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*CiTY Youth Group preparing
for the 2007 Midnight Run.*





LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Congregants:

Jill and I just returned from an incredible trip to Israel with Rabbi Rubinstein and a wonderful group of congregants. Yet again, Israel and its people welcomed us and embraced us with love, as we sought to learn about and understand the Israel of today. We experienced so much in our travels and I suspect each of us left with personal impressions and aspirations.

My mind is occupied by the contradictions so inherent in the lives of the Israelis we met.

We spent two days in the north, particularly in the Golan. Standing on a hill that served as an Israeli military bunker during the Yom Kippur War brought the reality of the war into sharper focus and added new perspective to our knowledge and understanding of the war. If you looked one way, you saw Lebanon; in the other direction was Syria; at the foot of the hill were now Israeli farms and communities. Artifacts from the war were left on the top of the hill as a testament to the Yom Kippur War. Israel's enemies then and now remain so very close and visible. Yet, life in Israel flourishes and blooms.

While taking a Jeep tour of the Golan Heights, we came to understand the critical importance of the Golan to Israel's security. The critical strategic setting of the Golan Heights was very evident as we neared a former Syrian bunker, occupied by the Israelis in the Yom Kippur War. A distance of less than a mile separates the bunker from the valley in which Israelis have built beautiful homes and farms. War, victory and an incredible recovery and rebirth are tempered, I suspect, by a constant fear of further violence from sworn enemies who live so close. Our driver on the Jeep tour spoke passionately of his belief that the Golan Heights can never be returned to Syria. I now understand.

Yet, war and fear are tempered by the unbridled joy and ability to embrace life that is evidenced by so many of the Israelis that we met. After Shabbat services at Beit Daniel in Tel Aviv, our group shared Shabbat dinner with

(continued on page 3)



Sarah Merians Photography & Company

COMMENTARY from the RABBI

Having just returned with a group of congregants from Israel, I reflect on the power of members of our congregation traveling together. Our delegation of 40 people—most of whom didn't know each other prior to departure—experienced the wonder and complexity of Israel as each of us independently reflected on our own connections to Israel, the people and the nation.

I think back to the various Jewish communities our synagogue has visited in Cuba, Argentina, the former Soviet Union, Germany, and Israel. Each mission had particular experiences relating to the history and culture of the countries we visited, but the overarching connection of Jews to each other is undeniable. It is especially profound when we worship with these various communities. Similar melodies, rituals and the use of Hebrew bind us.

But what binds us most of all is our common concern for each other. Often, groups from Central Synagogue will take responsibility for projects in these communities to support the quality of their Jewish life.

As a result of our visit to Minsk in Belarus three years ago, our members Nelson Blitz and Catherine Woodard—with additional support from the congregation—have annually funded a summer camp session for the young people of that region. This past summer, more than 70 percent of the campers experienced their first Jewish camp as part of the Nezer Youth Program. I share with you a letter from one of the participants in that program:

Shalom friends from Central Synagogue!

My name is Veronika, I am 13 years old and I am from Minsk city.

It is my first "Nezer" camp. I like it very much. This camp is so interesting! I wish to go here next time.

Here we have a lot of Jewish activities, we have a lot of games, we talk about the books of Torah and say prayers.

(continued on page 3)

LETTER from the PRESIDENT (continued)

members of that congregation. Jill and I were truly blessed to sit with Ida Glazer. Ida is 93 years old and originally from Queens. She has lived in Israel with her daughter for almost ten years. Bright, engaged, thoughtful, and happy, she is optimistic about her future and the future of her adopted land. Just as we were coming to terms with the harsh political and military realities of the Golan Heights, Ida Glazer made us smile. Israel made us smile. We hope to return, again and again.

I look forward to the expansion of our efforts at Central Synagogue to learn more about Israel and to experience Israel in person.

Howard F. Sharfstein

COMMENTARY from the RABBI (continued)

Also we went to Borisou and Khatin. Khatin is the memorial for the people that were killed in World War II. In Borisou we saw the place where 9000 Jewish people were killed. We felt sorry for this people.

When I come home I will go to Nezer club.

I like our *madrachim* [counselors] too. They are very nice and interesting.

We celebrated Shabbat some time ago. We lighted candles, said prayers and sang the hymn of Nezer.

Thank you for your help.

These children are our future. It is good to be with them and support programs that convey the values and spirit of Jewish life. We look forward to other opportunities to rekindle Jewish life in places in which there had been loss, annihilation and destruction. They give us good reason to hope, especially during the coming holiday of Chanukah when we celebrate dedication and survival.

Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein

עבודה

WORSHIP *Avodah*

This Month at Central Synagogue

Information about our services and educational and community programs is listed on the following pages. For a quick look at each day's activities, see the calendar section at the back of *Luach*. For the most up-to-date information about programs and events, visit our Web site at www.centralsynagogue.org. Program information may also be found in our weekly Order of Service and on flyers posted in the Community House's elevators.

WORSHIP

Shabbat Services

Every Friday: 6 pm, Sanctuary; Every Saturday: 10:30 am, Sanctuary

Hearing enhancement devices are available in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher.

Phone In or Go Online for Real Time Shabbat Services

If you cannot attend service in person, you can be there by phone or by viewing live streaming on our Web site. These programs are underwritten by the Youngwood family and friends in memory of Judith G. Youngwood.

