

CENTER SNAPSHOTS

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE CENTER.

WINTER 2023
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

THE CENTER'S ANNUAL

PURIM CARNIVAL



**Sunday
March 5
12-3:30 PM**

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UNTOLD STORIES: THE JEWS OF EGYPT

Photos from our special event
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SPECIAL NEW PURIM EXPO!

featuring Purim-related vendors
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THE STARS OF THE WIZARD OF OZ

An amazing production!
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the center

Day Camp

**REGISTRATION
IS NOW
OPEN!**

Camp Starts
Tuesday, June 27



**Don't miss
out on the
best
summer
yet!**

WeReady Are You??



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@CenterDayCamp

for up-to-date information!

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Center Snapshots designed and produced by Mary Halabani, Janice Mizrahi, and Greta Schwartz



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

Sabrina Maleh

The Sephardic Community Center is a unique institution.

It serves all ages of our community each and every day. This past Fall was a banner year for all our departments and its programs. We had the most participation we have ever had, the widest variety of innovative programming and our busiest calendar yet. Those benchmarks are a tribute to our very talented and outstanding staff. Their dedication, energy and attention to detail is the reason we have had such a successful season.



Programming begins with our 18-month-old children in Playcare all the way up to our Senior Adults and every age group in between. Our programmers cater and tailor-make programs for all the different age groups. They look at what the interests are for that group and create and plan programs for the mind, body, and soul.

Programming with a purpose is a mantra we try and follow as we create the calendar for each season. "Is it something they would be interested in?", "will they learn something?", "will it make their life better in some way?", "is it exciting?" are just some of the questions we ask when we brainstorm what we will be doing in each department in the weeks to come.

We have also enjoyed many collaborations within our programming schedule that have helped us reach out to a much broader audience within our community such as, SBH, Magen David Yeshiva, Yeshivah of Flatbush, Propel, Barkai, South Brooklyn Health, Mount Sinai Hospital, AIPAC, SCA, Moise Safra Center, Sephardic Heritage Museum, Parkinson's Caregivers, Mitzvah Man, Jewish History Museum the list goes on and on.

It is an honor and a privilege to work with our wonderful, talented, and dedicated program team:



- Early Childhood- Inbal Khabieh and Lisette Lalo
- Youth and 78's- Harry Chazanoff and Lillian Ebani
- Teens and Young Adults- Aliza Goldberg
- Women's Culture Club- Julie Sherr
- Senior Adults- Aimee Mishan and Ashley Rosen
- Health and Wellness- David Jolovitz and Gaby Shmoonov
- Athletic and Leagues- Harry Chazanoff and David Jolovitz
- Arts and Culture- Kathy Shabot
- Special Events- Temmi Laifer

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." – Phil Jackson

Sabrina Maleh

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF PROGRAMS CHAIR

Talia Toussie



Hi there! You could be anyone. I'm not sure if you have just had a baby, are a teenager going to exercise, a mom sending her child to our preschool, or a senior who plays cards in our building. You could be praying at one of many different synagogues, have a child in one of many different schools, and live in one of many different zip codes. However, the commonality we all have is this: we know that 1901 Ocean Parkway is worth finding parking for!

When you look at these pictures, I'm pretty confident you will see someone you love smiling. That is always great to see. But, what is even better is this - in these pictures nobody is looking down at their phones or staring at a screen - even in the candid ones. They are out there making memories, having meaningful human interactions, and making friends. Sometimes it takes hindsight to appreciate the importance of these moments. I was in the Center a few weeks ago, and old pictures caught my eye (remember the fashion shows of the early 90s anyone?). I thought about all the times the Center has been there through different stages of my life, and how great each stage has been. How many pizza bagels were microwaved on the second floor? Who remembers waiting on the second floor for corn muffins? The young adult plays? Playcare at Brooklyn College? Ski trips?

Nostalgia aside, these pictures show how this semester was full of programming that was thoughtful, organized, and fun. I can go on and on. The crazy thing is that no matter how innovative this semester is, our goal is to "one up" it and make the next semester even better. It's never ending. Dare I say, it's grueling and even daunting. Yet, Sabrina Maleh, who is in charge of programming, keeps on setting the bar higher and higher. She also wrote a letter in this issue - I do not know when she has the time! Sabrina and her staff are busy planning - no matter how crazy, (I take that back - it actually does matter) or how far (it actually does NOT matter - we are sending our camp to Iceland and Israel this summer - that is NOT a typo). I wish everyone understood the work the staff puts into programs that don't make it into our schedule for some reason or another. Joey Tawil makes sure we don't rest until we give you the best programs in the best facility. Period. When you look through these pages, you will see the amount of programs that we put out this semester. It's staggering. While many don't interest you at this time, they probably will one day, or they are important to someone you care about today. So look through them anyway, find someone you care about, and then tell them they looked fabulous.

