

Templet Online

Winter Edition...

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 - TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5781

CANTOR'S 🎜 🎜 🎜

Shira Ginsburg

Each December that I have been at East End Temple I have reflected on the darkest time of the year coinciding with the new secular calendar year. The demarcation of the revolution of the earth around the sun one more time always inspires reflection on time past, and furthermore how we have spent that time. With great certainty we know, this year of 2020 has been like none other.

As the Jewish people living in the diaspora in

modern times, we are the beneficiaries of such reflection on a new year, not once, but twice. To that end, we have an opportunity to reflect in completely different ways. Rosh Hashanah we are directed to do *cheshbon nefesh*, an accounting for our souls, reflecting on our shortcomings and misdeeds, our most personal failings often so discreet that no one else but us is privy to them. We then atone for those misdeeds on both personal and communal levels. Though this type of reflection is crucial for Rosh Hashanah, the level of intensity makes it hard to practice year round.

At every bar and bat mitzvah that we celebrate at

East End Temple, the rabbi and I offer the Threefold or Priestly Benediction to our student. If you have ever attended a Saturday morning, you have heard me explain that this is the first example in our people's history that we have of people blessing other people; God gives this blessing to the *Cohanim*/Priests so that they may bless the Israelites. What we intuit from this is that we are not a people who wait for God to provide blessings for us; the work and power lie very much in our own hands to complete. This is not to say we are in this alone. Quite the opposite: We are in this together, reliant on one another to be the blessings in each other's lives.

In the secular New Year, we can change our approach from the orientation of Rosh Hashana's *cheshbon nefesh* followed by atonement, to an intensive reflection followed by celebration, focusing on the positive impact we have had on the world, and in the lives of others on all levels of our interactions. What blessings have you



ushered into the world during this incredibly challenging year? I ask because I have seen and experienced so many blessings from all of you right here at East End Temple. From the Chesed Community to the Sisterhood and Men's Club, from Social Justice and Food For Families to the Teen Program, and so many others including perhaps the most important: individual to individual, neighbor to neighbor.

As we enter 2021, I ask of you this: Do not underestimate the power of even your smallest gesture of love. Your phone call to someone, your offer and follow-through to pick something up at the grocery store, your handwritten card has likely made all of the difference in someone's experience of their day, week, and even year. Celebrate yourself for that, for the good you have brought to this world, and like the *chanukiah* whose light increases with each night of celebration, may you carry the light of Chanukah forward into the new year.



EAST END TEMPLE EVENTS

We are connecting via Zoom, Facebook, and Livestream. Please check our website <u>https://eastendtemple.org/east-end-temple-everywhere/</u> and <u>https://eastendtemple.org/calendar/</u> for a listing of upcoming services and programs which we will update each week, until we can see each other face-to-face. We look forward to staying connected and would welcome you to invite family, friends, and colleagues to join us as well. In order to stay connected online, you may need to use new technology. Instruction on how to connect are through the first link above. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents for a program, please contact us at <u>info@eastendtemple.org</u>.



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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Holy Impatience

Kvetch. Be a noodge. Utz them. Bim'heirut. Y'allah. Nu?!

Jews are not archetypically known for patience

- even when they demand it - savlanut - from each

other. Some bemoan the intensity of "New Yorkers," but we value the focus and determination that inspires it within.

Right now, perhaps more than at any other point in our lives, we feel this impatience. When will the vaccines be distributed widely? When will we return to life as we knew it - or even a better version of it?

Some might tell us to be patient, wait quietly, or distract ourselves. Some might even try to invalidate our internal sense of urgency and motivation to see this tragic and frightening pandemic brought to an end.

In a way that I love, Jewish tradition validates our sense of impatience so long as it is harnessed for good. "It is permitted to rush, and one is encouraged to take large strides" when entering a synagogue, notes the Talmud (Berakhot 6). "Hurry, prepare it. Hurry, prepare it" before Shabbat, urges the Talmud (Shabbat 119). "A person should always push herself" in pursuit of autonomy, affirms Moses Maimonides in his great work, the Mishneh Torah.