Phone In: Dial toll-free 1-888-758-7870. At the prompt, use the following pass code: 5992969.

Live Streaming: On the homepage of our Web site, "Live Streaming." You can also find a link in the Worship section of the Web site. If you have any technical problems, contact livestreaming@censyn.org for help.

Morning Minyan

Every Monday through Friday at 8 am in the Community House, except on Holy Days, most Federal holidays and the day after Thanksgiving. We do have morning minyan on Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

Chanukah Candle Lighting

December 22 & December 23, 4 – 4:15 pm, Stern Lobby

Join us for a communal Chanukah candle lighting in the Stern lobby of the Community House. **Note:** Chanukah begins at sundown on Sunday, December 21.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, December 6, 9 am, Joslin Hall

Friday, December 12, 5 pm, Joslin Hall

Central Synagogue offers many Shabbat programs for children. Our Tot Shabbat program is held on Saturday mornings when there is no school vacation. As an exception, this month we will also have one Tot Shabbat on Friday evening. The program is designed for nursery school children under five years old. For the Friday Tot Shabbat, feel free to have your children wear their pj's and bring their favorite stuffed animals. Our students from the Nursery School's Red and Blue rooms will lead us in special songs that evening. For more information, please contact Matt Check at 212-838-5122, ext. 4032, or via email at CheckM@censyn.org.

Shabbat *Mishpachah* (Family Shabbat)

Friday, December 12, 6 pm, Sanctuary and Pavilion

The service is designed for students in kindergarten through fourth grade and builds on what our children learned in the Tot Shabbat program. At Shabbat *Mishpachah*, parents and children join together in the Sanctuary to welcome Shabbat with the congregation. Then, the children head downstairs to the Pavilion for an age-appropriate service led by members of the clergy and the education staff. We join together again in the Sanctuary for the closing of the prayer service.

Fourth Grade *B'nei Mitzvah* Date Program

This program is mandatory.

Saturday, December 13, 10:15 am – 1:15 pm, Sanctuary and Pavilion

The mandatory *B'nei Mitzvah* Date program is for fourth graders and their parents. It is at this time that they receive the date of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, partake in a learning session together, and attend a Shabbat service.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sahra and William Lese Religious School

See page 18, for class schedules.

Note: The Religious School, Nursery School and Parenting Center will be closed for Winter Recess from Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2, and will reopen on January 5, 2009.

Nursery School's Chanukah Book Fair: December 9 & 10

Tuesday, December 9, 9 am – 3 pm, Joslin Hall

Wednesday, December 10, 9 am – 3 pm, Joslin Hall

By doing your Chanukah shopping at the fair, you can support the Nursery School and encourage the love of reading. Our Chanukah Book Fair offers books for all ages, Chanukah gift items, wrapping paper, and the opportunity for classroom book donations.

ADULTS

Note: There will be no Adult Education classes from December 22 through January 2. Classes will resume on January 5.

Contemporary Israel: A Deeper Look at Conflict and Diplomacy

Monday, December 1, 12:30 – 2 pm, Room 302

What are the primary international relations issues facing Israel today? How has Israel handled conflict and managed diplomacy? Join us for the final session of this six-part series that emphasizes Israel's approach to these issues. The class will cover: Israel at the United Nations, the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Israel vs. Hamas, Israel and Egypt, and Israel and the European Union. No prior knowledge of Israeli history is required.

Getting to Know *Mishkan T'filah*, the New Reform Siddur

Tuesdays: December 2 & 9, 10:30 am – 12 pm, Room 504

The new prayer book (siddur) of the Reform Movement is truly revolutionary. It took more than ten years to design the *Mishkan T'filah*; to integrate the input of many Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay persons; and to build a creative and inspiring tool of worship. Together we will explore the structure of *Mishkan T'filah*, comparing it to past editions of our siddurim and other denominations' prayer books. We will study how different theological views and challenges are expressed in the book and what it says about the evolution of the Reform Movement.



LEARNING *Limud*

Clergy Film Series: "The Band's Visit"

Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 pm, Pavilion

Please join Rabbi Friedman for "The Band's Visit," written and directed by Eran Kolirin. The 2007 Israeli hit tells the story of what happens when an Egyptian police band finds itself stuck in a small Israeli town. Popcorn and soda will be served, and an enjoyable evening is promised for all.

Book Group

Fridays: December 5, 12 & 19, 9:15-10:15 am, Room 602

"We read to know that we are not alone" (CS Lewis). Come and be part of Central Synagogue's dynamic book group. The group reads several different books throughout the year. The books cover a broad range of topics and issues that encourage self-reflection and group connectedness. The group is led by Patti Sayre, a licensed social worker and psychologist and facilitator in our Parenting Center.

Brunch and Learn Torah Study: Parshat Ha-Shavua

Every Wednesday: 11 -12:15 pm, Room 504

The text of the Torah only gets better each time you return to it. Come and explore its depths with members of the community, and enjoy preparing for class by reading the week's Torah portion in English at home. No previous background or Hebrew experience necessary. Please bring your own nosh!

