



Mar. 9, 2015

JCP Scroll

The Weekly Newsletter from the Center for Jewish Life

Upcoming Calendar

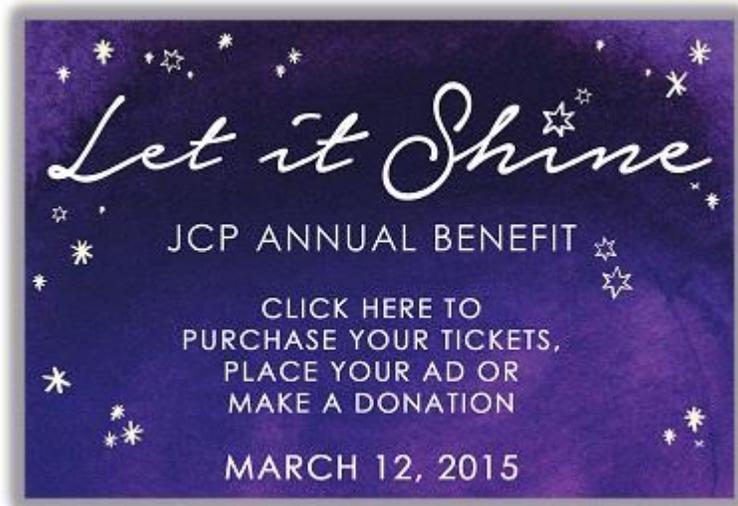
To view the full program calendar of events for the year, [click here](#).

- March 12 [JCP Annual Benefit](#)
- March 21 [Tot Shabbat](#)
- March 26 [Four Cups: Passover Wine Tasting](#)
- March 27 [Friday Night Lights](#)
- April 13 Holocaust Survivor [Eva Blaikie](#) Speaks
- April 15 Holocaust Remembrance
- Day Commemoration including *Conversations with Anne*
- April 17 [Friday Evening Services](#)
- April 17 JCP YOUth: Challah Back! [Middle School](#)
- Sushi Shabbat Dinner
- April 18 [Tot Shabbat](#)
- April 19 JCP YOUth: [Grades K-2](#) and [3-5](#), JCP Matinee



[For our Spring 2015 Calendar through June, click here.](#)

Purchase your Annual Benefit Tickets Now!



Gratitude for Abundance

A Note from Rabbi Jason

Dear Friends,

Yesterday afternoon, we had some pizza left over at the end of our JCP YOUTH event. One of our YOUTH leaders remarked, "I know I'll get pizza poisoning [if I eat too much], yet the Polish Jew in me can't bear to leave it here!"

Many descendants of Eastern European Jews are influenced by a culture of scarcity--sometimes even when we are comfortable with our homes and our family finances. We act as if we do not know where our next meal is coming from, perhaps out of a habit that has been taught by parents or grandparents for generations, or perhaps because we have a sense that one never *really* knows if and when it could all disappear in an instant.

This week's Torah portions, *Vayakhel* and *Pekudei*, present a different image. Our ancestors are wandering in the desert and have been asked (some chapters before) to contribute voluntarily to building a *mishkan*. This is to be a dwelling place for God, the ark in which the tablets of the Ten Commandments will be housed, a shrine that--together with the altar--will be the focal point of the Israelite encampment through forty years in the wilderness. This voluntary giving comes to a peak in this week's Torah portions: the artists and architects who are doing the building of the *mishkan* remark to Moses how they are overwhelmed by the outpouring of gifts of, and for, the community they are building.

In just three days we will gather together to celebrate JCP at our Annual Benefit & Auction. We will honor Scott Berrie & Patricia Willens as outstanding community builders, and Jodi J. Schwartz for her outstanding leadership. These volunteers stand in a legacy over three thousand years old, which began with the community that our ancestors built in the desert. When we hear their stories, we too, might feel overwhelmed by the abundance of time, resources, and spirit that go into building our Jewish community right here in Lower Manhattan.

From camping under a star-filled desert night to dwelling under the City lights, let it shine. Let us shine on one another, let us feel inspired by one another, and let us teach our children how to also bring the gifts of abundant warmth and abundant hope into a world that needs it.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday as we light up the night.

Warmly,



Rabbi Jason

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Dedicate a Siddur (Prayer Book)

Would you like to Dedicate a JCP Siddur (Prayer Book), to honor or memorize a special person or moment in your family's life?

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Featured Photo

Big smiles at last year's Annual Benefit!
Just 3 days left until the big day! Have you
bought your tickets yet?

[Click here to purchase tickets now.](#)



Featured Event

Have you started pre-bidding on our
auction items yet?

[Start bidding here.](#)

Stay Connected.



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