



# Brotherhood Synagogue הבית

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## Questions for the Rabbi

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

As I write this I am in the middle of my annual visits to each of our Hebrew school classrooms. There, I take any and all questions of a religious nature (although I have also been asked sports questions from time to time). It's a wonderful way for me to get to know the students and their concerns.

The most frequent question I encounter, and this year proves no different, is about the veracity of the inherited Torah text. Or in the words of the children: "Are the Jewish stories true?" I explain that the Bible stories are true, even if all the facts are not necessarily accurate. The Bible uses stories to teach us the most important truths of our lives.

Was there a Noah who built a boat and saved animals from a flood? We don't know for sure. But the story is true: It teaches us that people can mess up the world by the choices they make, and people can save the world by the choices they make.

Did all humanity come from one couple, Adam and Eve? Again, we don't know. But the story is true because it teaches us something very powerful: All human beings are one family.

Therefore, all human beings are responsible for one another. People of other faiths, people with skin of a different color, people who live in other parts of the city or the nation or on the other side of the planet—we are all part of the same family, and we are all responsible for one another.

The Jewish view of the Bible is that we see it as our book. It is not only Holy Scriptures; it is our family album. The stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are not just folk tales or Hebrew School lessons. They are stories about our ancestors. And therefore we read the Bible the way a person reads a love letter. When you read a love letter, you don't just read it for content. You try to squeeze every last little bit of meaning out of it.

It might be interesting to find out if the stories happened the way the Bible says they did. But the truth of a story is not in what happened a long time ago in a place far away. A story's truth is what it tells us about our lives right now. Can we find ourselves in the story?

Did a snake really convince Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? We haven't met many talking snakes. But, as Rabbi Edward Feinstein points out, we do know what it's like to be tempted to

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 9:30 AM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 5:00 PM  
*Phil Rothman Celebratory Havdalah*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 9:30 AM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Vadai*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 5:00 PM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Hogan Hunter*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 9:30 AM


do something that we know is wrong. We know what that voice sounds like—and how hard it is to resist. What do you do when you hear that voice?

Was there a Moses who freed the Israelites from slavery? Did the ten plagues happen as the Torah tells us? Did the Red Sea really split? I believe so, but, even more importantly, the Passover story tells us what it means to be Jewish. To be Jewish is to remember Egypt and our enslavement. A slave is a person turned into a thing. We remember that, and we promise never to treat other people that way; never to let anyone be treated as a thing. We dream of a world where all people are treated as God's special creatures. The ethics of the Jewish religion provide a way of making that dream come true.

To be Jewish is to remember what happened to Pharaoh. He thought he was a god and commanded people to worship him. In the end, however, his stubborn arrogance destroyed him.

To be Jewish is to remember Moses. One man, speaking the truth, was able to change history and free his people.

To be Jewish is to never give up hope. No matter how powerful evil may be, it can never destroy our dreams or enslave our spirit. The Red Sea split. One day, all evil will drown itself and we will find ourselves on the road to the Promised Land.

The Bible tells us the most important truths about being alive. That's what makes it true. 



# MASQUERADE NIGHT

The Brotherhood Synagogue Nursery School would like to cordially invite the Brotherhood Community to our

★ Spring Benefit. The Benefit will take place on

**Thursday, April 4th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

in the Community Room. This year's theme is Masquerade Night so make sure you come dressed to impress!

We look forward to having you join us for a night of cocktails, dinner, dancing and auctions. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://www.brotherhoodbenefit.org>

## By the Book

This year we are featuring members answering “By the Book” questions in order to get to know one another better and to encourage further reading. Please let us know if you’d be willing to answer these questions (you need not be an author/writer). Email to: [rabbi@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rabbi@brotherhoodsynagogue.org).

Member, **Pamela Vassil**, is the sixth to answer in our series....

### What is your favorite Jewish book of all time?



I can’t say of *all* time, but I am moved by *Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum. It’s a story of survival, family, and love, all set within the framework of the Holocaust. It is a book with a moral center.

I also love anything written by Grace Paley, especially her short story, “Wants,” and *Like Never Before*, a collection of short stories that reads like a novel, by Ehud Havazelet. Paley and Havazelet keep the spirit and traditions of the Jews alive.

### What books are on your nightstand?

True confessions—I often get into bed and curl up with my iPhone, reading email, texts, watching my delicious grandson on Instagram, and playing “Words with Friends.” Yes, I know, shame on me. But I am also reading *The Book*

*Thief* by Markus Zusak, which is fascinating and emotional. I started reading it when I was babysitting for a family with no television and for another family where I needed a PHD to operate their rather odd TV system. I am also reading (and rehearsing) Bruno Schulz’ *Collected Stories* translated from the Polish, the book I am recording for the blind at JBI, formerly The Jewish Braille Institute.