Intermediate Hebrew for Adults

Every Wednesday: 6 – 7 pm, Joslin Hall

A continuation of last year's class, this course is for adults comfortable in Hebrew reading as they explore a variety of Jewish sources. You need not have been a member of last year's class to attend.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class

Every Wednesday: 7:30 – 9 pm, Joslin Hall

Join Rabbinic Intern Sandi Intraub for our Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class. Basic knowledge of Hebrew is required to participate. The *B'nei Mitzvah* ceremony will take place on May 8, 2009. To RSVP, contact Crystal Gipe, gipec@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 4033.



LEARNING *Limud*

Bible and Bagels: Verse by Verse in the Torah

Thursdays: 8:15-9 am, Room 504

A line by line look at our sacred text from many perspectives. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary. Participants bring with them an eagerness to understand the Bible in history, as the Rabbis read it, as literature or drama, and for what it has to say to us today.

Advanced Hebrew Class

Thursdays: 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Room 503

Come join us for some *Ivrit* (Hebrew). Participants will study prayers from the siddur, as well as Biblical and modern Hebrew. They will analyze texts and poetry and learn the rudiments of grammar and syntax.

Alper Talmud Study: Sages of the Talmud

Every Friday: 8:15-9:15 am, Room 504

Join us as we study the lives and rulings of some of the most famous personalities in the Talmud. Who were these sages? Why did they reason as they did? We will explore these questions and others as we deepen our understanding of the historical and social context of the Talmud. No previous knowledge of Hebrew or Talmud is necessary.

Torah and Commentaries

Every Saturday: 9 am, Community House

Verse by Verse in the Torah, taught by Rabbi Philip Hiat

Me'ah

Every Tuesday: 6 – 9 pm., Atrium

Central Synagogue, in partnership with Hebrew College, is offering an exciting new adult education course. *Me'ah*, an intensive two-year adult learning initiative, includes text study, active questioning, community building, and personal enrichment. Registration for the current year is closed. If you have any questions, contact Crystal Gipe at 212-508-3003 or via email at gipec@censyn.org. **Note:** *Me'ah* classes are open to registrants only.

No One Is a Stranger at Central Synagogue

Join us in a new initiative to reach out to fellow congregants and to strengthen our community. Introduce yourself to another congregant, reach out to a congregant in need, or just take a moment to schmooze with others. Together, we can make sure that no one is a stranger at Central Synagogue. If you would like to find out more about this new initiative, contact either Debbie Palmer at debbie@djp.com, Alan Herman at aandsales@aol.com, Audrey Zucker at Audreyyz@aol.com, Roberta Kiel at robertakiel@aol.com, or Jen Schiamberg at atjenschiamberg@yahoo.com. If you would like a copy of Rabbi Maurice Salth's Yom Kippur sermon highlighting the "No One Is a Stranger at Central Synagogue" initiative, simply click on the link to sermons in the Worship section of our Web site (www.centralsynagogue.org).

TEENS

CiTY Midnight Run

Saturday, December 6, 7:00 pm, Youth Lounge

Calling all members of Central Synagogue's Youth Group, CiTY! It's time for our annual Midnight Run. We'll gather at the Community House and then fan out across NYC to distribute food, clothing, blankets, and personal care items to the homeless poor on the city streets. Afterwards, we'll return to the Community House. Credit for community service hours will be given. For more information, contact Greg Weitzman, CiTY youth advisor at WeitzmanG@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038.

56 Club

Monday, December 8, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Youth Lounge

Shalom! Central Synagogue will be continuing its program for fifth and sixth grade students in December with a Latke and Chanukah party. Come join us for pizza and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts) as we celebrate the holiday of Chanukah. We will be making our own *sufganiyot* and having a dreidel competition. Please contact Greg Weitzman for more information at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038, or at WeitzmanG@censyn.org.

Mini-CiTY and CiTY Chanukah Party

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Youth Lounge

Mini-CiTY will join CiTY for a Chanukah party featuring latkes and fried chicken as we watch "8 Crazy Nights," an Adam Sandler comedy about the story of Chanukah. We will learn how to make our own *sufganiyot* or jelly donuts, and there will be a raffle for special Chanukah treats. Please RSVP to Greg Weitzman at WeitzmanG@censyn.org by December 5.

CiTY Trip to Washington DC to Visit the Religious Action Center, L'taken Seminar

Friday, December 12, 3 pm, Community House

Return Monday December 15

Our students will join other teens from around the nation to explore public policy and social activism through a Jewish lens. Then they will lobby our Representatives and Senators on issues facing our country. The program will introduce students to experts from both inside and outside of the Jewish community. The *L'taken Seminar* includes a tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Havdalah services. Cost of the trip is \$450 dollars per person. RSVP to Greg Weitzman at 212-838-5122, ext. 4038, or at WeitzmanG@censyn.org.

ADULTS

Making Meaning at Mid-Life

Wednesday, December 3, 10 – 11:30 am, Room 501

This group will seek to address some of the common issues shared by adults at this stage of life. How do we challenge ourselves at this point to live a life of meaning and purpose? How do we channel our energies? How do we deal with our newly independent children, with caring for aging parents, with issues of health, and with making changes in our work and volunteer life that suit this stage of life? What does our text and tradition have to teach us about these issues?

Organ Concerts

Professional Organ Concert: Tuesday, December 9, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

From October 2008 through May 2009, Central Synagogue presents a half-hour lunchtime organ recital free to the public under the auspices of The Gabe Wiener Foundation. A master class, beginning at 10:30 am, to which all concertgoers are also invited at no cost, will precede each concert. Program director Dr. Gail Archer has assembled a stellar collection of eminent organists. On December 9, the organist will be Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra from Eastern Michigan University.