At our best, we are not impatient due to a lack of self-regulation, but because of a deep desire to better our world and contribute to a solution to challenging problems. Our intensity reveals our values, rather than occluding our inner essence.

In this time of both unimaginable pain and renewed hope; at this time of profound suffering and new possibility; at this liminal moment, may we harness our impatience for good - lest we even become impatient with ourselves.





Joshua M. Z. Stanton

FROM the Co-PRESIDENT

Post-Pandemic Synagogue and Jewish Life

Traditions run deep in Jewish life and we hold them dear, but the path forward will challenge our customs, beliefs and routines. Partly because we are at such a critical inflection point, partly because the future is inevitably unpredictable, and partly because we are surrounded by paradigm shifts, post-pandemic synagogue and Jewish life will experience change. These past 10 months may have exhausted our tolerance for change; the rapid spread of COVID, wildfires, racism, nationalism, economic volatility, politicization and polarization of the American people. Nonetheless, we must recognize, accept and prepare ourselves for continued change.

It may be difficult to predict a future preceded by massive and cascading challenges, but that must not keep us from understanding how to adapt and thrive. In the opening number for the Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof," the main character, Tevye, explains the traditional roles of people in the village and their interactions. In general, the song sets up the battle between clinging to tradition or adapting to and thriving in a changing world. Jews have adapted to unprecedented challenges for a millennium and we will do so again, but we must act now, ask the hard questions and prepare ourselves for what is to come. As Jews, we will evolve by doing what we do best and that is to study and question. You only need look at the margins of the Talmud to see how Jewish reformists trended with the past but evolved to the future, and how the past was not something to simply return to but rather a foundation for the future. We must begin to ask

ourselves... How will spiritual discovery change? Who will we look to for guidance? How will the roles of clergy, lay-leaders and congregants evolve? What new mediums will impact our religious and activist engagement? Do we understand the paradigm shifts underway? What defines a community or neighborhood?

This exploration and change is daunting, as is finding the right words to begin a new year. Let me just say, on behalf of our clergy and my co-president, Rebecca, we are committed to bringing forward traditions that our community holds dear while adding new and positive actions and inspiring activities that ensure our brand of synagogue and Jewish life bends with the future and inspires generations to come. Together, we will change and grow.

EDUCATION NEWS

It's a new year, and we are excited to try out some new ways to celebrate Shabbat together! This January, we will be offering two new virtual family Shabbat experiences, and we can't wait to see you there.

Friday, January 8 at 5:45pm, we will be having our classic Friday night Tot Shabbat, geared toward families with preschool and Kindergarten-age children. We'll greet Shabbat with fun songs and dances, read a Shabbat story, and recite the blessings together. Tot Shabbat is highly interactive and lasts about 30 minutes.

On Saturday, January 16 at 9:30am, we will host our very first Boker Tov ("Good Morning") Shabbat! If your preschool-2nd grade children are morning people, then this is the Shabbat celebration for you! Similar to our Tot Shabbat service, we will sing, dance, and read a story related to the weekly Torah portion together.

Our monthly Family Shabbat will be held on Friday, January 22 at 5:45pm. Family Shabbat introduces children to the Friday night Shabbat service using fun and soulful melodies from the URJ summer camps. Geared toward children in grades 2-5, this Shabbat experience connects directly to the prayers and songs we are learning in religious school *t'filah*. We'll conclude with a story, discussion, and Shabbat blessings together. **Finally, on Saturday, January 30 at 5:30pm,** we will gather for our first Family Havdalah! Great for families of all ages, we will learn the rituals we use to bid Shabbat farewell, and wish each other a *shavuah tov* – a good week. We ask that families register for this event in advance so that we can send you your very own havdalah candle and



Mindy Sherry, RJE

spices to use along with us. Mark your calendars and start your week off right with us!