Stacks of books, next to be read that are on my nightstand, give me terrible anxiety. I once took a job where everyone who came to see me brought books and pamphlets and brochures that they thought I should read. Everyday, that stack got bigger and bigger along with my anxiety. One night as I was at my desk working like a maniac, I put the garbage can right next to that giant stack and gently swept the lot of them into the trash. It was liberating. Sometimes learning has to be slow and incremental. Books should inspire, and make us smarter, and make us cry, and laugh, and take us to new places, none of which can happen when one is anxious.

### Are you a rereader?

Nope. Life is too short. Each author gets one shot, unless, of course, it is a book written by *me* someday, which I expect everyone else to keep rereading.



### What do you avoid reading?

I had a boyfriend who thought we should read some classics every night before we went to sleep. He chose “Swann’s Way” by Proust. It turned out to be a great choice. By the middle of the endless first paragraph, I was fast asleep. Beats Ambien. He stayed up all night. Serves him right. We broke up but not over Proust.

### What book would we be surprised to find on your bookshelf?

Rube Goldberg’s inventions and the work of Balthus, a painter whose work I absolutely adore. I am inspired by how they see the world and how they think.

I also read children’s books for the same reason.

### What’s the last book that made you cry?

I just recently discovered the short stories of Tillie Olsen, who, by the way, was Jewish. “I Stand Here Ironing” is probably one of the best short stories ever written. It’s right up there with “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver. It’s funny that I have mentioned so many collections of short stories because I much prefer reading novels.

Any book of Marge Piercy’s poems is always incredibly beautiful and meaningful. We don’t read enough poetry.

### You’re hosting a literary dinner party. Which three writers are invited?

*Continued on page 6*

## Life Goes On

*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.

Our private tour at the Frick Collection was a great success! The guides were excellent, the art amazing, and dinner with friends afterward at Quatranno great fun. Thank you very much to Gaby Kende for arranging this wonderful event.

On **Thursday, February 21 at 4:15pm** we are meeting at Brotherhood Synagogue to get healthier! Our own highly qualified M.S. Nutritionist and Certified Yoga Instructor/Therapist Gaby Kende will guide us through a yoga class on mats or on a chair as per your personal preference. A talk about nutrition will follow, concentrating on our dietary needs as older Americans, which foods we should focus on to get the nutrients we need, and what may be lacking in our diets. We’ll also discuss what to do about eating alone, “cooking” for one, and consider the benefits of the Mediterranean diet as an example of a recommended eating plan. There will be plenty of time to ask questions, but please feel free to

email Gaby if you have any concerns regarding her yoga or nutrition presentation [gaby.kende@gmail.com](mailto:gaby.kende@gmail.com).

A nutritious vegetarian buffet dinner will follow the class at \$15 per person. Please let Paulette Lerner ([plerne@aol.com](mailto:plerne@aol.com)) know if you’re planning to join us for yoga and dinner. A huge thank you to Gaby and Paulette for volunteering to organize the meeting.

**Upcoming plans:** In March, we will be touring the magnificent main branch of the **New York Public Library**—thanks to Brenda Pace for arranging. Our April program will take us to **Lincoln Center** to learn about its history and visit its main buildings, including backstage as well—thanks to Sheila Zaslower for that. Either lunch or dinner plans will be included, with specific dates and details to follow as soon as available.

We had a full house the evening in January when we reviewed *The Weight of Ink*. Our upcoming LGO Book Clubs will be on **Thursday, February 7 at 7pm** when we will read *Asymmetry* by Lisa Halliday; and then on **Thursday, March 7 at 7pm** when we will cover *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan.

A reminder about the **LGO Book Club rules**, especially for our welcome new members: Please do note that there is a **\$20 fee** to join which is paid at the door. **Please RSVP in advance of the meeting to Ellen Kenigsberg ([ellensken14@gmail.com](mailto:ellensken14@gmail.com)) if you plan to join us**—and Ellen will send out reminders about it. Please know that if you have responded that you’re coming but cancel within 3 days of the date or don’t show up, **you will still be responsible for the payment of \$20. This is to ensure that we are able to pay and keep our wonderful moderator, NYU Professor Margaret Birns.** Our meetings take place in the library of Brotherhood Synagogue, with wine and desserts served. Thank you, Ellen, for all your work in managing the group.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of *Life Goes On*, 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, email [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org). 🌸

# Community-Wide Family Havdalah Honoring Phil Rothman

(and The Rothman Educational Fund to Benefit the Hebrew School)

Saturday, February 2, 2019  
5:00 - 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Come celebrate Havdalah with the Brotherhood family and mark the close of the "Year(s) of Phil"!

