological changes of our time. Perhaps a new melody or a favorite old melody that you still find yourself singing. My personal favorite was Rabbi Goldsmith's Youth Service guide on how to apologize, a guide that plenty of influential famous people need to hear!

There is actually one Jewish holiday in this month, the perfect holiday for a season that can feel stressful, uninspired, lonely: the Ethiopian Jewish festival of Sigd, which became a national holiday in Israel in 2008 and falls this year on Sunday night, November 8th. Sigd is a day of communal reflection, observed 50 days after our individual stocktaking on Yom Kippur. Rabbi Dalia Marx explains that the Jews of Ethiopia, known as the Beta Israel, who lived scattered among their Christian and Muslim neighbors, would gather together to ascend a mountain in the center of the community's distant villages. There, they would recite a translation of the Torah in the ancient holy language of Ge'ez and the vernacular Amharic. The community members would forgive one another and rededicate themselves to the Jewish covenant. Following a somber evening and morning of fasting, in the afternoon they would sing joyfully and descend the mountain towards a great feast.

There are so many ways to refill your cup, whether you are looking to learn, pray, play, sing, cook, volunteer, or travel.

The Beta Israel knew the importance of staying together in community to maintain the momentum of the High Holy Days, so that the personal growth of the holy season does not fade away like a new gym membership on February 1st! You don't need to climb a mountain, but I invite you to lean on and into your Congregation Emanu-El family in this busy, mundane, everyday season. There are so many ways to refill your cup, whether you are looking to learn, pray, play, sing, cook, volunteer, or travel. And you can do many of those all at the same time! And if you know you are seeking something but don't know where to start, please reach out to us and we would love to just sit and chat.

As lovely as it might sound, we know that we cannot live on the mountaintops of life: the High Holy Days and the B'nei Mitzvahs. We know that, in Torah as in life, most of the meaning is found in the daily journey through the wilderness. That is what this community is here for: to bring us together to find meaning in both the milestones and the mundane in between. And when we need it most, to sweeten the bitter.

Isaac Sonett-Assor

Isaac Sonett-Assor, Cantor

A Full Plane Home



I am writing this somewhere over the Atlantic, on a plane where every seat is taken. There is Hebrew all around me, and every conversation in the aisle comes back to the same thing. In just a few days, on Tuesday, October 27, Israel goes to the polls, and almost everyone on this flight is going home to vote.

Many friends here at Emanu-El are surprised when I tell them how this works. Israel has no absentee voting - if you want your vote to count, you need to be in Israel on election day. About a million eligible Israeli voters live abroad, and this year more than 50,000 of them are expected to make the trip: tens of thousands of people buying tickets they did not plan on, flying across the world and back for a few minutes behind a cardboard screen and one envelope dropped into one ballot box.

The last few years

Benjamin Netanyahu was first elected prime minister two days after I was born, thirty years ago. It has been a while. This is the first national election since October 7, 2023, and it is hard to put into words how much has happened since that morning. The massacre, the hostages, the funerals. The war in Gaza and in the north. Two rounds of war with Iran, and nights of sirens and shelters for people I love. The joy, and the heartbreak, of watching the hostages come home. And through all of it, a country arguing with itself about what it is and where it is going - on the streets, in the Knesset, and around family Shabbat tables, including, at times, my own.

Even from up here, I can feel how heavy the mood is. When I talk to family and friends at home, there is a tiredness in their voices that was not there before. Much of the old innocence is gone. Still, underneath the exhaustion there is something small and careful, almost afraid to say its own name: hope. The kind of hope you hold quietly, the way Israelis wait for the first rain after a long, dry summer - not yet sure it will come, but already looking up at the sky. And with it, a deep wish to be part of something new - to help rebuild, and not just watch from the side.

To be honest, I have not yet decided how I am voting - and either way, this is not a column about politics. Some in Israel ask whether those of us who live abroad should have a say at all, and I take that question seriously. Even so, Israel is still my home, and that comes with responsibility.

What comes next

Even after the polls close, we probably will not know on Wednesday morning who will lead Israel. No party has ever won a majority on its own, so after every election, parties have to build a coalition of at least 61 of the Knesset's 120 seats - and those negotiations can go on for weeks.

This time, poll after poll suggests that neither the governing coalition nor the opposition will reach 61 on their own. Forming a government may take partnerships that would have seemed unthinkable not long ago - people who have spent the last few years on opposite sides of the Knesset, and of the street, sitting down at the same table.

I find that a little hopeful. After years of such deep division, maybe the math itself will push people toward each other. It will not heal the country by itself, but it may be a necessary first step.

