



SHABBAT PROGRAMS 2008-09

Location:

The Village Community School (VCS), 272 West 10th Street, in Manhattan.

Time:

Shabbat with Catered Dinner, 6:30pm; Cultural Program, 8:30pm

Late Nite Shabbat, 7:30pm; Oneg/Refreshments, Cultural Program, 8:30pm

Shabbat with lunch, 10:30am; Cultural Program, Lunch

Pot-Luck Dessert:

On Shabbats that are marked a Pot-Luck Dessert, members and guests are encouraged to bring enough dessert for themselves and one other person. We won't complain if you bring more.

Guests are always welcome at our Shabbat celebrations and programs. Reservations are appreciated for all events and are required for meals. Call 212-213-1002.

All dates and programs are subject to change. To confirm events and for more information, contact the office at 212-213-1002 or info@citycongregation.org.



Friday, September 19 – Late Nite

Shabbat Service and Dessert at 7:30pm, followed by Cultural Program at 8:30pm

“Living Without God: New Directions for Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists and the Undecided”

Ronald Aronson, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Wayne State in Michigan, will speak on the subject of his new book to be released in September.

Ronald Aronson is the author or editor of eight books, including *After Marxism* (Guilford, 1995) and *Camus and Sartre: The Story of a Friendship and the Quarrel That Ended It* (U. of Chicago, 2004).



Saturday, October 18 – Lunch

Shabbat Service and Cultural Program at 10:30am, followed by Lunch at noon

“Hitler’s Doctor Is Living In The Bronx . . .”

Acclaimed author **Jay Neugeboren** will discuss and read from his new novel, *1940*, that presents a fictional account of Dr. Eduard Bloch, an Austrian doctor who achieved notoriety for being Adolf Hitler’s childhood physician. In this complex, multi-layered story, Neugeboren simultaneously explores issues of attachment and loss, mental

health and mental illness, power and impotency, honor and responsibility, and, ultimately, hope.

Jay Neugeboren is the author of 14 books, including two prize winning novels (*The Stolen Jew* and *Before My Life Began*), two prize-winning non-fiction books (*Imagining Robert* and *Transforming Madness*), and two collections of award-winning stories (*Corky's Brother* and *Don't Worry About the Kids*). His stories and essays have appeared widely and have been reprinted in more than 50 anthologies, including Best American Short Stories and Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards.



Saturday, November 8

Shabbat Service and Cultural Program at 10:30am, followed by Lunch at noon

“I Doubt, Therefore I Am”

Jennifer Michael Hecht reflects on the history of doubt and its critical link to modernity. What are the roots of skepticism? What is doubt's role today? How can we, a few days after the presidential election, have faith - or doubt - in the outcome?

Jennifer Michael Hecht is an author, historian, philosopher, and poet, who lives in Brooklyn. She has published several acclaimed books including *Doubt: A History* and *The Happiness Myth*. She has a PhD. in the History of Science from Columbia University.



Friday, Dec. 19 – Pre-Chanukah Celebration & Dinner

Chanukah candlelighting and dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Shabbat-Chanukah service and Special Chanukah program at 8:00pm

“Songs Of Our Heritage – Songs Of Our People: An Evening Of Music and Singing With Robin Greenstein”

Bring your menorah and join us for Pre-Chanukah Candlelighting Celebration at 6:30pm followed by a delicious catered dinner. After the meal, **Robin Greenstein**, local New York City folksinger and songwriter, will be back with us for a second year in a row to lead us in special **Chanukah Sing-Along Concert** at 8pm.



Saturday, Jan. 10 – Lunch

Shabbat Service and Cultural Program at 10:30am, followed by Lunch at noon

“Facing Jewish Experience Through Poetry”

Carol Davis, award-winning poet and Fulbright scholar, will examine how contemporary Jewish poets are using this medium to examine their Jewish identity. What subjects do they take on? How does poetry work for them differently than prose?