What makes us an unbelievable community is that we realize we are stronger together.

I have been volunteering here for over 20 years. That's a long time. I have been fortunate enough to learn so much from my fellow board members and staff here. I am still awed by their empathy and perseverance. I can tell you one thing I learned: to stay relevant for 40 years is unheard of. We are lucky. B"H really lucky, to have a central place that can serve our community, in whatever capacity it may need. What makes us an unbelievable community is that we realize that we are stronger together. As the Center we see a need and fill it. As a community we see a need and fill it. Each one of us can find helpful information with a few phone calls or texts. Think about it - need a doctor referral? A gemach for bake sale containers? Help with tutoring? Help with social services? There is an organization for that. Our community is inspiring and amazing. **One Community. One Center.** The Center is proud to unify, partner with, and support all our community organizations. May Hashem make our bonds unbreakable.



Talia Toussie

THE CENTER'S ANNUAL

PURIM CARNIVAL



Sunday
March 5
12-3:30 PM

EXCITING RIDES | GAMES & PRIZES | KIDDIE LAND

COSTUME CONTESTS | ENTERTAINMENT | QUEEN ESTHER'S SPA

GIFT BAGS FOR ALL KIDS!

\$15 per child | Adults are free | Food is available for purchase

Thank you to our
generous sponsors:



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Temmi Laifer, Director of Special Events

EDMOND J. SAFRA BOOK LAUNCH

We had a beautiful night at the **Edmond J. Safra Book Launch** honoring a truly special individual. The book about world-renowned philanthropist **Edmond J. Safra** was recently released and launched here at the Center with author **Dan Gross**. We had a panel discussion with some of our community members who knew him personally. **Morris Bailey**, **Joe Cayre**, and **Teddy Serure** told us their riveting stories of behind-the-scenes phone calls and interactions with Edmond and showed his true love for every Jewish individual. Mr. Safra's legacy lives on today through the foundation and all the support they provide to all Jews worldwide.



UNTOLD STORIES



THE JEWS OF EGYPT

Their Forced Exodus, 1948-1971



We are so proud of this beautiful collaboration between the Center and the **Sephardic Heritage Museum**. Over 600 gathered together to hear from our featured panelists describing their exodus from Egypt: **Isaac 'Zacko' Chehebar, Irene Avigdor Mamiye, Raymond Habert, Solomon 'Mony' Barnathan, Clement Soffer, and Maurice Shalam**. Special thanks to moderator **Joseph Mosseri**.



GIFT EXPOS



We had two remarkable Gift Expos, showcasing our talented community businesses. We teamed up with **Propel** for our **Hanukkah Gift Expo**, which featured 40 vendors. Fitness classes, health lectures, food and nutritional demos attracted large crowds with great enthusiasm. We also offered complimentary gift-wrapping services to our shoppers. Our second **Gift Expo** featured resort wear from luxury vendors in our community and tri-state area. Shoppers enjoyed a wide lunch selection from **Ouris** and sampling goodies from sweet and savory vendors.



DON'T MISS OUR SPECIAL PURIM EXPO!

PURIM EXPO SHOWCASE

Featuring Mishloach Manot,
Homemade Hamantaschen,
Imported Chocolate,
Fine Italian Wine,
Purim Costumes,
Gourmet food, and
other Purim related items.

Tuesday, Feb. 14
9 am - 4 pm

TO BE A VENDOR,
contact Carmen Sabbagh at (718) 954-3136
or email her at CSabbagh@SCCLive.org.

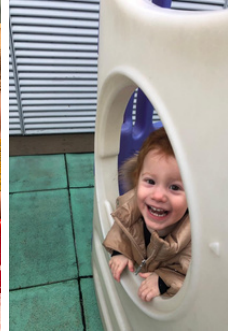


STANLEY A"H & COOKIE CHERA EARLY CHILDHOOD

Inbal Khabieh and Lisette Lalo,
Directors of Early Childhood Education

Estefania Rodas, Administrative Assistant

We welcomed new and returning students while launching our first ever Playcare program for 18-month-olds, as well as our Partners in Play and Jumpstart programs!