Food, fun and an update on the Rothman Fund to follow in the Community Room!

If you have not yet made a gift to the Rothman Fund, please consider doing so as we round out our celebration of Phil's outstanding service to Brotherhood!



## THE HISTORY OF ISRAELI FASHION

Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm

Join Liraz Cohen at Brotherhood as she brings Israeli fashion history to life with a traveling exhibition of clothes and historical photos—from the time of the early Kibbutzim and establishment of the fashion industry through to modern day street fashion and top Israeli designers. Discover how milestones of Israeli history have affected the country's fashion trends.

Ms. Cohen is a personal stylist, frequent lecturer on this subject, and maintains her own fashion blog.

Sponsored by the Israel Committee

## Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, February 21, 7:00 pm

Pamela Marcus will lead a discussion of *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henriquez.

Save the Date: March 21, 7:00 pm

Joan Simon will lead a discussion of *Educated* by Tara Westover

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!



## Social Action News



During the month of February we are collecting new and gently used books appropriate for kindergarten-high school age children for Project Cicero ([www.projectcicero.org](http://www.projectcicero.org)), a non-profit organization which provides books to under-resourced NYC schools. The Project Cicero mission is to enable children to build a love for reading by ensuring that each classroom has a viable library.

Kindly bring your new or gently used hardcover or paperback books suitable for children and young adults to the collection box in the lobby. **Picture books, early readers, reference books, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies are welcome.** NO textbooks, library discards, or reference books more than five years old.

High school aged students may fulfill school community service requirements by volunteering to help with this project.

For more information, contact Linda Yee Kaleko through the synagogue office.

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee





## Happenings in Our Kehilah

Please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Alder with any pertinent happenings in your family.

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

Eyal and Danielle Vadai on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Abigail Vadai**. Abigail, a student at Ridgefield Academy, will celebrate her simcha with her younger siblings, **Talia** and **Nathaniel**.

Tina Rosenbaum and Benjamin Hunter on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Hogan Hunter**. Hogan, a student at Battery Park City School, will celebrate his simcha with his older siblings, **Jakob** and **Marley**.

### Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

Millie and Alan Fell on the engagement of their daughter, **Rachel Fell** to **Max Turowsky**.

### Condolences to:

James Simring on the passing of his father, **Marvin Simring**.

Alba Dwass on the passing of her mother, **Margherita Ghione**.

Compton David on the passing of his father, **Theodore Compton Cornette**.


Bella Sekons on the passing of her father, **Frank Blaichman**.

Charles Blaichman on the passing of his father, **Frank Blaichman**.

Karen Putterman on the passing of her mother, **Bernice Putterman**.

Arvind Gopal on the passing of his father, **Rangaswamy Gopal**.

Susannah Bailin on the passing of her father, **Theodore Rabb**.

Marina Schmutzer on the passing of her mother, **Edzia Esther Oblegorski**. 

## President's Post

by Tracie Basch

I found myself sitting in my warm apartment on a snowy day trying to decide what it was I should write about for this month's column, when it hit me. While we are all dreaming of what beach we can go to in order to escape the cold, so many fellow New Yorkers do not have one or both of the luxuries I just mentioned—heat and a home.



Brotherhood's Homeless Shelter is in full swing and at the time I am writing this, my boys and I have already had the pleasure of spending one evening with our guests—eating a hot dinner with them and engaging in conversation with our guests. I often say that we get a lot more out of our Monday night volunteering than our guests do. While personally, I am always despondent over the increasing numbers of homeless individuals, families and children in New York City, I feel proud that our synagogue continues to open our doors to those seeking shelter. You see, this is a cause and mission that is near and dear to my heart. One of my clients' mission is homeless outreach and over the many years I have been working with them, my children have learned about the issue and have adopted this as their cause—to the point of donating their own money and Sam choosing this cause as his Bar Mitzvah Project.