Do not separate yourself from the community

In Pirkei Avot, Hillel teaches: *Al tifrosh min hatzibbur* - do not separate yourself from the community. I have always read it as a teaching about showing up - not only when it is convenient, but because you belong to something larger than yourself. That is what this full plane feels like to me. Whenever the results become clear, and whatever they are, I find something hopeful in tens of thousands of people who still care enough about their democracy to cross an ocean for it.

By the time you read this, I will be back with you at Emanu-El, and I would love to tell you more in person. In the weeks ahead, as a new government slowly takes shape, I hope you will keep Israel, and everyone who lives there, in your prayers.

Jonathan Kabiri

Jonathan Kabiri, Rabbinic Intern

Social Action Collections & Events

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.

THANK YOU for Donating to Feeding Westchester!

This year Emanu-El collected 1, 218 pounds of food to Feeding Westchester during the High Holy Days - which equates to roughly 1, 015 more meals for our neighbors across the county!

WJCS Family Service Day:
Preparing for Thanksgiving Together
Wednesday, November 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm

WJCS Family Service Days offer families a meaningful opportunity to give back while teaching children the importance of helping others. Volunteers will help brighten Thanksgiving for neighbors facing food insecurity by assembling holiday Spice Kits and decorating oven mitts. Your participation will help bring warmth, comfort, and dignity to local families this holiday season. Learn more at tinyurl.com/WJCSFam26

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.

Volunteer to Teach Adult ELL at the Carver Center in Port Chester
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30am

Volunteers are needed to tutor adult English language learners, no experience necessary, just a passion to help others. Contact the main office to learn more.

Social Justice Update



In September, the Social Justice Committee gathered in the sukkah for our traditional Pizza & Postcards night. While we enjoyed each other's company and some pizza, we composed over 300 postcards to citizens throughout the country encouraging them to register and vote in November's midterm election.

In January, once the Legislative session begins in Albany, we will receive guidance from our partners at RAC-NY as to what issues we will be focusing on in 2027. We will then share advocacy opportunities in Emanumails and future bulletins.

If you would like to join the Social Justice Committee's advocacy efforts, please reach out to co-chairs Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com and Marcie Aiuvalasit at marciena33@gmail.com.



WJCS Have A Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive
Now through December 6

You can bring joy to children in Westchester this holiday season! The Annual WJCS Have A Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive collects and distributes toys, books, activity kits, and gift cards to 700 children and youth who receive our services and are from under-resourced communities.

To order gifts from WJCS' Amazon wishlist, visit tinyurl.com/cewwjcs. Gifts can be sent to WJCS or the temple. If donating a gift card, the preferred gift cards are in amounts $25 to Dunkin', Sephora, Target, Walmart, Kohls, Barnes & Noble. You may also bring a gift to the temple office or make a donation to the Emanu-El Social Action fund online or by mailing a check payable to the temple - please make a note that your donation should go toward the gift drive.

A New Chapter for Sisterhood at Emanu-El!



A new chapter is beginning for Sisterhood at Emanu-El—and we're having fun already!

October was an exciting month, with three wonderful events bringing women together for friendship, laughter, and, of course, schmoozing!

While our annual Sisterhood Boutique has remained a beloved tradition, our broader programming has become a little…quiet. (And we all know that "quiet" is not exactly what happens when Jewish women get together!) This year, we felt it was time to bring fresh energy and new opportunities to connect.

We are especially excited by the enthusiasm of our school parents, who are eager to become more involved and build friendships. Their interest reminds us how important it is to create a welcoming space for women of all ages and stages of life.

The Purpose of Sisterhood: At its heart, Sisterhood is about חיבור *chibur* – connection. Connection to one another, our Jewish community, and the traditions that enrich our lives. We welcome longtime members, newcomers, school parents, empty nesters, grandmothers, and anyone seeking a stronger sense of קהילה *kehillah* community.

Our goal is simple: Jewish life, friendship, fun, and purpose. Through learning, holiday celebrations, shared meals, new experiences, and acts of kindness and תיקון עולם *tikkun olam*, we hope to strengthen relationships and enrich our congregational life.

A Wonderful Start: We launched this new chapter with Sisterhood Kickoff: Sushi & Sangria in the Sukkah. Gathering during Sukkot gave us the perfect opportunity to celebrate, enjoy one another's company, share ideas, and imagine what Sisterhood can become. Special thanks to Debra Cohen for helping reignite Sisterhood with her enthusiasm, creativity, and energy!

Our Mahj, Melds, Mazel & More Game Night Fundraiser was a tremendous success, with more than 60 attendees! Featuring a Mah Jongg tournament, along with Canasta, and Rummikub, the evening was filled with friendly competition and plenty of laughter.

