



W elcome to Battery Park Synagogue

“serving the downtown community since 1986”

The Battery Park Synagogue is a long-standing, unaffiliated egalitarian congregation. We welcome individuals and families of all backgrounds and traditions. We are committed to serving the religious, spiritual and educational needs of the downtown Jewish community.

The Synagogue was founded in 1986 by pioneer downtown residents moving into the newly opened Battery Park City in response to an interest in High Holiday, Festival and Shabbat services as well as the creation of a nurturing environment for Jewish education.

Twenty four years later, the synagogue now provides Hebrew school education for toddlers through teens, including bar- and bat-mitzvah instruction, hosts bi-monthly Shabbat services (including monthly Family Shabbats), joyously celebrates all Festivals, sponsors adult education, Hebrew lessons, Senior’s activities and lectures, addresses lifecycle events and provides a central focus for Jewish community in Battery Park City and the surrounding downtown area, including Tribeca and the Financial District.

Our membership includes individuals from diverse backgrounds working to create and sustain a vibrant Jewish community in lower Manhattan. Our community is strong, determined and resourceful; for example, shortly after the horrific events of September 11, 2001, dozens of our temporarily displaced members, as well as many fire, police and military units, came together from across the New York metropolitan area to observe tashlich in Battery Park City at the Hudson River. One week later, more than 250 individuals braved barricades to return for Yom Kippur services at the TriBeCa Grand hotel. Every year, we Break Fast together after Yom Kippur, celebrate in our communal Sukkah, offer a Passover model seder and participate in *Shabbat Across America* and the *National Jewish Outreach* Hebrew reading program.

Friday night and Saturday morning services are designed and conducted to encompass the full spectrum of the modern Jewish community. Services include a mixture of Hebrew and English to accommodate our diverse membership. Participation, at all levels, by all congregants is strongly encouraged. Particular attention is paid to including women in Jewish ritual. Our services are modern, musical, spiritual, welcoming and egalitarian.

Most regular Shabbat services as well as our Hebrew School classes, lectures and adult education are centralized in a first floor suite of rooms in the *Gateway Plaza* apartment complex across from the *World Financial Center* off Liberty Street in Battery Park City. During the school year, the first Friday of each month is normally designated *Family Shabbat*. Once each month, our pre bar- and bat-mitzvah students sponsor Saturday morning services and kiddush. Larger festival celebrations and services, as well as congregational meetings, are held in a variety of community facilities in Battery Park City. High Holiday services are held at the Marriott Financial Center Hotel. Each bar and bat-mitzvah celebration is unique and custom designed to meet the individual needs of students and their families and have been hosted in a large variety of unique locations downtown and indeed throughout the Metropolitan New York area.

Our Hebrew School offers once weekly classes for children as young as two years old through Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Experienced teachers provide a nurturing, fun environment for Jewish learning. The age-appropriate curriculum includes Hebrew language and prayer, Bible study, holidays and celebrations, history, Jewish and Israeli song and dance and arts and crafts. School-age children attend class once a week. Pre-school classes are scheduled for Sunday or weekday mornings as demand dictates. Tot-Shabbat Sing-a-Longs on Friday afternoons accommodate families with pre-school children.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah instruction is set up with the active participation of Cantor Zachary Konigsberg and our Hebrew school faculty to encourage and assist families who want their young teenagers to experience this important passage into adulthood within the Downtown Jewish Community. Mastering of Torah and Haftorah portions are facilitated by individualized private study. However, students are encouraged to participate in more than just the formalized reading of their specific portions to encourage and support their entrance in Jewish adulthood.

Congregants often receive updates and news about services and community events, as well as weekly parsha summaries and commentary, by e-mail. In addition, we publish a comprehensive and fact filled Newsletter. To subscribe to either, simply provide us with your mailing and/or e-mail addresses. Individuals may always call the synagogue to find out the latest updates and schedules of services.

We welcome everyone who has an interest in discovering or reuniting with the special spiritual and social pleasures that come with joining a vibrant Downtown Jewish community.

Please join us!