Philanthropy is engrained in Judaism as we learn from Maimonides' Eight Levels of Charity. Maimonides tells us that the highest level of charity is akin to the adage of "give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him forever"—helping someone become self-dependent. The lowest level of charity, but still a mitzvah, is giving to someone when you don't want to give. Charity is so important, that even when done unwillingly, it is still a mitzvah. Thankfully, no pun intended, Brotherhood provides us with a lot of to give back. Please check our weekly bulletins for the options that our Social Action and Interfaith Committees provide us. Also, our Kitah Zayin's Chesed Project will begin shortly and I know that they have chosen a worthy cause.

Keep warm!

—Tracie

## The Chesed\* Committee

### WANTS YOU TO KNOW

We can offer rides to local area cemeteries for members who wish to visit the grave of a loved one around the time of a yahrzeit. To make arrangements, please contact Manda in the Synagogue office at 212-674-5750 or [mbegardt@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mbegardt@brotherhoodsynagogue.org).

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

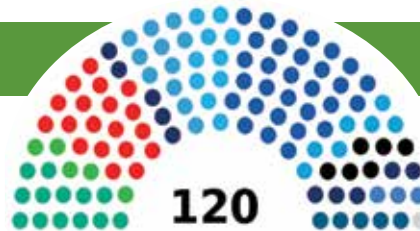
## Shabbat Club

Saturday, February 16, 1:00 pm

### A "Game of Thrones"—Understanding the Upcoming Israeli Elections

Beginning with the February meeting of the Shabbat Club, our Israeli Shaliach (Emissary), Ophir Tal, will lead a monthly lecture and discussion series on Israel—on its history, culture, and economy.

Because Israel will hold elections on April 9, Ophir will begin by helping us to understand the election process in Israel. Part One will be on **February 16**. Part Two will be on **March 16**. Part Three, on **April 13**, after the elections, will give us a chance to



discuss "What Comes Next". Each session will include updates from the elections, analysis of the different political parties and a short exercise to "vote" on certain issues, plus helpful materials, and time for questions. (Ophir's monthly series on Israel will continue after April 13.)

Join Ophir at these monthly sessions, as he breaks down what the upcoming Israeli election is all about. Who is against whom?

What's at stake? And, Why do we go to elections now? With old and new friends, and our Shaliach, we can find out some answers, and share our ideas.

**All meetings begin at 1pm**, are held in the second floor reception room (opposite the entrance to the Sanctuary), and are open to all. You need not be a member. You can bring friends. You do not need to attend all three in this elections series. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Deborah Newman ([newmanddale@aol.com](mailto:newmanddale@aol.com)).

## A Note from Development:

### We Are Grateful for Two Recent Bequests/Planned Giving

The Brotherhood Synagogue recently received bequests from two former members, both of whom passed away in 2018. Sidi Tuchfeld and Betty Hausner were long-term members of the Brotherhood Synagogue who had the foresight to ensure that their legacies would live on in the way they chose by naming The Brotherhood Synagogue in their wills. In this way they helped ensure the vitality of the Brotherhood's future as they established their giving legacies for generations to come. We are so deeply grateful to them. May their memories continue to be a blessing.

Naming the Synagogue in your will is one of the easiest ways to make a planned gift. Other vehicles for making a planned gift include: Naming the Synagogue as Beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy and Designating the Brotherhood as Recipient of an IRA Distribution or basic financial account (savings, checking or brokerage). In making a planned gift to The Brotherhood Synagogue, you join a community of forward-thinking donors who have also included Brotherhood in their estate planning, and you become a member of our Planned Giving Society— **The Irving J. Block Legacy Society**. If you are interested in learning more and/or including the Brotherhood Synagogue in your estate planning, please contact me at 212-674-5750 x203.

### Notice: Community-Wide Family Havdalah Honoring Phil Rothman and The Rothman Educational Fund to Benefit the Hebrew School

We are hoping to see as many of you as possible at our Community-Wide Family Havdalah on Saturday, February 2nd at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary! Come celebrate and raise a glass to Phil as we mark the close of our special 36th Anniversary Year— okay, two years!— of Phil. Please call the office at 212-674-5750 no later than January 30th to RSVP.

—Marilyn Strozak,  
Director of Development 🌊

### Homeless Shelter Donations

Our homeless shelter is open. We will be hosting 8 male guests 3 times a week until the end of March.

Donations of unused socks, scarves, gloves, hats and underwear are most appreciated.

We have also asked anyone who loves to knit or crochet to use their talents and consider donating a handmade scarf or hat!



## Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

### February 2-8

\*Helen Belle Aaronson, Ardelle Allenson, Robert Arias, Stan Berger, Joel Bernstein, Harriet Bernstein, \*Lillian Blye, Linda Chernick, ^Harry L. Cohen, Sarah Eisenberg, Carole Epstein, Stanley Esratz, Emanuel Evans, Myrtle Feinsilber, ^Sarah Lerner Feldman, ^Cyril Freed, Steven Futterman, ^Sally F. Gold, ^Hattie Gold, ^Morris Goldstein, Charlotte Grabisch, ^Morris Greene, \*Harry Gross, Kurt Grubler, Dora Haber, Shirley Helfant, ^Selma Hochhauser, Gloria Jacoel, Dara Kaufman, Milton Klein, Cary Leeds, ^Judith Levenstein, ^Samuel Lubell, David Miller, ^Jeanne C. Moskowitz, Ilse Nussbaum, \*Renee Pollack, Bessie Potell, ^George W. Rabinoff, ^Lee Avram Rapaport, ^Rebecca Rubinoff, ^Ina Safra, ^Frieda Schindel, ^Albert Shear, Sheila Siderow, Tessie Sklar, Daniel Stacher, ^Emma Stahl, Alice Teviovitz, ^Sylvia Tint, Esther Toback, Karl Waldbrand, Myer Weingarten, Esther Wolf, ^Morris Zelmanowicz

### February 9-15

Nathan Barry, ^\*Chaim Berglas, Naomi Berk, Mel Berk, Lauretta Berkman, \*Celia Berkowitz, Claire Bernstein, Mary Blum, \*Mae Caplan, Rita Cohen, ^Anna Eidelberg, Ernestine Feinland, Nora Fenton, ^David Fox, David Frommer, Maitin Gelber, Eleanor Gimán, ^Mary J. Goldstein, ^Paul Goldstein, ^Helen Green, ^Henry Greenbaum, ^Felicia Greene, Felicia Grubler, ^Ethel Haber, \*Jane Deborah Hansen, Beatrice Harper, ^Benjamin Janow, Sandra Jelin Plouffe, Bernard Jereski, ^Betty Kimbel, Brenda Klotz, Ronnie Kornfeld, ^Joan Koven, Phyllis Kurland, Thelma Levine, Anna Levins, \*Abraham Lewinstein, ^Dr. Paul Pincus Lippman, ^Frances Mann, Morton Maxwell, Pearl Memling, Max Miller, \*Katie Naftalis, \*Hyman Nemser, Sadie Primack, ^M.E. Reckson, ^Carole Reiff, Murray Rockower, Aaron Rosenbloom, David Ross, ^Catharine Roth, Dorothy Rubin, Mabel Sarner, Cynthia Scheffris, Dr. Louis Scheib, Rae Shulman, Dorothy Silverman, ^Jack Silverman, ^Evelyn Singer, \*Louis H. Solomon, Jeanette Spira, Judge Sidney Squire, David Sussman, Susan Tabor, ^Clara Tucker, Shirley Warren, Florence Yarkow, ^Bessie Zacks, ^Paula Zweibach

### February 16-22

Phyllis Altman, ^Gussie Bardack, Paula Berenstein, Stanley Berk, \*Herbert Blye, Benjamin Braff, Bertha Brenner, Benjamin Cohen, \*Rose Cohen, ^Mildred M. Cohen, ^Selim Eliahu Cohen, ^Frances Cohen, Rebecca Davis Flather, Rosalind Donziger, Arlene Ellant, George Evans, Lillian Gillman, ^Vivian Goldreich, ^Anne Goldsmith, Ross Gottlieb, \*\*Rachel Greenhouse, Sid Grossman, Taube Ha Levi, \*Max Hamburger, ^Marl Hendel, ^Sonia Himmell, ^Lillian Hoffman, ^Jack Hollander, David Janow, Hyman Kampel, J. Lawrence Katz, ^Leo Kaye, ^Hannah

Kirshbaum, ^Alex Knopf, Ilene Korach, ^Fred Krupnik, ^Victor Kuhne, ^A. Harry Kupersmith, ^Fannie (Phillips) Kurland, ^Jerome Lande, Jeanne Landon, \*Michael Lasser, \*\*Abe Lebewohl, ^Rose Levine, ^Harold Levine, Elaine Grace Lippman, ^I. J. Mayo, ^Harry Mesibov, \*Bertha Naftalis, ^Rose Patiky, \*Tillie Rosenbaum, ^\*Elizabeth Rossman, Andrew Rothstein, ^Ella Sandler, \*Isidore Schneider, Dixie Spielberger, Sidney Spielvogel, ^Meyer Steinberg, ^Kate Taormina, \*Abe Jay Treu, ^Bernard Trocker, ^Lillian Turteltaub, Harriet Van Blerkom, \*William Werner, ^Margo Wolff