Heartfelt thanks to Lauren Posner and Shannon Rosenberg for chairing this fundraiser, and to the Shuffle Sisters for their support! To everyone who came, played, and learned a new game—or pretended they knew what they were doing—thank you! Your enthusiasm made the evening truly special.

Building on a Beloved Tradition: Our Sisterhood Boutique continues to bring together wonderful vendors and friends while supporting small businesses and giving back. A portion of the proceeds benefits nonprofit organizations. Thank you to everyone who came out and shopped!

The Boutique reminds us of what women can accomplish together. And let's be honest—shopping for a good cause is still shopping! We are proud to carry on this tradition while exploring new directions for Sisterhood.

A Sisterhood Shaped by All of Us: We want Sisterhood to reflect the interests and ideas of the women in our congregation. Whether it's Jewish learning, creative workshops, nights out, service projects, book discussions, cooking classes, or simply gathering to schmooze, we want to hear from you!

We also hope to bridge generations by sharing Jewish experiences, wisdom, and fresh perspectives. In the spirit of לדור ודור *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, we can foster relationships between longtime members and women just beginning their journey at Emanu-El.

Join Us!

You don't need to have been involved in Sisterhood before, and you don't need to know anyone. Come as you are, bring a friend, and help shape what comes next.

Attend a program. Share an idea. Volunteer. Invite someone new. Or simply show up and enjoy yourself. Sisterhood is not just an organization—it is something we create together.

With renewed energy and the participation of women throughout CEW, we can build a Sisterhood that is welcoming, meaningful, joyful, and, most importantly, fun.

We're just getting started, and we want you to be part of it!

Peace & Love,

Jane

Jane Dubro, Director of Programming & Engagement

Canasta & Mah Jongg
Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24
& December 1, 8, 15, 1:30 - 3:45pm



Come play - friends and family are welcome! In order to secure a spot at a table and to ensure a smooth start to the games, all participants must arrive on time. RSVP information appears in Emanumail. Contact Jane Dubro at jdubro@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x1021 if you would like to learn more.

Next Step
Sundays, November 8 & December 13, 11:15am

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. For more information, contact Paul at 914-632-1264.

Not Your Mother's Thanksgiving Side Dishes with Chef Cara Tanenbaum
Thursday, November 12, 7:00pm



Think beyond green bean casseroles or sweet potatoes with marshmallow topping! Join us in creating fresh and modern Thanksgiving side dishes, featuring traditional ingredients in unexpected ways. A delicious addition to your Thanksgiving table—or the perfect side dish to bring and share with family and friends. Cost: $36/person. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Single Malt Torah
Thursday, November 12, 8:00pm

Men of the congregation join together for fine scotch and Torah learning with Rabbi Goldsmith. Topics range from contemporary questions of Jewish society to issues in Israel to exploration of our sacred texts. Whatever the topic, we enjoy our time together.

2026 BagelFest at Citi Field
Sunday, November 15, 1:00pm



Join the Emanu-El group at BagelFest for an afternoon of unlimited bagel tastings and fun! We'll meet at Citi Field's Heineken Diamond Lounge at 1:00 p.m. Cost: $69/person. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail. Citi Field is located at 41 Seaver Way, Queens, NY.

Westchester Cantors' Concert at Westchester Reform Temple
Sunday, November 15, 4:00pm

Join the Westchester Jewish community for The Westchester Cantors' biannual Afternoon of Music, featuring 26 local cantors (including Cantor Stone!) and organized by Cantor Isaac. This uplifting afternoon celebrates Jewish composers and musicians who helped shape America's musical history. Tickets: $25/person through November 5; $36 afterward. RSVP information appears in Emanumail.

Film: *Golden Voices*
Thursday, November 19, 7:00pm



Victor and Raya, celebrated voice actors from the Soviet Union, immigrate to Israel in the early 1990s hoping to begin a new chapter. Struggling to adapt to a new language and culture, they discover unexpected opportunities and a renewed sense of purpose. Tender, funny, and deeply human, this award-winning film explores immigration, reinvention, love, aging, and belonging. Subtitles: English. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Beit Midrash
Saturdays, November 21 & December 19, 9:00am

The Torah is filled with people navigating change and uncertainty. Abraham leaves everything familiar behind. Jacob wrestles with God and emerges transformed. Joseph rebuilds his life after everything falls apart. Moses struggles with leadership, while the Israelites learn to face an uncertain future. This year in Beit Midrash, we will explore what these stories teach us about resilience, leadership, adapting to change, confronting fear, and finding strength. Drawing from biblical, rabbinic, historical, and contemporary sources, we will uncover wisdom for navigating our changing world. Come every session—or just drop by! Contact Rabbi Goldsmith at hgoldsmith@c-e-w.org or 914-967-4382 x1013 for more information.

