



# Brotherhood Synagogue ביה

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## A Blessing for the Czar?

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

I'm not a seasoned actor on the stage, so when they once again type-cast me as the rabbi in the Hebrew School's upcoming rendition of *Fiddler on the Roof*, I had to do my research and seek my motivation. Who was this rabbi of Anatevka? What was his community like? How did he administer to their needs? What were his dreams and aspirations?

The Tevye stories take place in a time of great political unrest in Russia's history between 1884 and 1917. The assassination of Czar Alexander II was followed by his son, Alexander III, avenging his father's death with repression. After his death in 1894, Alexander III's son, Nicholas II, came to power, continuing to prohibit political change, censoring the press and persecuting the Jews.

In 1905 the protests against the Czar began increasing with the peasants in an uproar over the redistribution of land and the factory workers in the major cities going on strike. The Czar attacked the Jewish community for the political unrest, stating that 90 percent of the revolutionaries were Jewish. This led to the anti-Semitic decrees against Tevye and the Jewish population and to the relocation of over two million Jews between 1880 and 1920.

Anatevka's rabbi surely spent most of his time teaching, ruling on Jewish matters, and keeping up the spirits of the Jewish community. And so, when the townspeople acknowledge that in Judaism there exists a blessing for everything, and then a disciple asks, "Rabbi, is there a proper blessing for the Czar?" the rabbi ponders for a moment and then comes up with the answer: "May God bless and keep the Czar... far away from us!" That's my one line. That's the line that I have to enunciate clearly with dramatic flair.

It turns out that historically there was a blessing for the Czar in Jewish prayer books of the time. Just as the Jews of Britain pray for their monarch and Jews of the United States offer a prayer on behalf of the President, the Jews of Russia had the following prayer: "May the One who gives power to kings, and

sovereignty to princes; may the One who is the Ruler of rulers... bless and keep, guard and aid, exalt and raise the Czar Nicholas Alexanderovich, and his widowed mother, Czarina Marie Feodorovna, and his wife the royal Czarina Alexandra Feodorovna, and their heir, Grigory... May God save them from all harm and pain, and may all their enemies fall before them. And may the Merciful One put in the heart of the Czar compassion and good deeds for the People of Israel..."

At least for public consumption the Jews prayed on behalf of the Czar and his family. Their demise did not come about without harm and pain. So you don't always get what you pray for but rather what God and life have in store for you. Or as Tevye himself would say: "*Rabovs makhshovovs belev ish*—many are the thoughts in a man's heart but the counsel of the Lord shall prevail"—isn't that what it says in the Bible. I don't have to spell it out for you, Pani Sholom Aleichem, but in ordinary language, that is, in plain Yiddish, it means the best horse can do with a whipping and the cleverest man with advice."

And the novice actor, what advice to offer him? Say your line, get off the stage, and let the kids shine. 🌈

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 7:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 9:30 AM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Schneider*

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 7:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 9:30 AM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Goldstein*  
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 5:00 PM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Payton Goldstone*

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 7:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 9:30 AM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Myles Pace*

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 9:30 AM  
*B'nai Mitzvah of  
Lucien and Valentina Sadykov-Peposhi*

## Honoring Cantor Mike Weis Friday, June 9

Please join us for 7:30 pm Friday evening services and at the Oneg which follows to honor Cantor Mike Weis. We wish him and his family well and thank him for his dedicated service to the Brotherhood Synagogue community.

## The Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School Presents Their Adaptation of

Wednesday  
May 17

Thursday  
May 18

@ 7 PM



TICKETS  
\$30

All performances  
will take place in the  
Community Room  
at the Brotherhood  
Synagogue

Proceeds benefit the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School

For more information call 212-674-5750 ext. 210

## Life Goes On

Our April tour of the Georgia O’Keeffe exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art was amazing, both the museum itself and the special exhibit are a tribute to the extraordinary resources New York City offers. We are very grateful to David Berliner, the president of the museum, for his help in arranging our tour. Dinner with good friends in the museum’s beautiful restaurant filled with priceless art was a memorable experience.

On **Wednesday, May 24, at 4 pm** our group returns to the magnificent Eldridge Street Synagogue, a National Historic Landmark that opened in 1887. During our private historical/architectural tour we will learn about the history of the Synagogue’s immigrant founders and how the first great house of worship built by East European Jews in America was created. We will explore the Eldridge Street Synagogue from bottom to top, and investigate hidden design features that reveal its 127-year story. An insider’s perspective into the museum’s recent restoration by architect Deborah Gans and commission of a new window by artist Kiki Smith will also be presented.

As per our tradition, dinner will follow the tour, most likely in an unusual vegetarian/kosher Chinese restaurant in the area, with details to follow. The cost of the tour is \$8 per person. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Agnes.

