

METRO THIS WEEK

MANHATTAN & WESTCHESTER

BENEFIT

manhattan

Celebrating Debbie Friedman

The music and soul of Debbie Friedman has done nothing less than reinvent the sound of prayer in hundreds of synagogues across the United States, across the world. Her ethereal "Mi Sheberach" healing prayer, and healing services, has "restored the soul," if not the vitality of rabbis, cantors and pastors every bit as much it has reinvigorated those who needed the healing in the first place. She is so unique that the word "cantor" almost eludes what that profession even is after her influence began to be felt more than 30 years ago.

This past week, Debbie — as she is so familiarly known — contributed to the realm of holiness in a more earthly way, with a benefit concert that raised \$450,000 for the School of Sacred Music, at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute Religion, including the school's launch of a new national cantorial scholarship initiative.

The "Debbie & Friends" evening, at Central Synagogue, celebrated her creativity and contributions to Jewish music and worship, and featured her performing with more than 100 of the school's students, faculty and alumni, as well such "friends" as The Afro-Semitic Experience, The Western Wind, and HaZamir (the International Jewish High School Choir).

In 2007, Debbie was appointed to the faculty of the School of Sacred Music, the only Reform cantorial school in North



Debbie Friedman singing at HUC-JIR event last Thursday. It raised \$450,000 for the seminary's School of Sacred Music.

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD LOBELL

America, as well as the nation's oldest cantorial training institute. "My love for the students of HUC-JIR is beyond what I can describe," she said, "and I will support them in any way I can."

The scholarship program, the "Cantorial Invest-In-A-Student Campaign," is centered on donors sponsoring students for their five years of study at HUC-JIR through investiture.

Jonathan Mark

Eli Weinstock, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125 E. 85th St., (212) 774-5678, soulquestion.com.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS/
INWOOD

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Mother/Daughter hands-on jewelry making workshop, 7 to 8:30 p.m.,

\$18, YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood, 54 Nagle Ave., ywashhts.org.

Seniors

UPPER WEST SIDE

Friday, Nov. 20

"Flower Essence Therapy for the

Holiday Season," 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., with Linda Cohen, FES Certified Flower Essence Therapist, \$5, Dorot Wellness Program for Seniors, 171 W. 85th St., (212) 769-2850.

Balance Enhancement and Falls Prevention with Chi Kung, 11:30 to 12:10 p.m., with Laura Shapiro, \$5, Dorot Wellness Program for Seniors,

The Tuition Crisis: The End of Yeshiva Day Schools?

Monday, Dec. 7, 8pm
Lincoln Square Synagogue

200 Amsterdam Avenue at 69th St.
Cost: \$5 RSVP and pay online at www.lss.org

Panelists:

Dr. Scott Goldberg,
Director of the Institute for University -
School Partnership at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate
School of Jewish Education and Administration

Ms. Shira Dicker, Founder and President of Shira Dicker
Media International, NY-based writer

Mrs. Amy Flamholtz, yeshiva day school parent,
partnering with the UJA to establish a megafund in
order to lower day school tuition

Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, Rabbi of Ahavath Torah
in Englewood, NJ, helped found NNJKids.com, a site for
collection and equal distribution of scholarship fund-

Moderated by:

Rabbi Shaul Robinson, Rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue



171 W. 85th St., (212) 769-2850.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS/
INWOOD

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Luncheon, 12 p.m., with a performance by the Claremont Strings and Ensembles, \$7 advance/\$10 at the door, YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood, 54 Nagle Ave., ywashhts.org.

Shabbat

TRIBECA

Friday, Nov. 20

Shabbat Dinner, 7:30 p.m., with Hazon and Farm to Table's Zachary Adam Cohen, \$30 advance/\$35 at the door, 92Y Tribeca, 200 Hudson St., 92Ytribeca.org.

WEST VILLAGE

Friday, Nov. 20

"Sex, Relationships, Obsessions and Torah," 7 p.m., with city writers Amy Sohn and Susan Shapiro, and Rabbi Dan Ain, The New Shul, Shabbat-on-Tap, Honey, 243 W. 14th St., newshul.org.

Special Event

LOWER FIFTH AVENUE

Monday, Nov. 23

"Jewish Identity in the Turkic World," 1 to 5 p.m., panel discussion, cultural and film presentation and reception, screening of "Desperate Hours," Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16th St., paxturcica.com.

WEST VILLAGE

Sunday, Nov. 22

"Creation, The Big Bang and the Search for Truth," 10 a.m., discussion with astrophysicist David Hogg and Rabbi Dan Ain, \$15, City Winery, 155 Varick St., (646) 732-5820.

Youth

UPPER EAST SIDE

Saturday, Nov. 21

Youth Shabbaton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for children in grades 1 to 4, morning groups, fun kiddush, entertainment, Shabbat lunch, zmirot, raffles, sports games and more, \$15 a child, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125 E. 85th St., (212) 774-5635, ckj.org.

WESTCHESTER

Arts

RIVERDALE

Sunday, Nov. 22

"Transcending Stuttering: The Inside Story," 7 to 9 p.m. film screening with documentary makers Uri and Phil Schneider, Whitehall, 3333 Henry Hudson Parkway, events@schneiderspeech.com.

SCARSDALE

**Saturday and Sunday,
Nov. 21 and 22**

"Once Upon a Mattress," Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., the untold story of the Princess and

the Pea, performed by the Bendheim Jr. Performance Troupe, \$20, Bendheim Performing Arts Center, JCC of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, (914) 472-3300, thebendheim.org.

Book

PELHAM MANOR

Sunday, Nov. 22

"Michael Bloomberg: Money, Power, Politics," 10:30 a.m., author talk with Joyce Purnick about her new book, Pelham Jewish Center, 451 Esplanade, (914) 738-6008.

Class

PORT CHESTER

Monday, Nov. 23

Everyday Law in Biblical Israel, 8 to 9:30 p.m., with Mark Jacobowsky, Knesses Tifereth Israel, 575 King St., (914) 939-1004, ktionline.org.

Language

RIVERDALE

Saturday, Nov. 21

"Gracias a la Vida," 12:30 p.m., "Give Thanks to Life," conversation group for Spanish-speaking Jews, following services, Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, 475 W. 250th St., (718) 543-8400.

Lecture

WHITE PLAINS

Thursday, Nov. 19

"Can Israel and the Palestin-

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Parlor Meetings in Teaneck: Tues. Nov. 22, 8PM (1627 Buckingham Road) • In Lawrence: Tues. Nov. 29, 8PM (52 Lawrence Ave)

Please RSVP to the camp office

Rabbi Benzion Scheinfeld, Director • Email: skitorah@yahoo.com • Tel: 201.833.0310 • www.kanfei.com
The new programs are in addition to the flagship program and will run separately.