Caring for Our Loved Ones Who are Ill

Tuesday, December 2 & 9, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 503

Taking care of family members who are ill can take a great deal of physical and emotional energy. Those who serve in the role of caretaker and nurturer need to strengthen their own sources of sustenance. This group will seek to provide support for those who find themselves in this role. We will also look at what our text and tradition offer us as guidance.

Family Volunteer Opportunity at Head Start

Sunday, December 14, 9:15 am, Community House

Please join us for a morning of "Hot Chocolate and Magic," plus a sing-along with Evan Shultz, with families of a Head Start program in the South Bronx. Head Start is a federally-sponsored early childhood program for low-income families. A van will be leaving Central Synagogue's Community House at 9:15 a.m. Children of all ages welcome! For more information or to sign up, please contact SOS@censyn.org.

Chanukah Festival of Choirs

Sunday, December 14, 3 pm, Congregation Rodeph Sholom
at 7 West 83rd Street

Come support the Central Synagogue Community Choir as we join together with cantors and choirs from all over New York City at Rodeph Sholom's Sixth Annual Festival of Choirs. Experience the magic of music as we celebrate the Festival of Lights. For tickets and more information, contact Cantor Rebecca Garfein at 212-362-8800, ext. 3030, or email cantorgarfein@rodephsholom.org.

For Newlyweds and Young Professionals: Cooking at Central

Thursday, December 18, 7 pm, Pavilion and Atrium

Meet other newlyweds and young professionals as you learn new recipes for entertaining at the Jewish holidays and throughout the year. It's a great way to get recipes to impress your family and friends, and build new relationships with other members of Central Synagogue. RSVP's required to Yonni Wattenmaker, Director of Lifelong Learning, 212-838-5122, ext. 4031, or ymw@censyn.org.

Central Synagogue Projects to Repair the World on Christmas

Tikkun Olam—Repairing the World—on Christmas

Thursday, December 25, 11 am – 2 pm, 2 East 90th Street

Join our Social Action Committee on Christmas Day as we reach out to those less fortunate. Adults and children who are 13+ years old are invited to participate in providing meals for our city's hungry at The Church of Heavenly Rest. We will need 15 to 20 volunteers. For more information, contact social_action@censyn.org or 212-838-5122, ext. 5016.

Christmas Dinner at Ronald McDonald House

Thursday, December 25, 3 – 7 pm, Ronald McDonald House

On Christmas Day, we will be helping to serve dinner and sharing some holiday spirit with the families of Ronald McDonald House at their Christmas Party and Dinner. All volunteers must be at least 18 years old. For more information, please contact sos@censyn.org or call 212 838-5122, ext. 5013.

Ronald McDonald House Dear Santa Project

Help make the holidays special for the children of Ronald McDonald House by fulfilling the gift they request from Santa. During the week prior to Christmas, we will be receiving letters written to Santa by the children of RMDH. The letters will be from both the children receiving cancer treatment and their siblings who are living with them at RMDH. For more information please, contact sos@censyn.org or call 212 838-5122, ext. 5013.

Why Knot Knit?

Every Wednesday: 9:30 am – 12 pm, Room 302, except December 31

Our knitting program to assist the community's needy is in full swing. We are currently knitting scarves for the clients of Central Synagogue's Breakfast Program. Join our congregants for a weekly knitting klatch. No knowledge of knitting is required. For more information, contact Michele Klausner at knitting@censyn.org.

Caring Committee's Breakfast Program

Every Thursday & Friday: 5:30 – 7:30 am, Stern Lobby

The Caring Committee would love to welcome new volunteers who are willing to donate as little as one hour a week to feed the homeless. You also can help by donating plastic take-out containers, travel-size sundries from hotels, planes, etc. or clothing items such as socks and men's pants and shirts. These can be brought to the Community House at any time. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. For more information, contact Amy Heller at Caring_Committee@censyn.org or at 212-838-5122, ext. 5004.

English in Action

Every Thursday: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Pavilion

For two hours every Thursday morning throughout the year, Central Synagogue volunteers mentor individuals in conversational English. Volunteers work with foreigners on student visas, as well as spouses of students or workers who are living in the U.S. for a year or two and immigrants who hope to become American citizens. If you would like to volunteer for this wonderful program, contact Rosalyn Harber at 212-677-5664 or at rosharber@yahoo.com.

Give Children a Head Start

Central Synagogue has created a partnership with the Urban Horizons Early Childcare Discovery Center, a federally funded pre-school program for low-income families in the South Bronx. Collaboration began this past spring with a drive to collect picture books and easy readers for parents' home libraries. Then our volunteers helped the Center create its first gardening area, where the children grew radishes and sunflowers over the summer. Interested in participating in or planning winter activities?

Join us! E-mail Rachel Barany or Marcia Cohen at Head_Start@censyn.org or call 212-838-5122, ext. 5017.

Make a Difference at a NYC Public School

Throughout the year, Central Synagogue will be involved with PS 84, a public elementary school at 32 West 92 Street, offering support to its staff, teachers, students and parents. You can be involved in the following activities:

- Mentor children in reading and writing.
- Help teachers with children who need extra help.