Another interesting event is occurring in May that I would like to make you aware of. At **6:30 pm Wednesday, May 17**, at the Center for Jewish History, David Dalin will be presenting his new book *Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: From Brandeis to Kagan* on the lives and careers of the eight Jewish Justices in U.S. history, followed by a discussion of the book. Senior tickets cost \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door. Please let Agnes know by May 1 if you would like to attend, we can reserve a number of seats in advance.

*Life Goes On* is a group for those of us who have lost a spouse or life partner and want to experience the beauty, joy, and opportunity that New York life offers surrounded by supportive friends who understand and share in the loss. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the group, please come to our meetings—we would be happy to see you! If you have any questions, please call **Agnes Marton at 917.519.4427** or e-mail her at [Iagnesmarton@gmail.com](mailto:Iagnesmarton@gmail.com) or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750. 🌸

## Shabbat Club Saturday, May 20, 1 pm

The monthly Shabbat Club will meet on **Saturday, May 20 at 1 pm** in the second floor reception room opposite the sanctuary entrance. Snacks and beverages will be provided and details about our speaker will be announced, when finalized, in the weekly email. Please contact Deborah Newman if you have any questions. All are welcome to attend Shabbat Club meetings!

## SHAVUOT SERVICES

### Erev Shavuot: Tuesday, May 30, 8:00 pm

We will once again follow the practice of staying up late on Erev Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah, in order to engage in Jewish study. This study session, led by Rabbi Daniel Alder, will begin following the 8:00 pm services and will conclude at 9:30 pm. A traditional light dairy meal will be served. Communal study then continues at the 14th Street Y.

### First Day of Shavuot: Wednesday, May 31, 9:30 am

### Second Day of Shavuot: Wednesday, May 31, 8:30 pm Thursday, June 1, 9:30 am

*Yizkor will be recited around 12 pm at services on Thursday, June 1. Shavuot is one of the four times a year when we recite Yizkor prayers in memory of our loved ones. It is traditional to give gifts of charity in their names. May every gift be blessed and the givers thereof.*



## Camp Is the Greatest by Marjorie Ingall

Jewish sleepaway camp was one of the great formative experiences of my life. I met some of the closest friends I have today in Palmer, MA when I was 12. I learned responsibility through *nikayon* (daily clean-up). I learned Torah and *tefilah* while sitting in the woods. I loved and hated the intensity of Maccabiah (color war) and felt personally responsible for every point won or lost. I had my first kiss at camp. I lived for the shivery melancholy of holding hands with my bunkmates and singing *Rad HaYom* at the end of the day, knowing that there was one fewer day of camp left, knowing that time was passing and was gone forever. (Go look on YouTube for the video of Camp Ramah in California alum Ben Platt, of *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Pitch Perfect* fame, singing *Rad HaYom* and *Shalom Rav* at the Jewish Theological Seminary a couple of years ago, and imagine me watching that video and sniffing like a sentimental idiot.)

Now my kids are camp veterans. They adore it. They too have made intense friendships; they too pray with *kavannah*—passion and intention—in the bosom of nature. They too love the late-night philosophical discussions and the chance to borrow dresses from their bunkmates on Shabbat and loan them lip gloss in return. Even as I gasp at the cost of Jewish camp, I see it as a sound investment in my kids’ happiness, and in their Jewish future. Why? Because it is a kid-centered, kid-powered, outdoorsy dunk in the agam (lake) of positive Jewish identification. A 2011 study on the longterm effects of Jewish overnight camp found that non-Orthodox Jewish adults who’d attended Jewish camps were significantly more Jewishly engaged as adults—based on 13 different barometers of engagement—than peers who didn’t attend Jewish overnight camp. And I believe it.

Zach Lasker, the former director of Camp Ramah in California, talked with me for a story in *Tablet Magazine* about what makes Jewish camp the incredibly potent experience it is. He

said, “Studies have shown us that the more immersive an experience is, the more ‘sticky’ it is, in a good way. That goes for learning anything: language, music, culture.” Because overnight camp is such an intense, shared experience, it feels hyper-real and meaningful. You’re with your friends 24/7. You see them in multiple contexts: You see what they’re good at and what they struggle with, and you gain insight into your own accomplishments and weaknesses. You and your bunkmates fight and make up, because the intimacy of camp means you can’t (and don’t want to) fight indefinitely.” Lasker noted that “an hour in camp is like a month in the outside world... Everything cycles so quickly.”

And in Jewish summer camp, Jewish values and identity-builders are integrated into everything. There are Israeli pop songs and Jewish folk dances. Everyday objects are called by their Hebrew names. Kids play fierce games of *gaga* (aka Israeli dodge ball) and discuss the week’s Torah portion. Kids with different levels of Jewish education and cluefulness and levels of observance live together and respect each other’s differences. It’s one big Trojan Horse of Yiddishkeit.