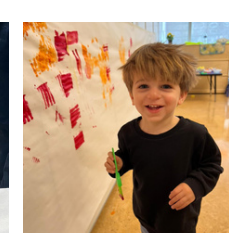


PAJAMA PARTY





Special guests visited us every Rosh Chodesh; Noach in the month of Cheshvan and King Antiochus in the month of Tevet! We also hosted many special events including Open House Play, Pajama Day, Pajama Night at Camp Center, Thanksgiving Feast, Scholastic Book Fair, Hanukkah Activities, Father Child Breakfast, and more!



BAILEY, JEROME, HOROVITS FAMILIES

YOUTH & FAMILY

Lillian Ebani, *Managing Director of Youth & Family Services*

Harry Chazanoff, *Director of Youth Services*

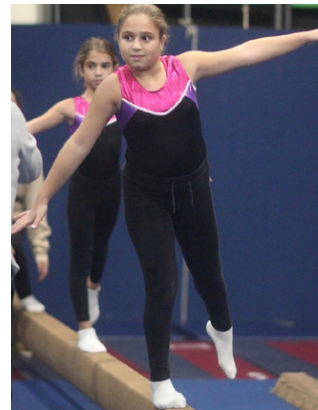
Lauren Sakkal, *Youth Program Supervisor*

Bella Arel, *Youth Program Supervisor*



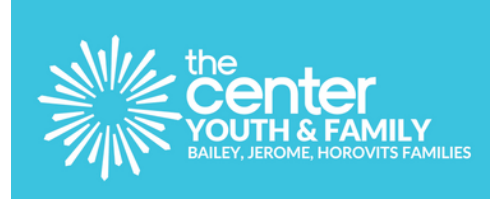
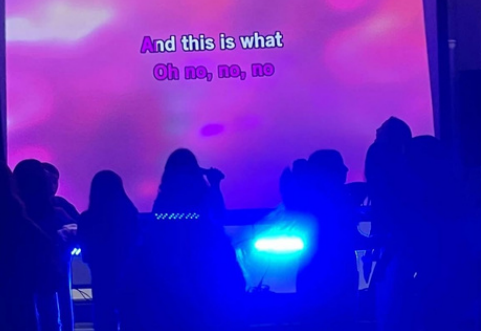
In-house Sunday and Friday programs had an amazing Fall!

A whopping 1,775 kids of all ages are loving Ballers, Nova Gymnastics, Purposeful Play, All in One, Trip Club, Red Zone Football, Triple Threat Sports, and Fridays at Magen, Flatbush, and the Center!



We also held programs over the holidays. 700 kids enjoyed activities at the Center on Erev Yom Kippur and Sukkot, and 120 kids enjoyed crafts and games over Hanukkah.





6th, 7th, and 8th graders have a blast with us every week at **Saturday Night Lights**. Themes change every week, ranging from Black Light Parties, Dodgeball Tournaments, Carnivals, Trips, Cooking Competitions, and more!



Aliza Goldberg, Teen and Young Adult Coordinator

TEENS

Our high school juniors and seniors skated and danced the night away in our gym after hours. There was delicious desserts by Shore Sugar Co, a Photo Booth, Face Paint and old school music to keep on theme with our 70s roller skating party!



JEFF & RACHEL SUTTON

SPORTS & LEAGUES

David Jolovitz, *Director of Health & Wellness*

Harry Chazanoff, *Director of Youth Leagues*

Richie Simon, *Director of Men's Leagues*

CHAMPION

2nd Grade: Warriors

3rd Grade: Bulls

4th Grade: Knicks

5th Grade: Celtics

6th Grade: Hornets

7th Grade: Warriors

8th Grade: Grizzlies

5th & 6th Girls: Knicks

7th & 8th Girls: Celtics



Our 2nd-8th grade boys and 5th & 6th grade girls Ballers Championship was one for the ages! We had a sold-out gym to watch our athletes play on the biggest stage—and they didn't disappoint! Thank you to all the volunteer parent-coaches who help make this league what it is.