For more information, call 212-838-5122, ext. 5007, or email at ps83@censyn.org.

Sanctuary Tour

Every Wednesday: 12:45 pm, Sanctuary

Free and open to the public, no reservations necessary. For information, including fees for group tours, please call the Archives Office: 212-838-5122, ext. 2041.

CiTY Clothing Drive: December 1 - 4

Central Synagogue's youth group, CiTY, will be collecting clothing and toiletries for New York City's homeless in preparation for their Midnight Run. Congregants are invited to drop off warm men's clothing, blankets, shoes, hats, gloves, and NEW underwear in the Stern Lobby from December 1 to December 4 between 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Toiletries also are needed, including soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. If you are interested in joining CiTY for its Midnight Run on Saturday, December 6, and are in the ninth to twelfth grades, please contact Greg Weitzman at WeitzmanG@censyn.org.

Save the Date for Jethro Shabbat Program—February 13, 2009

This year's Jethro Shabbat Services and Dinner Program will feature a talk by our honored guest, NYU Law Professor Stephen Gillers. Professor Gillers is a renowned expert on legal ethics, and is often quoted by both legal and general interest publications. He is the author of a widely used law school casebook on legal ethics and has been a leader of the American Bar Association professional responsibility initiatives. His topic will be: *Is Law (Still) an Honorable Profession?: Why We All Need the Answer to be Yes.*

Support Service Families

Supporting our U.S. Service Men and Women in Iraq and Afghanistan through SOFAR USA (sofarusa.org) has matured to the point that SOFAR NY has been established as a separate 501(c)(3) organization to provide pro bono mental health services to the families of people in the Reserves and National Guard—people who are subject to tremendous stress and distress but are not eligible for any government assistance. We welcome more volunteers—both mental health professionals and those who have experience in communications, business and fund raising. Please contact congregant Pat Rich by email at Outreach_to_Soldiers@censyn.org for more information.

Score a Basket or a Goal for Central Synagogue: Purchase Tickets for a Knicks or Rangers Game

Member Ron Tabak is again organizing basketball fundraisers for Central Synagogue, and as an experiment, is also organizing a hockey fundraiser. Ron buys group tickets for New York Knicks and Rangers games and asks people to pay him at his cost plus a donation to Central Synagogue. You may purchase as many tickets as you wish while Ron's supply lasts. The donations are per ticket.

The seats are in the 300 level (about half-way up) of Madison Square Garden. Seats on January 26 are on the side and at a discount. February 25 tickets are at a discount and behind the basket. The other seats, for sure sell-outs, are behind the basket.

Sunday, January 4, World Champion Boston Celtics, 6 pm:
\$44.50 + \$15 donation. Section 346

Monday, January 26, Houston Rockets w/Yao Ming, 7:30 pm: Seats normally \$60.50 are \$50 + \$10 donation. All in group get Value Meal Coupon. Section 313

For a complete listing of all upcoming games, visit www.centralsynagogue.org.

To purchase tickets, email Ron Tabak's assistant, William Vila, at bvila@probonolaw.com or phone him at 212-735-3692. You may either make out one check to Ron that includes the donation to Central Synagogue (Ron will then send a donation in your name to Central Synagogue) or send Ron two checks: one made payable to Ron for the ticket amount and one payable to Central Synagogue for the donation amount, which he will forward to the synagogue. Mail checks to Ronald Tabak, c/o Skadden Arps, Four Times Square, New York, NY 10036-6522.

Central Synagogue Goes Green

Central Synagogue's Green Team is focused on ways to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" and committed to continually looking for ways to be more environmentally friendly. If you would like to share your ideas, please contact Beth Woloff, Director of Operations at 212-508-3007 or woloffb@censyn.org.

In 1934, Central Synagogue's Rabbi Jonah B. Wise founded "The Message of Israel" radio program. The following is from the December 4, 1942 issue of "The Scribe," Central Synagogue's former bulletin.

"During the month of December in cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Board which is a part of the United Service Organization, "The Message of Israel" will have as its speakers Chaplains on active duty with the Army and Navy. The program will be heard as usual over station W.J.Z and affiliate Blue Network Stations* from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, E.W.T."

One congregant, who was serving in the Army Medical Corps, wrote the following to Rabbi Wise regarding "The Message of Israel":

"I have often intended to write you how very much I enjoy listening to 'The Message of Israel' on Saturday Evenings. We rarely missed the program when at home and when I was called to the army almost a year and a half ago, it seemed a close tie to my home and family when I was able to tune in on WJL.

"Our excellent choir, the Cantor, and your own voice cannot help but call up a vision of beautiful Central Synagogue, our friends there, and the long association of my wife's family with the Congregation. I hope to listen to the program as long as I am in reach of it...."

The letter appeared in the October 2, 1942 issue of "The Scribe." In September 1942, the synagogue had an estimated 70 young congregants serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

*The Blue Network Stations were owned by NBC.

"A Look Back in History" is prepared by Amy Goldberger, Chair,
Archives Committee and Anne Mininberg, Archivist

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF

Benjamin Brue Klemperer. We extend congratulations to his parents, Alexia Brue Klemperer and Ethan Klemperer, and to his grandmother, Judith Klemperer.