The one thing I’d urge parents pondering where to send their kids is to make sure their kids’ camp is truly menschy, as opposed to merely paying lip service to menschiness while tolerating bullying and disrespect. I’ve heard horror stories about entitled behavior at some Jewish camps, and I’m sure you have, too. This just means you have to do your homework before sending your kid. I knew Josie was in the right place when she sent me a postcard saying she fell during the Apache Relay (my nightmare! Like something out of *Meatballs!*) and a kid on another team, a girl she didn’t even know, stopped to help her up and brush her off and make sure she was OK. Hey, good camp values! And good Jewish values. 🌸

*A longer version of this piece appeared in Tablet Magazine.*

## CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 69TH INDEPENDENCE DAY!



Tuesday, May 2nd • 7 pm

@ Brotherhood Synagogue



Come and dance and explore the diverse culture of Israel with **ANBESSA ORCHESTRA** - a Brooklyn-based Israeli band. Dance to the sounds of Ethiopian inspired Jazz. Wine, beer, snacks from Israel!

\$14. Purchase tickets on our website.



Salon Sanctuary at Brotherhood Synagogue

### In the Salon of Mademoiselle Levi:

#### Viols at the Revolution

Thursday, May 11, 8:00 pm

Who was the mysterious Mlle. Levi, whose pardessus playing took Paris by storm in 1745? Thought to come from either Rouen, Rennes or Rheims, she burst upon the Concerts Spirituels, a complete unknown, performed there an unprecedented five times in three years, only to disappear then reemerge in the Mercure Galant in 1783, advertising for pupils. Her salon sparked interest in the most fashionable music of her time, aiding the careers of her peers while she vanished into the shadows. This concert features music by Mlle. Levi's friends and contemporaries, composers such as Leclair, Marais, Forqueray, Rebel and Couperin, performed by members of the award-winning ensemble Hesperus.



Members of Brotherhood Synagogue, please call our office (212) 674-5750 to receive the special discount code to purchase reduced price tickets (\$20).

\*Salon/Sanctuary Concerts was founded in 2009 by Artistic Director Jessica Gould in order to present early music in intimate venues which complement both the acoustic and the historical context of the repertoire and to encourage understanding among people of different faiths through the performance of sacred works in sanctuaries appropriate to the repertoire. <http://www.salonsanctuary.org/aboutus.html>



## Comes to Downtown Jewish Life

Brotherhood and other member organizations of Downtown Jewish Life (DJL) are excited to bring this special series of speakers during the month of May from the Israeli organization—Shaharit.

At Shaharit Ultra-Orthodox and secular activists talk together about how to make educational and religious policies for the common good; our Israeli-Arab and religious Zionist activists work together on new approaches to Israel as a state with both a Jewish and democratic identity; our Mizrahi and Ashkenazi activists collaborate on innovative cultural models that contain the best of both traditions.

Shaharit runs dozens of programs, ranging from leadership development in Israeli Arab towns, to cutting-edge surveys of Ultra-Orthodox Jews, to community organizing in local municipalities, to their flagship “120” program that cultivates the next generation of Israeli national leaders.

We hope you will join us for the final lectures in the series:

Sunday, May 7, 4:30 pm

**Menachem Bombach at Town & Village Synagogue**

Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 pm

**Eilon Schwartz at JCP**

שלום עליכם

## SHOLOM ALEICHEM

101<sup>TH</sup> YAHRZEIT

*“...gather with my children and with the grandchildren and with just good friends and read this last will of mine, and pick out a story, one of the really merry ones...”*



As requested by Sholom Aleichem in his will, the traditional readings of his stories will take place on

**Sunday, May 21, at 8 PM sharp**

at the Brotherhood Synagogue and our members are again cordially invited to join in the laughter and refreshments.

Please call the office (212.674.5750) or visit [www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org](http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org) to RSVP if you would like to be present for this joyous occasion.

**SAVE THE DATE! Brotherhood Synagogue Annual Meeting • Tuesday, June 13, 2017 • 6:30 PM**

The congregation will vote on important matters including the budget and trustees.



## Happenings in Our Kehilah

### B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

**Mitchell and Celeste Schneider** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Sophie Schneider**. Sophie, a student at Salk School of Science, will celebrate her simcha with her older brother, **Max**.

**Robert and Abby Goldstein** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Sadie Goldstein**. Sadie, a student at Salk School of Science, will celebrate her simcha with her older brother, **Max**.

**Michael Goldstone and Rochelle Fox** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Payton Goldstone**. Payton, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate her simcha with her older sister, **Riley**.

**Matthew and Caryn Pace** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Myles Pace**. Myles, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate his simcha with his younger sister, **Lily**.

**Deanna Sadykov** on the B'nai Mitzvah of her children, **Lucien and Valentina Sadykov-Peposhi**. Lucien is a student at the Heschel School and Valentina at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Rachel Schneider and Josh Erich** on the birth and naming of their daughter, **Lily Eve (Leah Chava) Erich**; and to grandparents, **Susan and Evan Schneider**.