Please reach out to <u>educator@eastendtemple.org</u> or <u>amelia@eastendtemple.org</u> with any questions. We're looking forward to celebrating with you not just on Friday evenings, but all Shabbat long this January.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Tot Shabbat and Family Services (online) with Cantor Amelia in February

- Tot Shabbat Friday, February 5 and 12 at 5:45pm
- Family Shabbat Friday, February 26 at 5:45pm

Save the Date

Family Purim Experience – Sunday, Feb. 28, 2:00-4:00pm

Brian Lifsec

SISTERHOOD

Suellen Eshed

Sisterhood Greets the New Year with fun and inspiration while nurturing the community!

Welcome to 2021, when we look forward to turning many corners.

As part of our mission to nurture the life of the congregation, while promoting the interests and concerns of our EET women, Julie Livingston, Stacy Roger-Gordon and I are building a new Job Seeker community. We are creating connections between EET members looking for a new opportunity with those who can help by providing their expertise and support.

In continuing our mission of bringing together women in all stages of life in friendship and leadership, we are excited to announce some new and ongoing programs for women.

Starting January 17, we bring back our monthly Sunday morning Women's Rosh Chodesh study and discussion program. <u>Rosh Chodesh has long been sacred to women</u>. Led by our former Sisterhood president, Dr. Judith Lorber, author and Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, this year's focus will be on the Book of Ruth.

Two new Thursday, 8pm programs are coming up:

• January 14, Mah Jongg Tips and Strategies – If you are looking to up your game and learn some fun facts

FOOD FOR FAMILIES GOES DIGITAL!

By Celia Vimont

Help Us Feed New York's Hungry This Winter

Who: You, our dedicated Food For Families volunteers and supporters.

What: Our East End Temple Sisterhood Food For Families program is working with City Harvest's partner, GiveHealthy, on a digital food drive to donate healthy food requested by local hunger relief organizations. You can choose which foods to donate. At the end of each month, all of the donations are delivered to the City Harvest warehouse for distribution.

When: Each month until April, please consider giving the amount you usually spend each month for five loaves of bread and 16 pieces of fruit per person to our digital food drive. Whatever you can give is greatly appreciated. Thanks to those of you who have already donated. We gave 548 pounds of food in October and 1,125 pounds in November!

Where: The December donation link is <u>https://amplify.ampyourgood.com/user/campaigns/3600</u>. There's a new link every month – check the weekly E-blast for January and February.

Why: According to City Harvest, an estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers are struggling to feed themselves and their families right now – a 38% increase over pre-COVID-19 figures.

about Mah Jongg, join Sandy Magesis, experienced National Mah Jongg League instructor.

• January 28, Grateful Bingo – Led by Sisterhood board members Marian Klein and Linda Hetzer, we are excited to offer this fun event for EET women. Pour a drink, grab a snack,



and join us for virtual Bingo and catch-up (limited to 30 attendees; first sign-up, first serve). Compete for prizes and gift certificates to local restaurants and shops.

In addition to the above, we will continue to provide opportunities to connect and promote our EET women. Through virtual stitching, schmoozing, writing and Mah Jongg, Sisterhood is here to help connect you to other members of our community. Please check the <u>Sisterhood</u> <u>page</u> on the EET website for all dates and times, as well as how to support all that we do for our EET community.

We would love to hear from you and understand your interests, passions and concerns. Please email me: <u>sisterhood@eastendtemple.org</u>.

The Sisterhood of East End Temple Belong. Connect. Grow.











VOICES

Marcia Muskat

Joy Newman Active Board Trustee

As a kid growing up in Monsey N.Y. during the 60's and 70's, Joy accompanied her parents whenever they picketed draft boards or when they marched on Washington in 1969 to protest the Vietnam War. During that time, Joy's mom taught fashion design at Berkeley College in Westchester County and also taught English as a Second Language. Joy's dad owned the book publishing company that Joy eventually owned and ran from 1999 to 2019 in addition to her promotions business.