Noah Max Liebman. We extend congratulations to his parents, Allison and Matthew Liebman, and to his grandparents, Mary and Jack Canter.

WE OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO

Robin Sue Kahn on the loss of her father, Richard Samuel Kahn

Brooke Garber Neidich and Daniel Neidich on the loss of her father, Sidney Garber

Trudy and Marvin Schlachter on the loss of her mother, Rebecca Weiner.

WE OFFER OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

Ellen Banner on the birth of her grandson, Stellan Yann Beck.

Life cycle notices in this issue of *Luach* include information made known to us between October 2 to October 29, 2008. If you would like to submit a life cycle notice, please contact Ana Morel in the Rabbis' Studies at 212-838-5122, ext. 1011, or via email at MorelA@centralsynagogue.org.

LOOKING AHEAD at CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

Making Your Final Wishes Known

January 13

Mendelssohn Concert

January 14

The Men's Haggadah

January 29

All classes are held in the Community House, unless otherwise indicated on specific dates in the calendar at the end of *Luach*.

Kindergarten & First Grade	Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Second Grade	Wednesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Third Grade	Thursdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Fourth Grade	Tuesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Fifth Grade	Wednesdays, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
Sixth Grade	Mondays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Seventh Grade	Mondays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Eighth & Ninth Grade	Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Eighth & Ninth Grade	Second Tuesday of Every Month, 6:00 – 7:15 pm
Confirmation Class	Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

B'NEI MITZVAH

Since we have established a policy not to have more than two children become *B'nei Mitzvah* at any service, we will have consecutive Saturday Shabbat services in the sanctuary when more than two children will celebrate the event on a Shabbat morning, the first at 10:30 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m. The liturgy and the role of the *B'nei Mitzvah* will be the same at both services and the same clergy will officiate.

With much joy, we offer congratulations to the following congregants on becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

December 5: Samuel Koppelman

December 6: (10:30 a.m. services): Joshua Evan Arnon and Jessica Brett Rubinstein

December 6: (12:30 p.m. services): Olivia Matlin

December 13: William Taylor Bakst and Gabrielle Felice Freitag

December 27: Caroline M. Benson (Minsk, Belarus)

January 3: Caroline Kuritzkes

DECEMBER 1 MONDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

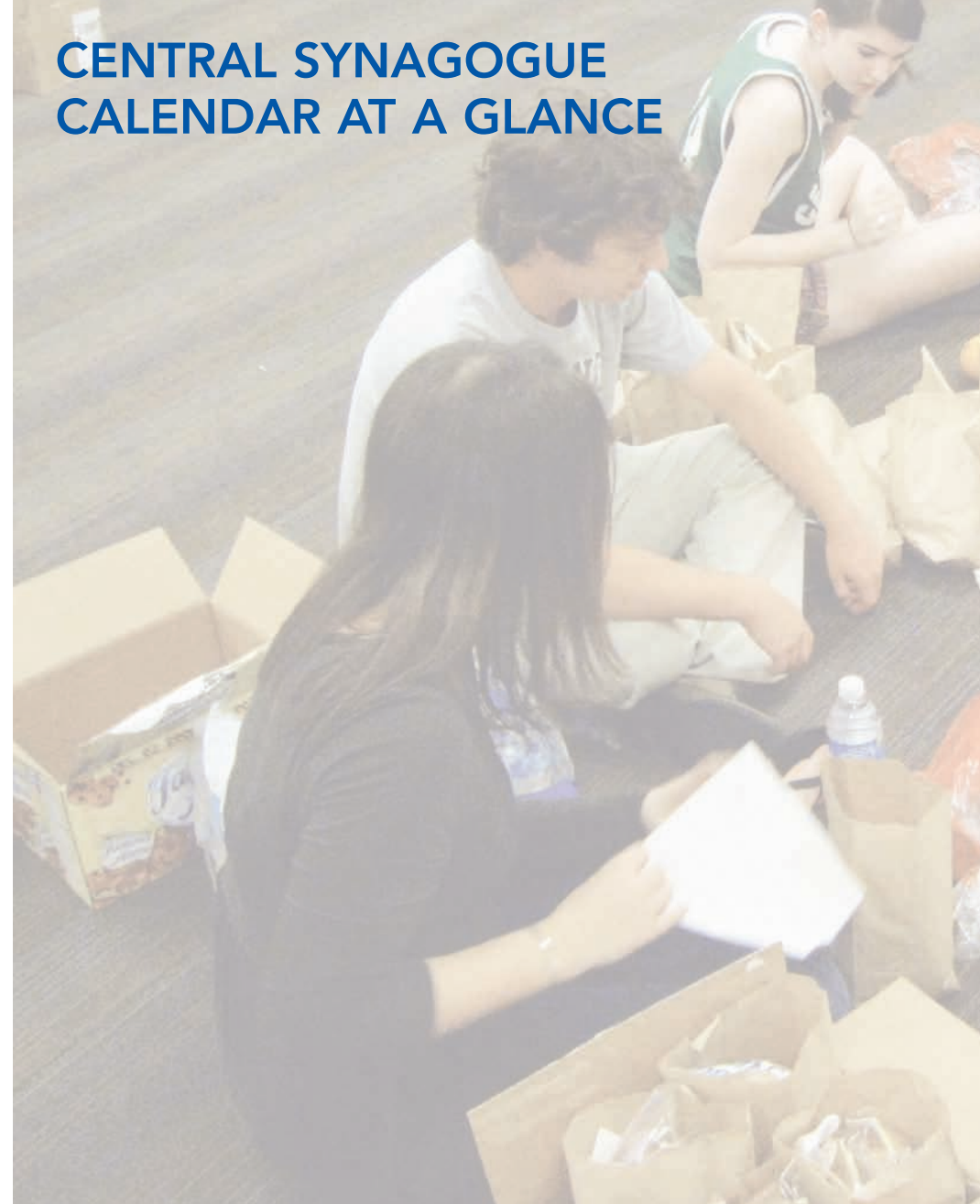
8 am Community House	Minyan
12:30 – 2 pm Room 302	Contemporary Israel: A Deeper Look at Conflict and Diplomacy