**Carole Roller and Michael Zenreich** on the birth and naming of their granddaughter, **Hannah Rose (Hadassah Shoshana) Weiss**, born to **Sara and Eric Weiss**.

**Laura and Jeff Raider** on the birth of their daughter, **Elizabeth Raider**; and to older siblings, **Charles and Emma**.

**Mara and Jonathan Blum** on the birth of their grandson, **Liam Henig Blum**, born to **Sharon and Benjamin Blum**.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Roberta and Steve Glusband** on the marriage of their son **Jonathan Glusband** to **Mallory Weinshall**.

**Bonnie Franklin Kramer** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Mira Kramer**, born to **Jacob and Sara Anne Kramer**.

### Condolences to:

**Sylvia Fendel Rosenbach** on the passing of her husband, and our member, **Max Rosenbach**.

**Alyson Fendel Breier** on the passing of her step-father, **Max Rosenbach**.

**Marc Sherinsky** on the passing of his father, **Irving Sherinsky**.

**Milena Cornick** on the passing of her sister, **Neva Sacco**.

**Claire Gaines** on the passing of her sister, **Judith Gaines**.

**Bob Salant** on the passing of his mother, and our member, **Grace Salant**.

**Paul Rothchild** on the passing of his father, **Joseph Rothchild**.

**Michael Barr** on the passing of his father, **William Barr**. 🌊



### HUMMUS!

Participants learning the ins and out of how to make delicious hummus at home last month with **Downtown Shaliach, Tal Rozenbaum**.

## President's Post

by **Trudi Rae Bartow**



The old saying is true, April showers do bring May flowers. Now that spring is fully here we are surrounded by a riotous collection of beautiful blooms! They are stuffed into flower boxes, on any free space on side walks and in the malls on busy avenues. Take a minute and look around at all the flowers on your walks through New York and remember that these flowers didn't grow by themselves. It takes a tremendous amount of both city workers and volunteers to maintain these spaces

One of my favorite quotes from the Talmud, that I have framed in calligraphy above my indoor herb planters, is "every blade of grass has an angel that whispers over it, grow, grow, grow." It's a truly beautiful sentiment that can be applicable to so much in our lives.

A fantastic way that you could bring some cheerful blossoms into our synagogue is to donate flowers for the bima or for the tables at special events like Shabbat dinners and kiddish lunches. You can also make donations that are specially earmarked to help maintain our outside gardens. Want to put those flowers to a more compassionate use? Contact me below to find out how you can donate to help make bouquets for nursing home residents, a lovely gesture in time for Mother's Day.

Wishing you a season of bountiful growth!

—Trudi ([Trudirae@gmail.com](mailto:Trudirae@gmail.com)) 🌊

## A Note from Development: ANNUAL FUND NEWS – BOARD CHALLENGE GRANT!

**OUR PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON MAY 8th, HAS BEEN POSTPONED, TO BE HELD AT A FUTURE DATE - TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Though the date has been postponed, this informative session will be held at a future date and will address various ways you may include the Brotherhood Synagogue in your estate plans, including bequests, naming the synagogue as beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA, among other options. Providing for The Brotherhood in this way helps ensure our future as it establishes your legacy of giving for generations to come. Please contact me at 212-674-5750 x 203 or email me at [mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) if you are interested in learning more and/or attending a learning session in the near future. We are looking forward to embarking on an exciting Planned Giving venture at The Brotherhood and we will keep you updated on future developments.

### Annual Fund

Meanwhile, the Annual Fund continues to be the engine that drives the Synagogue and enables us to continue to offer the wide range and scope of programs we do—including many chesed projects—as well as keep the building open to accommodate the amazing array of wonderful programs and services we provide. If you have not yet made your gift to the Annual Fund this year, you may send a check to my attention or call me at 212-674-5750 x 203 to make your gift by credit card. I look forward to hearing from one and all and thank you in advance for your support.

—Marilyn Strozak  
Director of Development 🌊

**Another successful homeless shelter season came to an end on March 30th.**

I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to all of our devoted, intrepid volunteers and to Nancy Hornstein, our volunteer coordinator.

Thank you as well to the generous members who donated items for our guests such as Laura, Jack and Lyla Guttman who put together many wonderful gift bags and the talented Eve Rich who delivered her delicious baked goods at the beginning of every week.

A very special thank you to Inge Dobelis who, for many years has donated her fabulous soups for each night of the shelter season.

All of your efforts were so appreciated by our guests.

Leah Glasser  
Homeless Shelter Coordinator

**The Chesed\* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

If you missed our excellent April program featuring Dr. Danielle Ofri speaking about challenges that complicate how doctors hear what patients say, you can view a video of her presentation (and see other useful information) at the committee website: [brotherhoodsynagogue.org/chesed-committee.html](http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/chesed-committee.html)

\*The Chesed Committee provides help and compassion to Brotherhood members in times of need. We can be reached at [chesed@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:chesed@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) or through the synagogue office.