At Barnard College, Joy earned a BA in English Literature in 1986 and at NYU an MA in Cinema Studies in 1995 and also gained fluency in Spanish and Italian. Joy volunteered to read to the visually impaired for the Lighthouse Guild. She delivered meals to the homebound for God's Love We Deliver. And she chaired the Lincoln Center Young Patrons program. Fifty years after Joy and her parents marched on Washington, Joy returned to D.C. for the 2019 Women's March.

In 2014, soon after attending a very welcoming Shabbat BaGan service, Joy and her husband David Schumeister, a Minnesota native/real estate attorney, joined EET. At Rabbi Josh Stanton's installation services in **2018**, which coincided with Joy and David's son Jonah's bar mitzvah, Joy drew inspiration from her new rabbi's burgeoning commitment to the greater good. Today, as a co-vice president on the Board of Trustees, Joy creates opportunities for EET members to demonstrate



the temple's instinct for caring.

As an expression of caring, this past year Joy recruited an army of enthusiastic EET volunteers to pack beautifully wrapped gift boxes complete with homemade baked goods. Homebound seniors received these hand-delivered gifts just in time for the Rosh Hashanah and the Chanukah holidays. Homemade goodness is also apparent and appreciated in Joy's home each night as husband David, the family's chef, and son Jonah, David's sous chef, rule the kitchen.

Share your story with us in future Voices articles, email me at <u>marciany@me.com</u>. Please include your phone #.



East End Temple Adult Ed – Winter/Spring 2021

SCIENCE, TRUTH AND JUDAISM IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 EAST END TEMPLE & SCIENTISTS IN SYNAGOGUES

OUR STUDY CONTINUES...8:00-9:00pm

We welcome rising stars and leading lights in mechanobiology, neurology, and immunotherapy to reflect on the intersection between science and Judaism in their lives, vocations, and worldviews. They will ponder on a combination of formative life's experiences, research, and moments of connection between religion and science.

- 1/19, 8-9pm loe Levin, Graduate Fellow in Mechanobiology and Structural Biophysics at Rockefeller University
- I/26, 8-9pm Louise Klebanoff, MD, Chief of General Neurology and Vice Chair of Operations for the Department
 of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College
- 2/23, 8-9pm Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD, Lloyd J. Old/Virginia and Daniel K. Ludwig Chair in Clinical Investigation; Chief, Immuno-Oncology Service; Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy; Associate Director, Ludwig Center for Cancer Immunotherapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Jewish Approaches to Medicine: 3/9, 3/16, 3/23

From Maimonides to Jonas Salk, Jewish physicians have redefined excellence in care and pioneered new approaches to painful ailments. How does Jewish tradition approach medicine (and vice versa)?

What Makes Us Human? 4/6, 4/13, 4/20

Rabbinic tradition defines human beings as "the creature that speaks." When does our humanity begin, when does it end, and what does it mean?

Big Data and Artificial Intelligence: 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

At what point do machines deserve rights? At what point do they surpass human capacity? At what point should we be worried? Jewish tradition speaks extensively about the positive potential of science and human ability to create. How does it reflect on the dangers and drawbacks of human creations?

OURTEMPLE COMMUNITY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Judith Brown
- Liza & Stephen Fefferman
- Roy Meredith and Sarah Tenenbaum
- Joseph Mineo
- Dani & Jonathan Shalvi
- Martha Zaslow & Thomas Stanton
- Charles & Adina Vella



Beth Hermelin on becoming a grandmother to Brett Harrison Huffman, son of Taylor Wolmer and Taylor Huffman

Roy Meredith on his conversion

Joseph Mineo on his conversion

Dani & Jonathan Shalvi on their recent marriage



IN MEMORIAM



Adele Reis 1923 – 2020

East End Temple mourns the death of Adele Reis, a long-time member of East End Temple.