MONDAY NIGHT RED GYM CHAMPS



From L to R: Saul Mizrahi, Joey Barnathan, Eddie Erani, Eli Sparky Sadd, Eli Sakkal, Jason Sultan

**AFTER ANOTHER
HARD-FOUGHT SEASON
WE HAVE CROWNED
OUR FALL '22
MEN'S ADULT LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS!**

MONDAY NIGHT BLUE GYM CHAMPS



From L to R: Rabbi Joey Esses, Morris Harary, David Salem, Danny Gamil, Jacky Schwecky, Joey Esses, Harry Chaz

TUESDAY NIGHT CHAMPS



From L to R: Albert Nsiri, Ray Jajati, Mike Mann, Steve Mizrahi, Eli Nahamias, Toby Zafrani

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHAMPS



From L to R: Eli Tobias, Joey Barnathan, Abie Cohen, Sami Sabagh, Ore Nahum, Elliot Elo

THURSDAY NIGHT CHAMPS



From L to R: Henry Frewa, Lenny Rakhmanov, Tal Chalouh, Greg Evelkin, Salim Bahnbahji, Joey Arakanchi

HEALTH & WELLNESS

David Jolovitz, Director of Health & Wellness

Gaby Shimonov, Asst Director of Health & Wellness

GROUP X

In recent months, the Health & Wellness Department has really raised the bar. Group X had welcomed many new instructors and new fitness formats including AMPED (a cardio strength mashup with a 1-on-1 personal training approach), CHISEL (a strength series focusing on a targeted part of the body that changes from class to class), Bosu Burst (a barre and strength fusion class that solely utilizes the Bosu ball) to highlight a few. We also implemented new 7:30 AM classes for our earlier risers and 10:40 AM classes for our members who needed to hit the snooze button a few more times before starting their day at the Center. We spiced up our week-to-week class schedule with a few pop-ups along the way that included Kick-Hopping, Zumba Toning, and a long time Center favorite The FORMula.

To quench our members thirst for more than just fitness and of course to fuel their workouts, we set up a complimentary coffee bar on the second floor right outside of the spin room that can be found between 8-10:30 AM during the week. Our two lucky Project X Raffle winners Laurie Esses and Grace Farrah won our first-place prize of an entire year membership to Group X and second place prize of a one semester membership to Group X.

To introduce teens to the world of group fitness, we launched evening classes for girls ages 15-20 years old at a discounted rate. They tried Yoga, Cardio Dance and Strength basics from our top instructors. With all of this growth in our schedule we added new bars for barre in room 206, 12- & 15-pound dumbbells, ankle weights and many more resistance bands. Be sure to check out our quickly growing Instagram @sccexercise for our weekly schedule, pop-ups, events, updates and more.

For more Group Fitness information, please contact David Jolovitz at DavidJ@SCCLive.org.





Our Fitness Center has welcomed some new and impressive equipment.

Now featuring a seated hamstrings curl machine, belt – squat machine, and a second cable crossover machine. The seated hamstrings curl machine allows one to train their hamstrings comfortably and easily without having to get into any awkward positions. The belt – squat machine grants you the freedom to squat light or heavy weights, without having to load a barbell and placing unwanted stress on your lower back. And the new cable crossover machine allows you to train various muscle groups through a frenzy of creative pulls, pushes, and raises. With these new additions, it's safe to say that our gym is stacked.

To introduce younger teens to a healthy lifestyle we jump started a new limited-time program called Night Shift. A small group training fitness program for young teen boys ages 13-17. Night Shift granted our younger members the opportunity to exercise in our state-of-the-art fitness studios while receiving expert instruction from our talented trainers. Night Shift classes focused on weight-loss, strength training, and building muscle. We look forward to relaunching the program again next winter.

We're always planning ahead, so stay tuned for details regarding the 1901 Fitness **Annual Bench Press Contest**. Need to strengthen your bench in time for the contest, or looking to start on your fitness journey? Our team of expert trainers are here to help. For more information, please contact David Jolovitz - Davidj@SCCLive.org or Gaby Shimonov - Gaby@SCCLive.org

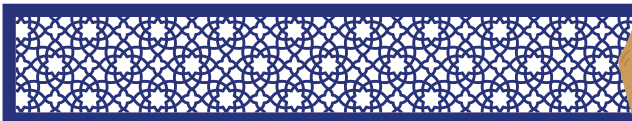


YOUNG ADULTS

Aliza Goldberg, Teen and Young Adult Coordinator

Fall kicked off with some great social events! A fun Friday night dinner in collaboration with the Safra Synagogue in the city, and later in the month, we had a gorgeous rooftop party and watched the sunset while enjoying artisanal pizza, games, and drinks throughout the night.