Volunteer: Sort Medical Supplies at Afya
Wednesday, December 9, 3:30pm



Afya improves healthcare locally and around the world by collecting surplus medical supplies and delivering them to communities and healthcare systems in need. Spend a day sorting and packing medical supplies for shipment worldwide. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jane at jdubro@c-e-w.org.



Chanukah Tot Shabbat
Friday, December 4, 5:30pm
Young families are invited to celebrate Chanukah through story and song! Families are invited to the congregation's Chanukah Shabbat dinner immediately following the service.

Shabbat Dinner & Chanukah Service
Friday, December 4
6:00pm Dinner, 6:45pm Service
Join us for our Chanukah Shabbat dinner - complete with crispy latkes, laughter, and the warmth of friends and family. It's the perfect time to gather, share a hearty meal, and celebrate the light of the season together. Don't forget to BYOM (Bring Your Own Menorah) for our annual menorah lighting on the bimah. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Pre-K/K Chanukah Drop-Off Program
Sunday, December 6, 9:00-10:30am
Drop off your little ones for some special Chanukah fun. This hands-on program is perfect for small hands and curious minds, offering a delightful way for kids to explore Chanukah traditions in a warm and welcoming environment. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Young Families Chanukah Celebration
Sunday, December 6, 10:30-11:30am
Parents accompany their children to this exciting morning packed with dreidels, gelt, games, crafts, and lively music! This event is designed specifically for kids ages 6 months through 2nd grade, with plenty of engaging activities tailored just for them. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

Women's Study Group Chanukah Dinner
Tuesday, December 8, 6:00pm
Whether you're a long-time congregant or new to the group, you'll find a place here among friends as we celebrate our shared traditions and experiences. More details to come.

B'nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov

We would like to honor the following students who will become B'nei Mitzvah in November & December

Maya Amado

Max Feldman

Skylar Feldman

Hannah Hochfelder

Dylan Levine

Evan Levine

Jack Roseman

Saul Vaisman



Pre-K/K Program About Shabbat
Sunday, November 1, 9:00-10:30am
Drop off your little ones for a morning learning about Shabbat through crafts and stories!

Young Families Shabbat Celebration
Sunday, November 1, 10:30-11:30am
Young Families are invited to spend a morning learning about Shabbat through music, crafts, snacks, and giving back!

Keeping the Chanukah Spirit Alive



I love having the opportunity to visit my kids' classrooms and teach their classmates about different Jewish holidays. Given that it's my full-time job, it feels especially fitting that I get to do this with my own children's classes, particularly since they happen to be the only Jewish kids in their public school classrooms. The kids all love eating latkes, looking at a shofar, and trying different food on the seder plate, but when I'm asked to read a book about the holidays, I sometimes struggle!

Although we're the people of the book, I don't always think our children's books about Jewish holidays are so great. So many of them focus on the joy of celebrating rather than the story behind the holiday itself. And when they do tell the story, they can sometimes feel too serious or heavy for a group of six-year-olds. I've found some wonderful newer books that explore the blending of Jewish traditions with other cultures, but sometimes what I really need is a book that simply helps children understand our traditions and why they matter.

And that is why, when it comes to Chanukah, I always come back to the classic tale of Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins. It's the story that many of us grew up with, and to me, it's still the best Chanukah book we read. I do sometimes wonder whether the goblins are a little too scary for the youngest children, but there is something about this story that has me coming back year after year. It's not just a story about Chanukah or even about outsmarting a group of goblins. It's a story about courage, standing up for what matters, and it highlights how one person can make a difference for an entire community.

For anyone who hasn't read it, the story follows Hershel as he arrives in a village where goblins have prevented the Jewish community from celebrating Chanukah. Determined to help, Hershel enters the synagogue and faces the goblins one by one, using his wit and creativity to outsmart them. With each challenge, he gets closer to restoring the community's ability to celebrate the holiday. Hershel isn't a superhero with special powers, and he doesn't win through strength alone. Instead, he relies on his courage and determination, and that's what makes this story such a classic. Hershel could have walked away. He could have decided that the problem was too big or that someone else would eventually come along to solve it. Instead, he chose to act. His willingness to stand up for others made it possible for the entire community to celebrate Chanukah again, rather than continuing to live in fear.

That message connects beautifully to the story of Chanukah itself. The Jewish people faced a ruler who tried to prevent them from practicing their religion and living according to their traditions. The Maccabees stood up for their right to maintain their Jewish identity, even when the odds were stacked against them. The Chanukah story reminds us that preserving our traditions, our values, and our identity takes courage, especially when doing so isn't easy. Throughout Jewish history, communities have experienced times where practicing Judaism was forbidden or restricted, which makes the ability to celebrate our holidays and pass our traditions on to the next generation now even more meaningful.