DECEMBER 2 TUESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
10:30 am – 12 pm Room 504	Getting to Know <i>Mishkan T'filah</i> , the New Reform Siddur
6 – 9 pm Atrium	Me'ah
6:30 – 8 pm Room 503	Caring for Our Loved Ones Who are Ill

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE



DECEMBER 2008 AT A GLANCE

Listings for regularly scheduled programs may be found in the day calendar section beginning on page 19.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	Contemporary Israel: Conflict & Diplomacy 1 12:30 pm, Room 302	Getting to Know Mishkan T'filah 2 10:30 am, Room 504	Making Meaning at Mid-Life 3 10 am, Room 501 Clergy Film Series 6:30 pm, Pavilion	4	Shabbat Services 5 6 pm, Sanctuary	Tot Shabbat 6 9 am, Joslin Hall Shabbat Services 10:30 am, Sanctuary CITY Midnight Run 7 pm, Youth Lounge
7	56 Club 8 6:30 pm, Youth Lounge	*SEE NOTES 9	NS Chanukah Book Fair 10 9 am, Joslin Hall	11	CITY Trip to Washington, DC 12 3 pm, Community House Tot Shabbat 5 pm, Joslin Hall Shabbat Services 6 pm, Sanctuary Shabbat Mishpachah 6 pm, Sanctuary	B'nei Mitzvah Date Program 13 10:15 am, Sanctuary Shabbat Services 10:30 am, Sanctuary
Family Volunteers at Head Start 14 9:15 am, Community House Chanukah Festival of Choirs 3 pm, 7 W. 83rd Street	15	16	17	Cooking at Central 18 7 pm, Pavilion	Shabbat Services 19 6 pm, Sanctuary	Shabbat Services 20 10:30 am, Sanctuary
21	Chanukah Candle Lighting 22 4 pm, Stern Lobby	Chanukah Candle Lighting 23 4 pm, Stern Lobby	24	Repairing the World on Christmas 25 11 am, 2 E. 90th Street Christmas Dinner at RMDH 3 pm	Shabbat Services 26 6 pm, Sanctuary	Shabbat Services 27 10:30 am, Sanctuary
28	29	30	31	NOTES: * DECEMBER 9: NS Chanukah Book Fair 9 am, Joslin Hall Getting to Know Mishkan T'filah 10:30 am, Room 504 Organ Concert 12:30 pm, Sanctuary Caring for Ill Loved Ones 6:30 pm, Room 503 Mini-City & CiTY Chanukah Party 8 pm, Youth Lounge		



WEDNESDAY **3** DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
9:30 am – 12 pm Room 302	Why Knot Knit?
10 am – 11:30 am Room 501	Making Meaning at Mid-Life
11 am – 12:15 pm Room 504	Brunch & Learn: <i>Parshat Ha-Shavua</i>
12 – 2 pm	Sanctuary Open for Meditation Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm
6 – 7 pm Joslin Hall	Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
6:30 pm Pavilion	Clergy Film Series
7:30 – 9 pm Joslin Hall	Adult <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Class

DECEMBER 4 THURSDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9 am Bible and Bagels:
Verse by Verse in the Torah
Room 504

10:30 am – 12:30 pm English in Action
Pavilion

6:30 – 7:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Class
Room 503

DECEMBER 5 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 - 9:15 am Alper Talmud Study: *Sages of the Talmud*
Room 504

9:15 – 10:15 am Book Group
Room 602

6 pm Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

9 am Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

7 pm CiTY Midnight Run
Youth Lounge

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 28:10-32:3 | *Haftarah* Hosea 12:13-14:10

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

6:30 – 7:30 pm 56 Club
Youth Lounge

DECEMBER 9 TUESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
8:15 am 110 East 55th Street	Executive Committee Meeting
9 am – 3 pm Joslin Hall	Nursery School's Chanukah Book Fair
10:30 am – 12 pm Room 504	Getting to Know <i>Mishkan T'filah</i> , the New Reform Siddur
12:30 pm Sanctuary	Professional Organ Concert
6 – 9 pm Atrium	<i>Me'ah</i>
6:30 – 8 pm Room 503	Caring for Our Loved Ones Who are Ill
7 – 8 pm Youth Lounge	Mini-CiTY and CiTY Chanukah Party

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Community House	Minyan
9 am – 3 pm Joslin Hall	Nursery School's Chanukah Book Fair
9:30 am – 12 pm Room 302	Why Knot Knit?
11 am – 12:15 pm Room 504	Brunch & Learn: <i>Parshat Ha-Shavua</i>
12 – 2 pm	Sanctuary Open for Meditation Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm
6 – 7 pm Joslin Hall	Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
7:30 – 9 pm Joslin Hall	Adult <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Class