The crowning jewel of the Center's Young Adult programming took us on a beautiful trip to Marrakesh, Morocco over Thanksgiving! We had a great time watching the sunrise on hot air balloons, ATVing, camel riding, jeep riding through the Atlas Mountains, touring the souk, Marjorelle Gardens, Berber Village, and so much more! A few weeks later, it was great seeing everyone at our reunion, where our group enjoyed a slideshow while catching up with their trip mates at Sincerely, Ophelia.



In December, 70 Young Adults enjoyed "Art of the Date," a cozy evening with Akimori sushi and open bar. We were joined by dating specialists **Rori Sassoon** and **Dr. Errol Gluck**, who led an interesting talk and Q&A on all things dating and relationships. We also held a **Stocking Up: Cooking for the Pantry**, where our kitchen filled with volunteers, as well as several other fun events.



FUN



WOMEN'S CULTURE CLUB

These past couple of months have been phenomenal!

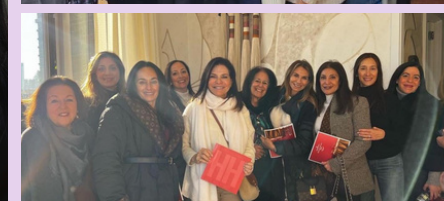
We took trips to Brooklyn Heights Designer Showhouse, Holiday House NYC, and toured artists' studios in Dumbo. We also attended some amazing Broadway shows including *The Piano Lesson*, *Almost Famous*, *MJ the musical*, *Funny Girl*, & *Juliet*. We discussed *Lessons in Chemistry* at our **Book Club**, and Netflix's *The Empress* at **Psychology in Film**.



To stay up-to-date on all our events, make sure to follow us on Instagram: @CenterCultureClub



We also held two exciting special events! Our first event was with **Rori Sassoon**, relationship expert and author, who lead a fantastic workshop on strengthening relationships. Our second special event included a panel of best-selling female authors **Rochelle Weinstein**, **Elyssa Friedland**, **Jackie Friedland** and **Samantha Woodruff**, along with our very own **Corie Adjmi**!



ARTS & CULTURE

Kathy Shabot, Director of Arts & Culture

Sam Torjman, Director of Musical Arts

The past few months in the Arts & Culture Department has offered a variety of programs, from cooking to art to music, and even some education. We kicked off Fall by gathering volunteers to prep and package meals for Holocaust survivors in need with **Sarah Hanan** and **Me for We**. Everyone helped cook food for Rosh Hashanah for 70 holocaust survivors!

In November, we had a class on **Plaster Painting** with **Monique Zeitouny Dayan**. Our young moms came out for a fun evening to express themselves in a new medium.



Encore Music School

Our **Vocal Jazz Workshop**, **Music Exploration for Toddlers**, and regular **Vocal Workshops** have been having a great semester! Sundays are teeming with multiple private lessons happening at the Center. Encore faculty presented a school-wide concert for **MDY**, one of our Encore Outreach partners, that had everybody jazzed up! On top of that, our youngsters performed an incredible, memorable rendition of **The Wizard of Oz**.





The Center's production of **The Wizard of Oz** was a smash hit! The kids put on an amazing, entertaining show, with a fun and educational story line, great songs, and the best choreographed dance moves! Thank you to **Sonja Cabasso, Natalie Terzi, and Amanda Saul** for providing such an experience for our community.





We had a packed house at **Making a Difference with Noa Tishby**, Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism and Delegitimization of Israel. Thank you to **Abraham Hamra** from **Uprooted Justice** for moderating such an enlightening discussion and to the **Sephardic Community Alliance** for collaborating on this event.



SOCIAL SERVICES

Brain Works is enjoying their time playing memory games, singing, exercising, and painting. We are excited that this group is back to coming two times a week for classes and lunch!

Rock Steady Boxing classes are back in full swing with new participants. We've also had many informative lectures enjoyed by all! In honor of National Alzheimer's Awareness month this past September, we had **Mount Sinai Hospital** present a lecture on "**Alzheimer's From A to Z.**" The presentation explained what constitutes regular memory loss and when memory loss is concerning. **Inspired Memory Care & Senior Helpers** discussed "**Aging and the Brain.**" They explained the most common misconceptions of dementia. We also had **Mitch Coopersmith** give a lecture in the afternoon and a Zoom in the evening on **Understanding Medicare 2022.** Both were extremely well attended!