### February 23-March 1

^Sophie Ader, ^Charles A. Akins, ^Sylvia Alpren, Altagracia Alvarez, Anna Baslow, ^Mania Bernstein, ^Morris Bernstein, Fredrick Bryan, Lillian Burack, Lillian Cohen, Irvin Cohen, Lillian Cohen, Dr. Harold Damask, \*Burton Farland, Benjamin Feinsilber, ^Joseph Feldman, ^Michael Irwin Fenner, Sam Friesed, \*Edward Friedman, \*Irene Friedman, ^Morton Globus, \*Morris Gluckman, Miles Godin, ^Samuel Marshall Goldin, \*Barnett Goldstein, \*Sadie Goldwasser, George Gostin, ^Beth Greenhouse, Jenniel Harrison, \*Anne Herbst, ^Jack Janal, Claire Kramer, ^Sara Laderhandler, ^Isaac Lazoff, Ida Lederer, ^Anna Jelosnik Levine, \*Sol Marks, ^Louis H. Martus, ^Jack Muskat, Zecharia Ofri, Sam Olken, Benjamin Podziba, Annie Press, Ronald Ragovin, Gerald Charles Randolph, Theresa Rogoff, Max Rosenbach, \*Fay Rothman, ^Sam Rothstein, Charlotte Rubin, Ida Schiffman, Jacob Schwartzberg, ^Blanche Lorraine Seinfeld, \*Hyman Shafer, ^Irving Silberstang, Lenore Sofferman, ^Anna Sunkin, ^Isadore Tevelow, \*Simon Toby, David Waldman, ^Florence Ward, ^Louis Warmbrand, ^Fannie Weisman, \*Hyman Werner, \*Pauline Werner, Benjamin Wine, Charles Zucker

### The Brotherhood Synagogue



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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org  
RABBI DANIEL ALDER  
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK<sup>21</sup> D.D.: Founding Rabbi  
HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus  
TRACIE BASCH: President  
PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director  
Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859



# What's Happening in Hebrew School This February?

## The Hebrew School Tzedakah Committee

On the first Monday of February (and each month to follow) our Tzedakah Committee, made up of 7 student representatives, will be meeting. They will discuss their classmates' responses to the Tzedakah Committee's proposed beneficiaries of the Hebrew School Tzedakah collection. The problems that the committee members want to solve are numerous, among them: global warming/climate change; pollution of our skies and the earth; Israel's need for Security (IDF) and water; protecting animals from abuse and cruelty; worldwide hunger; global and local terrorism; opposing economic injustice by supporting local businesses so that they can stay in business; preventing homelessness through sound economic policies; helping immigrants; opposing gun violence; creating policies to address drug addiction and related violence; and promoting anti-smoking legislation.



## Getting Ready for the 13th Annual Chai-Q Competition

Chai-Q Packets are available for pick-up at the Hebrew School office, as Wednesday, May 1 marks the 13th Annual Chai Q Competition for our Hebrew School students in Kitot Gimmel through Vav (Grades 3 through 6). The game consists of 440 questions and answers, which comprise what has been termed "Basic Jewish Literacy" and "Primary Jewish Education." The questions are divided into categories: *Holidays; Fun and Facts; Bible; Law and Customs and Israel*. The Chai-Q game is a wonderful example of what "Family Education" can be. Examples of the Chai-Q Questions: *In what sea can you read a newspaper while floating? Name one of the two Jewish doctors who invented the polio vaccine. On which holiday during the 1965 World Series did Sandy Koufax refuse to pitch?*

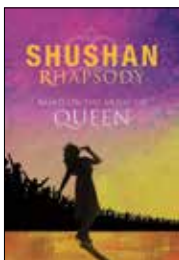
Our very own Phil Rothman serves as our "Alex Trebek" of the Chai-Q competition. The competition works in the following way. First the Kitah Gimmel (3rd graders) and Kitah Dalet (4th graders) compete with one another. Out of this competition there are three prize-winners: 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place. Then the Kitah Hey (5th graders) and Kitah Vav (6th graders) compete with one another. Out of this competition there are three prize-winners: 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place. Then the 1st place winner of the Gimmel/Dalet competition competes with the 1st place winner of the Hey/Vav competition. The winner of that play-off becomes our reigning Chai-Q Champion! Participation in the competition is voluntary—and every child learns by their preparation for the contest, participation in the contest or by being an audience member. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate—and that you will study the Chai-Q cards together with your child(ren).