> Jewish traditions continue because people choose to keep them alive.

One of the things I love most about the work we do at CEW in our Religious School is that our students have opportunities to discover what it means to be part of a community, to learn from our stories, and to explore the values that have sustained the Jewish people for generations. We hope that as they grow, they will feel a sense of ownership in ensuring that Jewish life continues to thrive and that they, like Hershel, will stand up for their community and take pride in being part of it.

As Chanukah approaches, we'll have plenty of opportunities to put that sense of community into practice! We'll gather for Tot Shabbat, our Young Families Chanukah celebrations, Chanukah Shabbat, and special religious school sessions. Each program offers a chance to come together, share traditions, make memories, and bring a little more Jewish joy into the season.

Jewish traditions continue because people choose to keep them alive. Each time we gather to light candles, sing prayers and songs, share stories, or introduce our children to a beloved book, we help pass our traditions on to the next generation. We may not all be Hershel, but each of us has the ability to choose to make a difference.

I look forward to celebrating Chanukah together and continuing to build a community where our traditions remain strong, our children feel connected, and everyone knows they have a part to play.

Jackie

Jackie Kurland, Director of Education

Our community offers our deepest condolences to

Emily Cohen on the death of her mother, Madeline Dominiani
Mitchell Cooper on the death of his mother, Vivian Kahane Cooper
Arielle Diskin on the death of her brother, Spencer Korwin
The Oppenheim Family on the death of Paula Oppenheim

Yahrzeit Rememberances for the Memorial Fund

In memory of:	Remembered by:
Abram Belilovsky	Alya & Boris Belilovsky
Helen Belilovsky	Boris, Eugene and Alya Belilovsky
Lev Belilovsky	Alya & Boris Belilovsky
Avigdor Berg	The Berg Family
James Bilotta	Regina Witkin
Bernard A. Birnbaum	Maj Wickstrom and Sarah & Noah Birnbaum
Joseph Burak	Sandy Grundman & Family
Samuel Cohen	Michael & Arleen Cohen
Nettie & Morris Davis	Vivian & Roger Farah
Stanley Doppelt	Diane & Earl Doppelt
Edith Engelhard	Elisabeth Handelsman
Hilda Friedman	Estelle & Stan Berg and Family
John Furth	Hope Furth, Douglas and Pamela Furth & Ginny Furth Weisman
John Furth	Ginny Furth Weisman & Scott Weisman
Albert Gardos	Elaine Losquadro
Arnold Golding	Jerry, Julie, Arielle & Talia Levy
Yetta Goodman	Robin Neimark Seegal
Margot Greene	Alison Lazarus & Cliff Gevertz
Barbara Hirsch	Sandy Grundman & Family
David A. Joseph	Ruth Weinstein
Joan Lazarus	Alison Lazarus & Cliff Gevertz
Michaele Lefferman	Jessie & Andy Stergiou
Arnold Lerner	Linda Lerner
Stanley Lobel	David & Robin Lobel
Stanley Lobel	Evelyn Lobel
Stanley Lobel	Carla, Mark, Brian, Scott, Devin & Cal Lobel
Anthony LoCastro	Tom & Peggy LoCastro
Bernard Mayrsohn	Janet Mayrsohn
Carol Melnick	Helena Sokoloff
Edwin Oppenheimer	Jane & James Stern
Martin Reiffel	Lauren, Dave, Lilah & Harrison Marcus
Alan H. Salzman	Sherry Salzman
Sylvia Schneider	Evelyn Lobel
Harriet Shenk	Marcia & Andy Patel
Henry Shyer	Bonnie Shyer
Arthur Sicular	Lilian Sicular
Ruth Sinder	Brian Sinder & Lois Falberg

Yahrzeit Rememberances for the Memorial Fund cont.

In memory of:	Remembered by:
Stephen Sokoloff	Helena Sokoloff
Casey Stern	Jane & James Stern
Lenore Stern	Jane & James Stern
David Tanenbaum	John & Amy Tanenbaum
Rose Tanenbaum	John & Amy Tanenbaum
Sara Temkin	Lauren, Dave, Lilah & Harrison Marcus
Bernice Rhoda Tepper	Elyse Tepper Nathanson
Samuel P. Terdiman	JoAnn Terdiman
Leonard Weinberg	Phillip & Karen Drogin
Pearl Winter	Martin & Pamela Winter
Eric Witkin	Regina Witkin

Memorial Donation Fund

Richard & Emily Cohen in memory of Spencer Korwin

Rabbi Goldsmith Discretionary Fund

Gary & Jill Baker in honor of their granddaughter Madison's baby naming

Richard & Emily Cohen in gratitude for sharing in the Cohen Goldstein mikveh ritual

Susan Denmark in honor of Rabbi Goldsmith

Bob Fishbein

Denise Greenwood in honor of Scott and Lindsay Greenwood on the naming of their baby Madison Greenwood

The Korwin & Diskin Families in memory of Spencer Korwin

Matt & Jill Kunkes in gratitude for everything that made Cecilia's Bat Mitzvah so meaningful for our family

The Oppenheim Family in memory of Paula Oppenheim

Melissa & Tony Shapiro-Bey in gratitude for a wonderful celebration of Roni Chava!