Deepest condolences to her daughter Iris Elentuch and the extended family.

Zichrona Livracha, may her memory be for a blessing.

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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HAVE YOU JOINED THE EET LEGACY CIRCLE?

We are grateful to the members who have already included East End Temple in their estate plans. Please let



the office know if you too have included East End Temple in your planned giving so that we may thank you appropriately.



The Muskat Family ++

"Our grandchildren are fifth generation members of East End Temple, a continuing legacy we are proud of. Our participation in the EET Legacy Circle will help ensure that many more generations enjoy the benefits of temple life." – Rick & Wendy Muskat

Act today to ensure a strong foundation for our community's tomorrow.

If you are thinking of including East End Temple in your estate planning, please contact the office for more information, or to schedule a confidential discussion with our rabbi or co-president.

L'Dor V'Dor, From Generation to Generation



Sarit Seldman and Maxwell Weiner, our January b'nei mitzvah celebrants.

Mazal tov from your EET Community.

TEMPLE FUNDS

Cantor Discretionary Fund

used for charitable giving; enrichment of the congregation & community.

El Emet Fund

helps beautify and maintain our temple; underwrite holiday festivities, projects. Note: simcha, mishebeirach, yahrzeits.

Floral Fund (contact the office) purchases flowers to decorate our pulpit on Shabbat and the High Holy Days.

Fund For The Future helps ensure future growth in all temple activities.

Hamermesh Music Fund provides special music programs and resource materials.

Kehila Fund (contact the office)

ensures the growth and permanence of our Temple. At the \$1,800 level, your name will be inscribed on the honor roll mounted on the Sanctuary lobby wall. Starting at \$5,000, your name and/or the name of an honoree will be engraved on a bronze plaque.

Leonard Spring Memorial Fund

dedicated to supporting our Livestream, Zoom and Facebook Live services and unfunded temple projects.

Oneg Shabbat Fund (contact the office) provides refreshments after Shabbat evening services.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund used for charitable giving; enrichment of the congregation & community.

Sara A. Spencer Children's Educational Fund provides educational materials for the Religious School.

Simchat Shabbat Programs

provides musical Shabbatot, diversified community programs.

Naming Opportunities (contact the office) Memorial Board Plaque; Simcha Tree Leaf SISTERHOOD FUNDS

Sisterhood Birthday Fund

contributes to a social action fund benefitting women and girls, selected annually.

Helene Spring Library Fund

helps purchase new and archival books, library equipment and additional materials for our library.

Food For Families Fund

purchases the food and meal supplies volunteers need to use for filling the bags of meals prepared to feed the hungry.

Food For Families Day Sponsor

underwrites this social action program. Contribution designates you as co-sponsor for the day.

FUNDS ARE ALSO ACCESSIBLE VIA OUR WEBSITE (unless

otherwise noted), at https://eastendtemple.org/contribute/

For next publication of contribution listing, please have your messages and payments sent to us by February 10.

EAST END TEMPLE DONATION FORM

Please use this form to make contributions to all East End Temple funds. Make checks payable as indicated below and write the name of the fund(s) on your check. Some funds require separate checks. Send checks to East End Temple, 245 East 17th Street NYC 10003. All contributions are per listing and your canceled check is your receipt. Email or call the temple office at info@eastendtemple.org, 212.477.6444 for further information.

FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO EAST END TEMPLE

1essage:	
-	Amount Enclosed: \$
lame & address of recipient to be notified:	
lame of contributor:	Phone Number:
Helene Spring Library Fund \$18 min. Chair: Barbara Ringel (Separate check required, made out to Ea	
 Food For Families, Chair: Celia Vimont \$18 min. Food For Families Day Sponsor \$360 min. 	□ Sisterhood Birthday Fund → \$18 min. Chair: Jodi Malcom
FOR THESE FUNDS MAKE CHECK	S PAYABLE TO EET SISTERHOOD
For the following gift opportunities, please contact the EET offic Floral \$75, Kehila min. \$5,000, Memorial Board Plaque \$720 eac	
□ El Emet Fund → \$10 min. □ Fund For The Future → \$100 min. □ Hamermesh Music Fund → \$18 min.	(Separate check required) □ Sara A. Spencer Children's Ed. Fund → \$18 min. □ Simchat Shabbat Programs → \$54 min.
Cantor's Discretionary Fund \$36 min. (Separate check required)	 Leonard Spring Memorial Fund \$18 min. Rabbi's Discretionary Fund \$36 min.

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MEN'S CLUB

The East End Temple Men's Club welcomes all!

One of the goals of the Men's Club is to strengthen the very important social bonds between and among our community. During these odd and troubling times, it is so very easy to let traditions and events



Marc

pass us by, as days, weeks and months fade and pass. However, social interactions are so very important. The Men's Club works to help the isolated in our community, such as by sponsoring the Chanukah Boxes program.

We are currently working on potential forums for remote card games and other interactions. Once we have the kinks worked out, dates and time will be provided in the weekly E-blasts. Please keep your eyes open for more details.

Stay safe and secure, one and all.





TU BISHVAT'S ORIGINS

Tu BiShvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day.

The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shvat (Jan 27-Jan 28, 2021). Scholars believe that originally Tu BiShvat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring.

In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiShvat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many lews hold a modern version of the Tu BiShvat seder each year.

The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.

~ January 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	h	Appy	☆NE W ☆	YEAR	1 New Year's Day 6:15p Shabbat Services w/Birthday Blessing	2
3	4 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	5 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grds 8-12	6 4p RS grds 4 & 5	7 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1	8 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Services 7pm Virtual Congrega- tional Dinners	9 11a Bar mitzvah of Maxwell Weiner
10	11 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	12 12p BELL 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grds 8-12	6:30p Board Meeting	14 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1 8p Mah Jongg Tips & Strategies	15 6:15p Shabbat Services	16 9:30a Tot Shabbat
17 11a Rosh Chodesh Study	18 Martin Luther King Office closed	19 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5pm Book Club 5:45p Teens grds8-12		21 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1	22 5:45p Family Service 6:15p Simchat Shabbat Sinchat shabbat	23
24 4p Stitch in Virtual Time	25 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	26 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p grds 8-12		28 <i>Tu BiShvat</i> 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1 8p Grateful Bingo	29 5:45p Tot Shabbat 6:15p Shabbat Services	30 10a Sari Seldman Bat mitzvah 5:30 Family Havdalah
31		-	Tu B'shvat			

~ February 2021 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	2 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grds 8-12	3 4p RS grds 4 & 5	4 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1	5 6:15p Shabbat Services w/Birthday Blessing	6
7	8 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	9 12p BELL 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grds 8-12	10 12p Culture Corner 4p RS grds 4 & 5 6:30p Board Meeting	11 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1	12 6:15p Shabbat Services	13
14	15 PRESIDENTS * D A Y *	16 Mid-Winter Break No Religious School	17 Mid-Winter Break No Religious School	18 10a Writers Workshop Mid-Winter Break No Religious School	19 6:15p Shabbat Services	20
21 4p Stitch in Virtual Time	22 10a Monday Minyan 7:30p Intro to Judaism	23 12p Intro to Judaism 4p RS grds 6 & 7 5:45p Teens grds 8-12	24 4p RS grds 4 & 5	25 10a Writers Workshop 4p RS grds 2 & 3 4p RS grds pre-K, K & 1 PM Purim Celebration	26 Purim 6:15p Shabbat Services	27
28 11a Rosh Chodesh Study 2-4p Family Purim Experience						