



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 nine years later, the synagogue provides bar- and bat-mitzvah instruction, hosts Shabbat services, joyously celebrates 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 taschlich 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 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 Shabbat services and 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. Larger festival celebrations and services, as well as congregational meetings, are held in a variety of community facilities in Battery Park City. 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.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah instruction is set up with the active participation of clergy including Cantor Zachary Konigsberg. 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 receive updates and news about services and community events, as well as parsha summaries and commentary, by e-mail. In addition, we periodically publish an on-line Newsletter. To subscribe to either, simply provide us with your mailing and/or e-mail addresses.

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.

Join us!