Our **New Beginning's Social Club for Widows** enjoyed three fabulous events. Our first event included dinner with **Amy Chehebar**, who guided them through a night of blessings for the New Year. At our second event, participants enjoyed dinner and an art class with **Sophie Shabot**, who taught everyone how to paint with watercolors. Participants had a blast and left with beautiful paintings to display in their homes. At our final event, everyone enjoyed a Hanukkah party generously donated by the **Mitzvah Man.**



We had a lavish dinner, musical entertainment, raffle prizes and a gifts for all!

We've held continuous virtual events for those with Parkinson's, including monthly support groups for caregivers and weekly Healing Music classes.



SENIOR CENTER

Ashley Rosen, Director of Senior Center
Aimee Mishaan, Senior Center Supervisor

Daily exercise classes, trips, seminars, and special events means our seniors are always on the move and having fun! Some of the trips we went on include Grounds for Sculptures, Alice Austin House, Snug Harbor, Circle Line Cruise, High Line and Little Island Park, Gustav Klimt: Gold in Motion Immersive Exhibit, Met Live Opera: La Traviata, Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Tour, New York Public Library Tour, Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center, King Tut Immersive Exhibit, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. We also saw Broadway shows Get on Your Feet and The Sound of Music!





After the summer, 100+ seniors attended our **Welcome Back Party** at the Center with **SBH**. Events flowed throughout the next couple of months and included **DIY Luminary Map Bags, Pizza, Popcorn and Movie** viewing parties with **Esther Jaffe**, and a **Healthy Eating Lecture** with **Sandy Stein**.



We loved celebrating the holidays together. 120+ Seniors enjoyed a phenomenal Thanksgiving celebration, and 220+ Seniors enjoyed lunch, dancing, singing, giveaways, and more at our **Hanukkah Party!** The Men's Club got their sweat on during an upper body workout with our very own **David Jolovitz**. They also enjoyed a comedy show and a presentation on breathing exercises.



MEMBERSHIP

Your Center Membership includes:

Priority Registration to our most popular programs

Access to our members-only Preschool

Better Prices for all Center programs and classes

Members-Only Special Programs for kids throughout the year

Senior Exercise & Programs

Top-notch, Competitive Leagues open to members only

Plus:

Newly Renovated State-of-the-art Fitness Center

- Featuring the latest cardio and conditioning equipment
- Complimentary fitness evaluation with a personal trainer
- Free, pop-up fitness workshops and demonstrations

Three Full-Court Basketball Courts

25-Meter Heated Pool

- Free swim, lap swim, and private and semi-private instructional swim
- Separate men's and women's hours with adjacent locker rooms
- Aqua Aerobics, a special exercise class for members only

Racquetball Courts

Access to Rooftop Early Childhood Playground

All in a clean, safe, and convenient location



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 718-627-4300

Stop by our Membership Office, or call Alan Anzaroot, Membership Coordinator, at 718-954-3135, AAnzaroot@SCCLive.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

all dates subject to change



AUTHOR CHAT & SIGNING, A SHOE STORY: TUESDAY, FEB. 7

JEWELRY MAKING: TUESDAY, FEB. 7

TRIP: SKYSCRAPER MUSEUM: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

BROADWAY SHOW: A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

AN EVENING WITH BETSY BERNS KORN: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

PURIM EXPO SHOWCASE: TUESDAY, FEB. 14

TRIP: POTTERY PAINTING: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

HEART HEALTHY DIET WITH NINA DAHAN: TUESDAY, FEB. 21

SELF DEFENSE CLASS: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

TRIP: LUNCH & SHOW TO SEE HERCULES: THURSDAY, FEB. 23

ENCORE STAGESHOW: THURSDAY, FEB. 23

TOASTMASTERS: MONDAY, FEB. 27

PURIM CARNIVAL: SUNDAY, MARCH 5

BROADWAY SHOW: CAMELOT: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

BROADWAY SHOW: SWEENEY TODD: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

BENCH PRESS CONTEST: TUESDAY, APRIL 25



The Center



Center Gym



Group X



Culture Club



Young Adults



Preschool



Day Camp



Youth



Encore Music



Events



Center Sports



Seniors



Teens



Simply Traditional



Dance



Center PTA



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