**Brotherhood Book Club Thursday, May 18, 7:00 pm**

Marcia Teviovitz will lead a discussion of *A Man Called Ove*, Fredrik Backman's thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

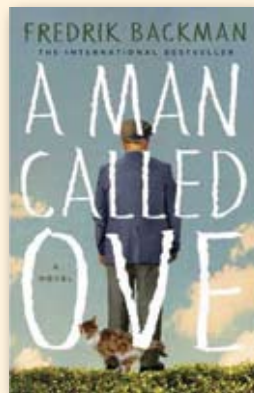
**Future Brotherhood Book Club dates:**

Thursday, June 15: Pamela Marcus (book TBD)

Thursday, July 20: Margie Katz will lead discussion of *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March*, the journey of a rare illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and war.

If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Margie Katz at [margie.katz@me.com](mailto:margie.katz@me.com). All are welcome.



**YAHRZEITS**

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

**May 6 -12**

~Elvira Berkowitz, ~Regina Berkowitz, Moshe Bialer, Myer Block, ^Charles Bloom, Y'chiel Bronfman, Sylvia Bronstein, ^\*Julius Cohen, \*John Delay-Naftalis, \*Selma Eisinger, Paul Ellant, ^Irving Feldman, \*Irene C. Field, Julian Fish, ^Sadie Flax, \*Anita Frankel, Toby Garfin, Fannie Gerstein, ^Ceal Goldman, \*Herbert Gourse, ^Theodore Green, ^Annette Green, Frieda Guttermann, ^Mildred Haas, Jean Haberman, Rosalyn Harris, ~Ibi Hausler, ~Rifka Hausler, Irving Jacobs, Rachel Jacobs, Sylvia Korman, Alan Kornfeld, ^Jonas Landau, \*Joan D. Laufer, Charles Maikish, Alan Mamber, Samuel Mandel, ^Joseph Margolis, ^Helen Millstone, ^Hal Reiff^, Jacob Rootenberg, \*Isidore Rosenbaum\*, Carl Ross, ^Laura Dee Russell, \*William Schwartz, ^Lillian Singer Simon, Leah Spielman, M. James Spitzer, ^Philip L. Sulzer, Daniel Tishler, \*Saul Unterweiser, Lenora Vassil, \*Anabel Weiner, ^Isaac L. Weiner

**May 13 -19**

\*Maurice Adams, ^Alfred Alterman, Mildred Behrens, Roberta Berk, ^Harry Berke, Wilbur Bobker, Sylvia Brown, ^Rose Carlin, Helen Cohen, ^Harry Cohn, Philip Elson, Samuel Farber, ^Renee Feinberg, ^Aaron Friedman, Seymour Gazes, Joseph Godfrey, Muriel Gross, Hans Guggenheim, Harry Hansell, ^Belle Hocky, ^Nathan Izenzon, William Jassey, Robert Jordan III, ^Pearl Krauss, ^Rose Magram, ^Abraham Menaker, ^Israel Miller, ^Hymen Monk, \*Mortimer M. Natilson, Ida Newton, Neil Pace, ^Harold Pomerantz, Eric Reagen, ^Lili Reinis^, ^Curt Reisner, Sidney Rosenfeld, ^Mina Rubin Roth, Lazarus Sainer, Benjamin Salom, Abraham Schenker, Israel Schenkolewski, Bernard Schneider, ^Samuel Schwartz, ^Col. Milton Seaman, ^Gittel Silberling, Jack Silverstein, ^Alita Dee Star, Anita Stern, Evelyn Storick-Sobin, ^Abraham Boris Strauss, Milton Teitelbaum, Lloyd Walther, ^Joseph Weisglass, ^Seymour Weisglass, Mae Winston, \*Martin Wittenstein

**May 20 -26**

^Edward S. Abrahams, Gordon Alpert, \*Simon Baumann, Ernest Beck, ^Harry A. Bernstone, Bob Birnbaum, Ida Cooper, \*Florence Dolitsky, Albert Einbinder, Ralph Fleckman, ^Carol Grunberg, Joe Hill, ^Milton Hoffman, Helen Kasman, \*Isidor Korein, \*Max Krumholz, Ralph M. Larkin, ^Max Levine, Louis Lieberman, \*Jennie Mahler, Chaim Marcus, Seymour Meskin, ^Irving Moskowitz, ^Pauline Musiker, Dorothy Newburg, Edward Perlow, Esther Rabinowitz, ^Nathan Ray, Joel Reiss, ^Emanuel Rosenberg, ^Elizabeth Rosenblum, Martin Roth, ^Samuel Rubinoff, ^Esther Sager, Joyce Schupak, ^Judith (Julia) Seinfeld, Morris Spiegel, ^Ruth Varsano, Irving Weber, Joel Weprin, Millie Wine