"Ben Azzai teaches: 'Run to do even a small mitzvah, for one good deed inspires another.'" (Pirke Avot 4:2)

DECEMBER 11 THURSDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9 am Bible and Bagels:
Verse by Verse in the Torah
Room 504

10:30 am – 12:30 pm English in Action
Pavilion

6:30 – 7:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Class
Room 503

DECEMBER 12 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 - 9:15 am Alper Talmud Study: *Sages of the Talmud*
Room 504

9:15 – 10:15 am Book Group
Room 602

3 pm CiTY Trip to Washington, D.C.
Community House

5 pm Tot Shabbat
Joslin Hall

6 pm Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

6 pm Shabbat *Mishpachah* (Family Shabbat)
Sanctuary

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

10:15 am – 1:15 pm Fourth Grade *B'nei Mitzvah* Date Program
Sanctuary

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 32:4-36:43 | *Haftarah* Hosea 11:7-12:12

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

9:15 am Family Volunteer Opportunity at Head Start
Community House

3 pm Chanukah Festival of Choirs
Rodeph Sholom
at 7 West 83rd Street

DECEMBER 15 MONDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

DECEMBER 16 TUESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

6 pm – 9 pm Me'ah
Atrium

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 am Board of Trustees Meeting
Pavilion

9:30 am – 12 pm Why Knot Knit?
Room 302

11 am – 12:15 pm Brunch & Learn: *Parshat Ha-Shavua*
Room 504

12 pm – 2 pm Sanctuary Open for Meditation
Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm

6 pm – 7 pm Intermediate Hebrew for Adults
Joslin Hall

7:30 pm – 9 pm Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Class
Joslin Hall

DECEMBER 18 THURSDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER OPEN

5:30-7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9 am Bible and Bagels:
Verse by Verse in the Torah
Room 504

10:30 am – 12:30 pm English in Action
Pavilion

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Class
Room 503

7 pm For Newlyweds and Young Professionals:
Cooking at Central
Pavilion

DECEMBER 19 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

8:15 – 9:15 am Alper Talmud Study: Sages of the Talmud
Room 504

9:15 – 10:15 am Book Group
Room 602

6 pm Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

"Today I saw a blind man crying.
His eyes were good for that." (Leon Wieseltier)

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 37:1-40:23 | *Haftarah* Amos 2:6-3:8

CHANUKAH BEGINS AS SUNDOWN | SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

FIRST DAY OF CHANUKAH | MONDAY 22 DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

8 am Minyan
Community House

4 pm – 4:15 pm Chanukah Candle Lighting
Stern Lobby

"We thank you for the miracles, the redemption, the mighty deeds, and the victories You gave our ancestors in the days of old at this season." (Al ha-Nissim)

DECEMBER 23 TUESDAY | SECOND DAY OF CHANUKAH

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER CLOSED

8 am
Community House
Minyan

4 – 4:15
Stern Lobby
Chanukah Candle Lighting

DECEMBER 24 WEDNESDAY | THIRD DAY OF CHANUKAH

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

8 am
Community House
Minyan

9:30 am – 12 pm
Room 302
Why Knot Knit?

12 – 2 pm
Sanctuary Open for Meditation
Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm

DECEMBER 25 THURSDAY | FOURTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

LEGAL HOLIDAY | RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER CLOSED
OFFICE CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am
Community House
Caring Committee's Breakfast Program

11 am – 2 pm
The Church of Heavenly Rest
2 East 90th Street
Repairing the World on Christmas

3 – 7 pm
Christmas Dinner at
Ronald McDonald House

FIFTH DAY OF CHANUKAH | FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am
Stern Lobby
Caring Committee's Breakfast Program

8 am
Community House
Minyan

6 pm
Sanctuary
Shabbat/Chanukah Services

SIXTH DAY OF CHANUKAH | SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER

9 am
Community House
Torah and Commentaries

10:30 am
Sanctuary
Shabbat Services

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 41:1-44:17 | *Haftarah* Zechariah 4:1-7

SEVENTH DAY OF CHANUKAH | SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

OFFICE CLOSED

"Not by might and not by power, but by spirit alone shall we all live in peace." (Zechariah 4:6)

DECEMBER 29 MONDAY | EIGHTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

8 am Minyan
Community House

THURSDAY 1 JANUARY

LEGAL HOLIDAY | RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER CLOSED
OFFICE CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Community House

DECEMBER 30 TUESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL & PARENTING CENTER CLOSED

8 am Minyan
Community House

FRIDAY 2 JANUARY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

5:30 – 7:30 am Caring Committee's Breakfast Program
Stern Lobby

8 am Minyan
Community House

6 pm Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

DECEMBER 31 WEDNESDAY

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED

8 am Minyan
Community House

12 – 2 pm Sanctuary Open for Meditation
Sanctuary Tour at 12:45 pm

SATURDAY 3 JANUARY

9 am Torah and Commentaries
Community House

10:30 am Shabbat Services
Sanctuary

Weekly Torah Portion Genesis 44:18-47:27 | *Haftarah* Ezekiel 37:15-28

NOTES

NOTES

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