Tara Slone-Goldstein & Wayne Goldstein in gratitude for a special family experience and your spiritual guidance

Gil & Kathy Stiefel in appreciation of Rabbi Goldsmith's leadership during the High Holy Days

Erica & Gregory Wagner in honor of Marlowe becoming Bat Mitzvah

Garden of Gratitude Fund

Carol & Leonard Turk in honor of Bonnie Shyer's birthday

Rabbi Daniel S. Wolk Memorial Scholarship Fund

John Carton & Wendy Rowden

Darren & Jeanne Fogel

Viktorya & Jonathan Steiner

Cantorial Fund

Susan Denmark in honor of Cantor Isaac

Matt & Jill Kunkes Matthew & Jill Kunkes in thanks for helping Cecilia and for the beautiful music at her Bat Mitzvah

Ronald & Julie Latz in appreciation of Cantor Isaac

Michael & Karen Shapiro in honor of Ruby Eve Shapiro-Bey on her baby naming and 1st birthday

Maj Wickstrom

General Contribution to the Annual Fund

Peggy Danziger in memory of Richard M. Danziger

Bob Fishbein

Mark & Fran Lerner

Social Action Fund

Sandy Grundman

Gary & Karen Juster

Tom & Peggy LoCastro in honor of Parker Wolff becoming Bar Mitzvah

Elaine Losquadro

Paul & Ann Spindel

Annual Fund: 2026-27 Community Support

Gary & Karen Juster

Annual Fund: 2026-27 High Holy Day Appeal

Julie Abbott
Stuart & Lisa Alperin
Nathan & Marcia Assor
Jonathan Barnett in appreciation of
Shari Finger-Fredericks and Rosalind Kahn, z'l
Kevin & Carrie Berg
Judy & Robert Bernstein
Martin Brody
Adam & Jackie Cohen
Peggy Danziger in memory of Richard M. Danziger
Gloria Deckinger & Neil Stravitz
Bruce & Jeannie Evans
Terry & Herb Feldman
Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein
Darren & Jeanne Fogel
Tara & David Friedman
Peter Gelfman
Andrew & Amanda Gitkind
Scott & Stefanie Goldman
Dick & Lucille Goldsmith
Ryan & Lorri Goldstein
Abby & Andy Hodes
Carl Kempner Jr.
Fran Klingenstein
Olga & Anatoly Kogan
Ira & Dorothy Kovel
Sandy & Jerry Kransdorf
Rebecca & Benjamin Krause
Lawrence & Pamela Lavine
Linda Lee
Nina Leeds
Roger & Fran Lefft
David & Robin Lobel
Evelyn Lobel
Mark & Carla Lobel
Ashley McGrail
Michael & Diana Mendelson
James & Heather Millard
Marcelo & Marcy Modica
Andy & Marcia Patel
Nicole & Emilie Poteat
Rebecca & Eric Roseman
Shannon & Paul Rosenberg
Paul & Marsha Rothschild
Jason Schechter & Michelle Wallach
Arnold Scherz
Sue Sekulow
Isaac Shapiro & Katherine Pereira
Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut
Melissa & Tony Shapiro-Bey
Bonnie Shyer
Todd & Karen Siegel
Joel & Sheila Simon
Paul & Ann Spindel
Jules & Rochelle Steinberg
John & Amy Tanenbaum
Robert & Alison Wachstein
Maj Wickstrom
Steven Wissak & Cathy Ludwig
Pamela Wolf & Paul Boritzer in memory of Spencer Korwin
Faith Wolitzer in honor of Michael & Lynne Wolitzer
Michael & Lynne Wolitzer
Glen Wolther & Donna Rosen
Michael & Jennifer Zinn

Thank you to those who purchased High Holy Day guest tickets, we appreciate your support.