## Shabbat Family Services

On Friday, February 8, there will be Family Services for Hebrew School children and their families. A Family Shabbat Dinner will follow Shabbat Services for the families of Gan (Kindergarten) and Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students.

## Miss Chocolate Kasher for Passover Candy Drive

The following Wednesday, February 13 our children will submit their *Miss Chocolate* Kasher for Passover Chocolate Orders. The Candy Drive benefits the Hebrew School. There is still time to place your Kasher for Passover Candy Orders! Please contact the Hebrew School office for additional information.



## Preparations Underway for the Family Purim Spiel

Our Kitah Dalet (4th Grade) and Kitah Hey (5th Grade) children are busy preparing for their Purim Spiel performance of SHUSHAN RHAPSODY (based on the music of QUEEN) for the Brotherhood Synagogue Family Purim Services on Wednesday, March 20 @ 6:30 pm in our Community Room!! (We look forward to celebrating Purim with you and your family next month—on Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 pm—and at the Brotherhood Synagogue Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17!)

## Rehearsals for the Hebrew School Musical The Sound of Music

Rehearsals for the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School's ensemble production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* (an adaptation) are in full swing!!! Over twenty amazingly talented Hebrew School children are involved in the production. Mark your calendars! *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* has a limited run – it will open on Wednesday evening May 15 and will close on Thursday evening May 16. It promises to be our best ever!!!



—Barbara Simon,  
Hebrew School Principal

# Knowledge for College



A great turnout at Knowledge for College!

From left to right: member **Gloria Zimmer** (Coordinator of the event), speaker **Chloe Valdary** and moderator **David Kestin** at Brotherhood's **Knowledge for College** inaugural event on January 13. Save the dates: March 3 and April 14 for the next two events.

*BY THE BOOK, continued from page 2*

Nobody famous. In the course of my life I have always been disappointed when I've met them. But tops on my bucket list is Brian Lehrer, who I think must be among the smartest people alive. At the table would also be the Obamas, their kids too, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and a couple of unpublished, but striving, writers. Striving and struggle are phenomenally interesting to me—so is optimism, which this group embodies. Okay, that's more than three. Sue me.

## What is the last book that made you furious?

My 2018 New Year's Resolutions included my desire to turn off the nightly news and stop reading newspapers and books about current Washington, D.C., which made me insanely furious and frightened. They still do, but even more so. Those are the kinds of articles and stories and books that keep me up at night.

This year, my singular 2019 resolution is to smile more.

*Pamela Vassil, one of our Friday night Summer Shabbat speakers, is a writer, Chair of Community Board Six's Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee, and an activist, who is retired but hardly retiring.*

## Nursery School Thoughts

by Whitney Levin

I was recently chatting with a friend about our respective children's preschool experiences (as one does) when I made an eye-opening discovery. "WAIT, you get a detailed account of what your child is doing throughout the day WITH pictures? EVERY DAY?" I couldn't believe it. My friend seemed to think that this was only natural, and that it was a right, even a responsibility, of parents to stay up to date on *exactly* what their child was doing in their few short hours away from home.

I didn't know how to articulate precisely what I was thinking with finesse and grace (shocker) so I blurted something like: "That is absolutely ridiculous." Then I laughed it off.

But seriously, isn't that absurd? These days, we constantly have infinite information at our fingertips; we are almost never "unplugged," I, like a lot of parents, worry about what this tendency is doing to our children. Dozens of pictures streamed throughout the day means dozens of instances in which the teacher had to interrupt an explanation or play to take out that phone and document the "moment" for a parent. We parents can sometimes demand such a constant flow of information that we disturb the natural order of things; we interrupt our children from blooming and developing their independent lives. I don't think I am alone in being nostalgic for my own pre-internet childhood or in my worry about what this constant connectedness is doing to the process of growing up.

On the other hand, I am not so resolute that I am going to throw away my smartphone and move to a homestead in Wyoming. There has to be some balance, right?