Carol Davis is a poet and scholar of modern Jewish literature and Russian culture who teaches English and Creative Writing at Santa Monica College, CA. She was recently named the 2008 Sandburg-Auden-Stein Poet-in-Residence at Olivet College, MI. Her poems have appeared in *Midstream*, *Tikkun*, *Lilith*, *Prairie Schooner*, etc. and in anthologies, including *Nice Jewish Girls* and *Lifecycles: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones*. Her new book, *Into the Arms of Pushkin: Poems of St. Petersburg*, was published in 2007.

Note: On Sunday, January 11, at 3:30pm at SAJ, Carol Davis will also be presenting a talk on “Russia from the Inside: A Jewish American Perspective.”

Friday, February 13 – Late Nite

Shabbat Service and Pot-Luck Dessert at 7:30pm, followed by Cultural Program at 8:30pm

Darwin Bicentennial Celebration

This year marks the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin on February 12. It also marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of the Species*, Darwin’s classic description of evolution by natural selection.



“A Discussion Of Difference: Personal Reflections On Darwin And My Own Life”

Kenny Fries, author of *The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory* (Carroll and Graf, 2007), will examine his own physical disability in the context of Darwin’s theory of survival of the fittest.

Kenny Fries is also the author of *Body, Remember: A Memoir* and editor of *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out* along with several books of poems. He received the 2007 Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award, a Creative Arts Fellowship from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a Fulbright Scholar to Japan. He teaches in the MFA Creative Writing Program at Goddard College.



Saturday, March 14 - Purim Celebration & Lunch

Shabbat Service and Cultural Program at 10:30am, followed by Lunch at noon

“Queen For A Date! Esther Hid Behind A Mask... Do You?”

Did you ever lie on a date? Or JDate? If only to shave a few years off your age? In today’s media-blitzed society do men and women feel a need to present themselves as something else in order to attract love?

Novelist, **Laurie Graff**, talks about just how far we’ll go when she reads from her new novel, *The Shiksa Syndrome*, about a Jewish girl who pretends to be a *shiksa* to catch a Jewish guy.

Laurie Graff is also the author of *You Have to Kiss a Lot of Frogs*, and *Looking for Mr. Goodfrog*. An actress, her favorite role was playing Frenchy in the hit Broadway musical *Grease*. She lives on the Upper West Side.



Friday, April 17 – Late Nite

Shabbat Service and Dessert at 7:30pm, followed by Cultural Program at 8:30pm

“Stories Of Our Childhood: The Memories Of Growing Up”

Members and guests are invited to share their recollections of the experiences, people, and places of our youth. Was there a favorite family activity or family

gathering? What was it like in your childhood neighborhood? Are there memories of grandparents living with you or visiting? Did somebody have a favorite saying – or curse?!

You are invited to bring along photographs and souvenirs of these experiences that can accompany your stories and memories. RSVP to Rabbi Peter if you want to participate.



Friday, May 15 – Late Nite

Shabbat Service and Pot-Luck Dessert at 7:30pm, followed by Cultural Program at 8:30pm

"Behind the Scenes at Maimonides Hospital: Navigating our Dysfunctional Health Care System"

Julie Salamon, author of *Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God and Diversity on Steroids*, offers an insider's look in the life of a big urban hospital, painting a revealing portrait of how medical care is delivered in America today.

Julie Salamon is a bestselling author and award-winning journalist. Her books include *The Devils's Candy, Facing the Wind, White Lies, and Rambam's Ladder*. Salamon was a culture writer for *The New York Times* and a critic and reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. Her journalism has appeared in *The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Vogue, Bazaar, and The New Republic*.



Friday, June 19 – Late Nite

Shabbat Service and Dessert at 7:30pm, followed by Cultural Program at 8:30pm

End-of-Year Celebration

Join us for our annual tribute to our special volunteers, board members, and leaders of the congregation.