

January 27 tour of the Shearith Israel Synagogue by the students of the Tikvah Program, a Hebrew school program for children with special needs.

Myra Hushansky, director and instructor

I can only thank you over and over again. What an incredible experience! Janet Kirchheimer was our tour guide, and her expertise coupled with her warmth and ease working with my interruptions and repeated explanations and demonstrations needed for our students, was a gift to us.

Our students actually requested this post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah class this year, and we decided to make it project-based. Our first unit of study was immigration followed by Synagogues. We visited Ellis Island and the Tenement Museum, and now Shearith Israel, which joins the studies perfectly. Seeing history in front of us--the 'taba' (bimah for our students) and the Nair Tamid from the 1700s brings us all standing in the steps of those Sephardic Jews and draws a direct line from them to us. Our students were attentive and excited. They were awed by the beauty of the place, saw its similarities to our own Synagogue but understood its place, and therefore their place, in history--history of the United States and in Jewish history

As an educator, I couldn't have asked for more. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you to Janet for her wonderful and highly individualized preparation. We'll be back!

Myra Hushansky
Tikvah Program
Brotherhood Synagogue