**May 27 -June 2**

Jack Abramowitz, Syddell Alper, ^Leo Alperton, Norman Apt, George Bergofin, Jack Berkman, \*Helen Shrom Berkman, ^Armand Blatt, ^Theodore Blum, Hananiah Borochoy, ^Max Braver, Marcus Breier, \*Vera Cushin, Bernard Domow, ^Ben Dubin, Hyman Eisenberg, Joseph Epstein, Joseph Feldman, \*Dr. Arnold B. Field, Hanna Flame, Sarah Fox, \*Frank Frankel, Albert W. Fuss, ^Anna Gold, ^\*Pearl Greeninger, ^Olly Billig Hahn, \*Charlotte Heyman, Jerome D. Kaleko, Daniel King, George Krulik, ^Arnold Lappert, \*Esther Lipshie, ^Kathe Mansfeld, Phoebe Margolis, \*Asher Markowitz, ^George Marton, Harry Meyer, Frieda Meyerson, Esther Miles, Sylvia Morris, Manny Mortz, \*Malke Moses, ^Rudolf Nachman, Hermann Nachmann, Bernard Plutzer, ^Sidney Poswolsky, ^Herman Reinis, Richard Robbins, Clara Rofman, Louis Ross, Rose Roth, ^Abram Rubinstein, Besse Satosky, Eydie Scher, \*Harry Schlanger, Max Jack Schneider, Beatrice Schoenberg, \*Hyman Seidman, Sarah Rivie Slotnick, Rina Stempel, \*Adele Topolsky, ^Stanley Topper, Lottie Tucker, ^Jerry Weiss, ^Julius Winicki

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[www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org](http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org)

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,  
CANTOR MIKE WEIS,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK<sup>21</sup> D.D.: Founding Rabbi  
HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus  
SHIYA RIBOWSKY: Cantor Emeritus  
TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President  
PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

## Jewish Life in Spain - Post 1492

Spring is upon us and with that is a sense of renewal and rejuvenation. From cleaning out the pantry for Passover to finally booking that trip you've been meaning to go on, renewal comes in all shapes and sizes. This spring there is a very special renewal happening that we can all celebrate. A small but growing congregation in Madrid, Spain- the only non-Orthodox congregation in all of Madrid- is undertaking an enormous task. They are currently writing the first Torah written in Spain since the Spanish Inquisition, in over 500 years! This is especially exciting as this Torah will be written for both boys and girls to study from.

I know this because my sister, who has lived in Madrid for 27 years, is an integral part of this congregation. She is the volunteer founder and director of the Sunday school program there and mainly got so involved because she needed a place

Hebrew School students Sofia and Benjamin Gabay have an aunt who has lived in Madrid for the past 27 years. Marla Gabay, Sofia and Ben's mother, wrote this article about her sister's synagogue—the only non-Orthodox synagogue in Spain—and a very exciting project that her sister's synagogue is undertaking!

for her children to be with other Jewish children. My niece who will go to college this fall, was a part of the first bar/bat mitzvah class there. The congregation is growing and thriving, currently about 100 families, helped along the way by their American brothers and sisters. A synagogue in Clearwater, Florida for example, donated their old prayer books when they acquired new ones.

Aside from some remnants, the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry was all but decimated with the expulsion of Jews in 1492. Congregacion Bet-El was the first congregation in all of Spain to allow women and men to pray together. Their conversion classes grow each year with Spaniards coming to learn more about their Jewish history and seek to create its future. Writing a scroll is the next step for this wonderful community to reclaim and rejuvenate Spanish Jewry. We can share in and celebrate this beautiful cultural and religious happening with them. To show your support or learn more, please check out their website at [www.bet-el.org](http://www.bet-el.org) and watch the video of my sister talking about the project: <https://www.jewcer.org/project/torah/>. The rejuvenation of Spanish Jewry is an exciting prospect. We can all be a part of Spain's reJudaification. —Marla Gabay ~

## Hebrew School News

Each year the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School puts on a Broadway musical—this year *Fiddler on the Roof* (an adaptation) with songs in Hebrew and in English. This experience is a rich one for our students, their families, and for the entire Brotherhood community.

Through the process of working on the show, the students learn not only the craft of acting, along with the other elements that go into putting on a show—such as costumes, scenery, stage management, props, make up, publicity, the playbill—to name a few—but also how important these participants are to the entire Brotherhood community—and how—out of this amazing process—life-long friendships develop. The process of putting on a show is not simple. Fortunately, we have a very special woman who spearheads the production—year in and year out—the most extraordinary Judy Shapiro. Judy was recently interviewed for the Brotherhood Synagogue Bulletin, and here is what she had to say!

Q: Since you are, in addition to the many other hats you wear here at Brotherhood Synagogue—Immediate Past President of the Synagogue, Member of the Synagogue's Board of Trustees and Synagogue Youth Group Advisor—the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School producer of our Broadway shows, we'd like to know more about you.