High Holy Day Yizkor Memorial Book

Martin & Arlene Avidan
Mark & Allison Baumrind
Barbara Benerofe
Shelly Benerofe
Lisa Cantos & Jonathan Weidman
Michael & Arleen Cohen
Ben & Stacey Cross
Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein
Shari & Mark Fredericks
Rich & Laurie Gersten
Anne Gottlieb
Sandy Grundman
Steve & Ilyssa Karasik
Joy Klebanoff
Lucy Klingenstein & Brandon Sall
Jim & Meredith Kornreich
Cathy Lane
John & Madeleine Leigh
Mark & Fran Lerner
Linda Lese
Randy & Jen Levitt
Tom & Peggy LoCastro
Elaine Losquadro
Neil & Mara Miller
Geoff & Kathy Raicht
Lanier Saperstein & Stefanie Kalkut
Jill Sheppard
Meredith Stone
Jackie Stuart
Maj Wickstrom
MJ Wolff

Sisterhood donation

Gary & Karen Juster
Bonnie Shyer
Paul & Ann Spindel

Sisterhood: Maj, Melds, Mazel & More Fundraiser

Ali & Matt Altman
Rebecca & Gil Amado
Pamela Ball
Stacey Bastone
Mark & Allison Baumrind
Estelle & Stanley Berg
Marissa & Daniel Berke
Stephanie & Eric Biderman
Lauren & David Brauntuch
Steve & Jen Brauntuch
Jennifer & Daniel Brous
Denver & Alison Brown
Jenna & Christopher Cipolla
Mitchell & Alyssa Cooper
Michelle & Alan Dancyger
Scott & Lindsey Feldberg
Taylor & David Fields
Nicole & Zach Firestone
Dea & Jeffrey Fischer
Michael & Joan Flaxman
Ann Fliegenspan
Lauren Geller & Henry Parkin
Cliff Gevirtz & Alison Lazarus
Andrew & Amanda Gitkind
Jamie & Darin Hecht
Lee Helman & Amy Schulhof
Michele Kaufman
Sandy Klein
Rebecca & Benjamin Krause
Stacy & Brian Lerch
Rachel & Eric Lerner
Alissa Levine
David & Hilary Liebenstein
Tom & Peggy LoCastro
Marnie Mallah
Leah & Scott Mittelman
Jack & Karyn Moore
Brian & Jaime Morris
Elyse Nathanson

Sisterhood: Maj, Melds, Mazel & More Fundraiser cont.

Cindy & Eric Newman
Alan & Meredith Perl
Mark & Lauren Posner
Rebecca & Joe Reiss
Rebecca & Eric Roseman
Andrea & Roy Rosenbaum
Shannon & Paul Rosenberg
Jaclyn & Adam Roumm
Dan Schlesinger & Courtney Popkin Schlesinger
Ben & Carlen Sheer
Jill Sheppard
Jayme Shohet
Bonnie Shyer
Peter Stahl & Dana Elyachar-Stahl
Tina & Jason Steinberg
Alexis & Marc Sternberg
Joseph Taube & Lynda Frischer
Shari & Scott Turner
Jodi Vickers
Melissa & Jonathan Wachman
Lauren Watt
Evan & Lindsay Weinberg
Jenna & Andrew Weinberg
Erica & Matthew Wiener
Jayna & Jeffrey Zelman
Jennifer Zigler

Donations processed after October 20 will appear in the next bulletin.

Giving Opportunities at Emanu-El

There are many ways to support Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester and the programs, traditions, and experiences that make our community so special. Our various funds provide opportunities to honor loved ones, commemorate meaningful occasions, and support specific areas of congregational life. Each fund serves a unique purpose, reflecting the many ways our community comes together to sustain and enrich Jewish life.

Below is an overview of our congregational funds and the areas they support.

Annual Fund - General Contribution: Supports day-to-day operating expenses, essential congregational programs, and community resources. Includes the Community Support Appeal, High Holy Day Appeal, and Year End Appeal.

Memorial/Yahrzeit Donation: Contributions made in loving memory of a relative, friend, or community member.

Rabbi Goldsmith's Discretionary Fund: Used at the rabbi's discretion to assist congregants in distress, fund congregational needs, and support non-profit organizations.

Cantorial Fund: Used at the cantor's discretion for musical life, creative worship programs, adult education, and charitable causes.

Garden of Gratitude Fund: Dedicated to the maintenance, seasonal plantings, and beautification of the outdoor sanctuary space.

Jared Dubro Legacy Fund: Funds engaging programs, social action projects, and special community initiatives.

Music Fund: Enhances musical experiences across services and events, guest musicians, choir/band arrangements, and instruments.

Offit-Sekulow Internship Fund: Supports and funds the Rabbinic Intern position at Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester.

Rabbi Daniel S. Wolk Memorial Scholarship Fund: Provides religious school tuition assistance and membership dues relief.

Social Action Fund: Funds hands-on tikkun olam projects, community outreach, charitable drives, and partnerships with non-profits.