So once again, I am going to sing the praises of Brotherhood Nursery. The staff has done a brilliant job of incorporating a little bit of fun technology into their curriculum and keeping the parents appropriately up to date . . . no more and no less. The staff and teachers at Brotherhood resist the understandable pressure and temptation to reduce a learning community to multi-media content. And for that, I thank them. 🌸

**Please join us on the following Friday evenings to welcome Shabbat together with stories and song!**



**February 8**

**5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane**

**5:30 pm - Children ages 3-6 years old with Katie Shea**

**6:30 pm - Grades 2-7 with Phil Rothman**

**February 15**

**5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane**

## ♪ Cantor's Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

If it has done nothing else, my stint as an intern at Saturday Night Live for two years while I was in college has at least proven to provide some juicy anecdotes to share during some otherwise boring job interviews. But perhaps even more importantly, the experience inadvertently guided me away from a life and career path that I thought I wanted. At the start of my freshman year of college, I began calling the SNL offices requesting an interview. A friend of my mother's knew someone who had worked for the show in the 1970's. She gave me the right number to call, but the rest was up to me. Ultimately, this connection and my persistence granted me an interview at the start of my junior year. By spring, I had accumulated enough credits to intern full time while I lived at home and commuted daily to 30 Rock. And since I was not prepared to give up a gig I had worked so hard to get, I continued my internship for the duration of my senior year, taking the Amtrak a few days a week from my college into the city. Though the experience ultimately steered me in a different direction, interning at SNL was awesome. Though I had nothing to do with the show creatively, it was exciting just to be present. I would hand out run downs of the sketch order at the start of the live show, brushing past the host and cast members as they prepared to go on air. I would see people like Steve Martin, Dan Aykroyd, and Steven Spielberg hanging out with Lorne Michaels backstage, watching the show on TV moni-

tors as I attempted to discreetly hand out papers to assistants higher on the food chain than I. I also was able to watch guest musicians rehearse before the show. I specifically remember staking out a spot to get a glimpse of (the artist) Prince as he left the studio (he was tiny). Perhaps the pièce de résistance of my internship experience was when I sang "Delilah" by Tom Jones for the original American Idol Judges (sans Simon) on the Today Show. NBC wanted interns to sing on the show so the judges could critique the performances on air. Long story short, I didn't make it to Hollywood, but Katie Couric said my performance sounded like the operatic version of Tom Jones, so I take that as a win. All in all, it was an amazing experience filled with glamour and free food, but in the end, it didn't take. I had begun taking music more seriously in my senior of college, especially after having made the transition from baritone to tenor. Though the SNL world was exciting, to my surprise, it didn't leave me feeling like I could be fulfilled there as an artist. Music was speaking to me in a new way, and even though I worked so hard to get the internship and the connections gained from being there, it felt right for me to leave that world behind. Ultimately, it was necessary for me to experience that world in order to demonstrate where I should actually be. Of course, it would be a few years later until I even considered the cantorate, but I'm glad I did because the free food at SNL has got nothing on our Kiddush. 🌸

# Brotherhood Synagogue



Shevat / Adar I 5779  
February 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>27 9 am: Tikvah 11 am: Hunger Van Project 4 pm: Film: Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age</p> 	<p>28 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>29 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7 pm: International Design</p>	<p>30 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Nietzsche 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: Film- 93 Queen</p> 	<p>31 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 II</p>	<p>1 4:23 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 5 pm: Phil Rothman Havdalah Program</p> <p><b>MISHPATIM</b></p>
<p>3 9 am: Tikvah</p>	<p>4 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>5 7:30 am: Minyan 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7 pm: International Design</p> <p><b>ROSH CHODESH</b></p>	<p>6 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood) 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Nietzsche 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: Israeli Fashion</p> <p><b>ROSH CHODESH</b></p> 	<p>7 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 II 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club</p> 	<p>8 4:30 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: Up to age 3 5:30 pm: Grades 4-6 6:30 pm: Grades 2-7 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>9 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Vadai 5 pm: Bar Mitzvah of Hogan Hunter</p> <p><b>TERUMAH</b></p>
<p>10 9 am: Tikvah</p>	<p>11 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>12 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7 pm: International Design</p> 	<p>13 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Cavalry) 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Nietzsche 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope</p> 	<p>14 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 II 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club</p> 	<p>15 4:38 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: Up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>16 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 1:00 pm: Shabbat Club</p> <p><b>TETZAVEH</b></p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18 <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY - OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>19 10 am: English in Action 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!</p>	<p>20 Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood) 7 pm: Nietzsche 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope</p> 	<p>21 Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 4:15 pm: Life Goes On</p>	<p>22 4:47 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>23 ☆ 9:30 am: Services</p> <p><b>KI TISSA</b></p>
<p>24 9 am: Tikvah</p>	<p>25 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events</p> 	<p>26 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!</p>	<p>27 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Cavalry) 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Nietzsche 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope</p>	<p>28 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 II</p> 	<p>1 4:55 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: Up to age 3 5:30 pm: Ages 4-6 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services</p> <p><b>VAYAKHEL</b></p>