How did you first become involved in the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School musical production?

A: A few years after I joined Brotherhood, I was downstairs in the Hebrew School area and saw student sign up sheets on the walls for the work on *Bye Bye Birdie*. This was the first show I ever

saw on Broadway and I knew all the songs by heart and decided I would like to help out with the production. I spoke with Phil, and the rest is history.

Q: Which production(s) have been your favorite? and why?

A: I have enjoyed working on all the productions. *Bye Bye Birdie, My Fair Lady, Fiddler on the Roof, Peter Pan, Grease, Annie, Oliver, Mary Poppins* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Each production has a new cast and crew and it's fun to work with all the kids. I am especially thrilled to be working on this production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and excited about its opening night—**Wednesday May 17 @ 7:00 pm in our Synagogue Theatre** (a/k/a The Community Room.)

Q: What is your background in theatre?

A: I first started acting in junior and senior high school productions and then minored in Dramatic Art in college.

Q: What makes you continue year after year in the hair-raising work of putting together Broadway musicals with Hebrew songs?

A: I love theater, but especially musicals. It's so exciting to hear the kids singing familiar Broadway melodies in Hebrew! After all, the cast and crew are all Hebrew School students.

Q: What are the best parts of putting on a show with our students? What are the most challenging parts?

A: I love working with young people. They volunteer for the project and many of them do not know each other when they start rehearsals, but after months of working together, they become a tightly knit team. Each child is heavily dependent upon the other for doing their role/job. Working on a production builds a camaraderie that is seldom found in other endeavors.

Q: If there were one show that you would pick for the children of Brotherhood, what would it be and why?

A: *Annie Get Your Gun*. It's a totally fun musical with good songs and a good-sized cast—written by a Jewish composer Irving Berlin! Maybe next year???? ~

## Seeking Graduation News

We would like to hear about all graduations from High School, College and Professional and Graduate Schools for listing in our June bulletin. Please contact the synagogue with this information and any future plans of the graduates by May 13. Phone: 212-674-5750 or Fax: 212-505-6707 or Email: [rabbib@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rabbib@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)





## Nursery School Thoughts

by Evan Gasman

One of the things I love most about Leo's education at Brotherhood is the focus the class gives to Shabbat each week. My son thrives knowing there is a sense of order to his life. I see that when he asks what he's doing tomorrow after breakfast, or after nap. He appreciates a certain knowledge of his day and week and feels comfort in that. So he loves the fact that each and every Friday, he knows he will welcome Shabbat into our home and celebrate the end of the week with us as a family.

Leo loves to start our Shabbat singing songs he learned at school. We kick things off with, "There's a Dinosaur, knocking on our door," before moving into Hebraic tunes he sings with his friends. From there he requests a "cocktail" to go along with mine. I happily create a kid's version with seltzer and a Maraschino cherry that he always eats first. When it comes to cooking, I run the kitchen and Leo is always my sous chef. My specialty is Jewish cooking and it makes me proud that Leo is up to speed on his Yiddish vocabulary of old world delicacies that my grandparents ate. This kid loves cholent! As we prep the food and the sun sets, my wife lights the candles to usher in the holiday. Leo puts on his Kipah, sits on my lap and we recite the blessings. We also may or may not dance around to the opening number of *Fiddler on the Roof* at some point in the evening.

I grew up celebrating Shabbat with my family. When my wife and I married, we did it together. But nothing compares to having Shabbat dinner with our children, where we can put our cell phone aside and enjoy each other's company wholly and thoroughly. I thank Brotherhood for giving us that opportunity and for encouraging Leo to love Shabbat as much as I do. It gives me hope that this is something we'll continue to do together for a long time to come. 🌊



Please join us at Brotherhood for our musical Family Shabbat service!

Friday, May 3

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3 in the Yellow Room with Saskia Lane

Sunday, May 21, 4:00 pm

Please join us for a VERY special year-end musical event for children age 5 and under and their families!

Special Year End Early Childhood Celebration with Daphna Mor AND Saskia Lane!!!



Registration for our Fall early childhood classes will open first week in June – Register Early!!

## ♪ Torah Reading: What's the Real Goal? ♪

by Cantor Mike Weis

I'll put it out there at the outset: you should learn how to chant from the Torah. And if you already know how, you should do it more.

There, I said it. My door is open and I'm waiting to teach.

Why don't more people do it?

Ask anyone—except one seasoned in the practice—who has read from an actual Torah what the experience is like and most of them will say that it is terrifying. To use a more traditional word, we might say it feels like an "awesome" responsibility.

Chanting from the Torah is an awesome responsibility, indeed, and is not for the faint of heart. When you chant Torah before the congregation, you join a list of tens of thousands of others throughout our history who have played a direct role in the transmission of our sacred tradition from one generation to the next.