Sisterhood: Funds gifts for b'nei mitzvah children and activities of the congregation's Sisterhood.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 9:00 - 10:30am Pre-K/K Shabbat 10:30 - 11:30am Young Families Celebration 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2	2	3 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	4	5 7:00pm BBYO	6 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 7:30pm Shabbat Service	7 11:00am Maya Amado Bat Mitzvah
8 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 10:00am Academy 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2 11:15am Next Step		10 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	11	12 7:00pm Cooking with Cara 8:00pm Single Malt Torah	13 7:00pm Installation of Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor	14 11:00am Saul Vaisman Bar Mitzvah
15 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2 1:00pm Bagel Fest 4:00pm Chamber Music Concert	16	17 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp 7:30pm Board Meeting	18	19 7:00pm Film: *Golden Voices*	20 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	21 9:00am Beit Midrash 11:00am Jack Roseman Bar Mitzvah
22 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 10:00am Academy 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2	23	24 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	25 Temple office closes at 12:00pm	26 Temple office is closed for Thanksgiving *Thanksgiving*	27 6:00pm Zoom Shabbat Temple office is closed for Thanksgiving	28
29 No Religious School	30					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	2	3 11:00am Trip: Museum of Jewish Heritage	4 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Chanukah Shabbat Dinner 6:45pm Chanukah Shabbat Service	5 11:00am Evan & Dylan Levine B'nei Mitzvah 5:00pm Skylar & Max Feldman B'nei Mitzvah *Chanukah*
6 *Chanukah* 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 9:00 - 10:30am Pre-K/K Chanukah 10:30 - 11:30am Young Families Chanukah 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2 4:00pm Chamber Music	7 *Chanukah*	8 *Chanukah* 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp 6:00pm Women's Study Group Chanukah Dinner	9 *Chanukah* 3:30pm Volunteer: Afya Medical Supply Sort	10 *Chanukah* URJ Biennial in Philadelphia	11 *Chanukah* URJ Biennial 11:00am Trip: Fleurs de Villes at Lyndhurst 7:30pm Shabbat Service	12 *Chanukah* URJ Biennial
13 URJ Biennial 9:00 – 11:00am School Session 1 10:00am Academy 10:30am - 12:30pm School Session 2 11:15am Next Step	14	15 1:30pm Games 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	16	17	18 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	19 9:00am Beit Midrash 11:00am Hannah Hochfelder Bat Mitzvah
20 No Religious School	21	22 No Games No B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	23	24	25 6:00pm Zoom Shabbat with Lay Leader Jane Meryll Temple office is closed *Christmas*	26
27 No Religious School	28	29 No Games No B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	30	31		

Making Strides Together

Hineini students and parents participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Manhattanville University. As a Jewish community, we are guided by the values of *chesed* (loving-kindness), *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and *areivut* (our responsibility to one another). Let's continue to spread awareness, support those affected by breast cancer, and turn our compassion into action.



Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Babs & Bob Mann on the birth of their three great grandchildren: Josie Price, Miles Hellauer, and Leah Myerson.





Opening Day of Religious School

Despite the rain, we loved welcoming everyone back for a new year of Religious School as we celebrated Sukkot indoors! Pizza, crafts, games, and competition—a great time was had by all!



Tracing Our Roots, Sharing Our Stories

Our Hineini students created their own family trees with artist Terry Schwarz as we prepare for our upcoming Lower East Side adventure. We're exploring our Jewish roots, connecting generations, and celebrating the stories that make our community special.





Congregation
Emanu-El
of Westchester
2125 Westchester Avenue
Rye, NY 10580

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NOVEMBER & DECEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES

November 6	5:00	Tot Shabbat ☺
	7:30	Shabbat Service
November 13	7:00	Shabbat Service: Installation of Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor ♪
November 20	6:00	Early Shabbat Service
November 27	6:00	Zoom Shabbat with Lay Leader
December 4	5:30	Tot Shabbat ☺
	6:00	Shabbat Dinner
	6:45	Chanukah Shabbat Service ♪☺
December 11	7:30	Shabbat Service
December 18	6:00	Early Shabbat Service
December 25	6:00	Zoom Shabbat with Lay Leader

Key: ♪ Band ☺ Especially Family Friendly



Annual Women's Study Group Shabbat Retreat at the Interlaken Inn
Friday, January 29- Saturday, January 30

Join us for the Women's Study Group Annual Retreat –a special opportunity to step away from the demands of everyday life and enjoy a wonderful overnight getaway at the beautiful Interlaken Inn in Lakeville, CT. This much-loved annual tradition offers a chance to reconnect with old friends, build new friendships, and enjoy meaningful conversations in a warm and welcoming setting. Together, we'll take time to reflect, recharge, and renew our spirits while sharing moments of inspiration, laughter, and connection. RSVP details coming soon!