It is scary. It is awesome. It is also incredibly invigorating and rewarding.

I will never forget the immense feeling of accomplishment that I had when first read the Torah in front of my congregation back in Los Angeles. It was probably the single most important experience that propelled me into becoming a cantor. Pure and simple, it was electric.

Admittedly it was also scary. The first time I picked up the pointer, or "yad", my hand was shaking so much that it was never pointing to the words I was actually chanting at any given moment. I felt like I was up there alone: just me and the Torah, an endless series of scribbled Hebrew consonants to decipher on the fly and deliver with exacting precision. But after teaching scores of B'nei Mitzvah students here at Brotherhood and elsewhere, I have come to realize that I had conceived of Torah reading all wrong.

No Torah reader is ever alone before the congregation. Flanking the reader on either side is a person known as a "gabbai" whose job is to follow the reading and help the reader in

case he/she makes a mistake. Far from being the solitary practice, I discovered that Torah reading is actually a team sport.

Accuracy is still essential, but perfection, thankfully, is not.

My students often look strangely at me when I say this, as if to say, "How can you be accurate if you are not also perfect?" The answer is simple: the rabbis did not expect perfection. Quite the opposite: they expected readers to make mistakes. That's why they require two gabbaim. If you make a mistake while you're reading, one or the other gabbai quietly corrects you. You then correct yourself and continue reading. The result: total accuracy without perfection.

So next time you wonder what it would be like to read from the Torah, pick up the phone or shoot me an e-mail and let's make a start of it. Whether you think you have a good voice or not, whether you know Hebrew well or not, give it a shot. The goal is not, nor has it ever been, perfection. 🌊

# Brotherhood Synagogue



Iyar / Sivan 5777  
May 2017

☆ Saturday Mornings: Shabbat Corner 9:45 am • Junior Congregation 10:30 am • Alef-Bet Club 11 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> 9 am: Tikvah	<b>1</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School  <b>YOM HAZIKARON</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Israel's 69th Independence Day Celebration with Anbessa Orchestra  <b>YOM HAATZMA'UT</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>4</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 6:30 pm: BBYO Meeting 7 pm: The Quartet hosts Rivka Michaeli	<b>5</b> 7:39 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 7:30 pm: Services	<b>6</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Schneider  <b>ACHAREI MOT-KEDOSHIM</b>
<b>7</b> 9 am: Tikvah 4:30 pm: Shaharit at Town & Village Synagogue Menachem Bombach	<b>8</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>9</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1:30 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	<b>10</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>11</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 8 pm: Salon Sanctuary: Madamoiselle Levi	<b>12</b> 7:46 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services	<b>13</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Goldstein 11 am: Project Ore (offsite) 5 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Payton Goldstone  <b>EMOR</b>
<b>14</b> 9 am: Tikvah  <b>LAG BA'OMER</b>	<b>15</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>16</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Board Meeting	<b>17</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School Play: Fiddler on the Roof	<b>18</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club 7 pm: Hebrew School Play: <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	<b>19</b> 7:52 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services	<b>20</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Myles Pace 1 pm: Shabbat Club  <b>BEHAR-BEHUKOTEI</b>
<b>21</b> 9 am: Tikvah 4 pm: Early Childhood Year-End Celebration with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane 8 pm: Sholom Aleichem 101st Yahrzeit	<b>22</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>23</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	<b>24</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Jewish Communal Memorial Day Ceremony (offsite) 7 pm: Shaharit at Jewish Community Project (JCP) Dr. Eilon Schwartz	<b>25</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner	<b>26</b> 7:30 am: Rosh Chodesh Services 7:59 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services  <b>ROSH CHODESH</b>	<b>27</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services B'nai Mitzvah of Lucien and Valentina Sadykov-Peposhi  <b>BEMIDBAR</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 8 pm: Erev Shavuot Study and Services  <b>EREV SHAVUOT</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 am: Services 8:30 pm: Services  <b>SHAVUOT</b>	<b>1</b> 9:30 am: Services  <b>SHAVUOT</b>	<b>2</b> 8:04 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services	<b>3</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>NASSO</b>

## Social Action News

Saturday, May 13, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

### Volunteer to Serve Shabbat Lunch at the Sirovich Center

We have a volunteer opportunity through **Project ORE** (Outreach to the Elderly) for a limited number of volunteers to serve Shabbat lunch on Saturday, May 13.

Project ORE, located within the Sirovich Center for Balanced Living, was founded for at risk Jewish older adults but now aids any isolated, poor, homeless, and mentally ill older adults in need.

Our volunteers will help set tables, serve the meal, and spend time with clients. This is a wonderful opportunity with a wonderful organization.

The number of volunteers is very limited. Please contact – Helaine Teperman – [helaine.teperman@bernstein.com](mailto:helaine.teperman@bernstein.com) if you would like to participate.

