



New Year's Resolutions

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

I'm not a big one for new year's resolutions—on either January 1 or on Rosh Hashanah. The self-improvement efforts around the High Holidays are rooted in *teshuvah*, an introspective experience with hopes that the person will become a better Jew and therefore, a better person. There is little need for resolutions nor any grounding for them in Jewish law. Nevertheless, anything that causes us to look at ourselves and to resolve to be better people is a good thing.

Rabbi David Wolpe of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles argues that the best resolutions are “elastic”—they cannot be broken with a single act. If you swear never to touch red meat, one burger ruins the resolution. If, on the other hand, you pledge to eat healthier food, each day you have a chance to fulfill the resolution anew. He then enumerates five elastic spiritual resolutions that can carry us throughout the year:

Engage with people more than pixels. Looking at a phone is quick and undemanding. Texting is easier than talking—it gives you intimacy without danger. This year resolve to spend more time looking into someone's eyes when you communicate with them. Replace an extended exchange on text with a meeting for coffee. Make a promise of presence.

Take your soul seriously. It is easy to pretend that what we watch and how we speak have no effects on us. But the constant pounding of hatreds and dehumanization that marks so much of our media have consequences for our character. Part of who you are is the sum of the influences you choose: what you watch, who you associate with, how you speak about others both publicly and privately. Life is a continuous journey of soul shaping, and this year, resolve to keep your deep journey in mind. Turn away from something seductive but corrosive—Twitter rants are full of bile, or

people who continually insult those around them, or depictions of violence that take savage delight in suffering. You only get one soul; don't squander it on things unworthy of its majesty.

Increase your kindness. If you wish to feel kind, do something good. The great secret of moral growth is that it often begins from the outside. Rather than your joy leading you to smile, your smile can lead you to joy. Behave generously even when you do not feel like it and the habit will grow as will your innate quality of kindness. The act can be small or large; it can be a charitable contribution or a gentle word or help with a heavy bag on an airplane. Do it.

Choose someone to forgive. All of us have legitimate grievances in our lives. Some people are very hard to forgive but you need not begin with the toughest cases. Small acts of grace will grow. Forgive the guy who cut you off in the street; after all, you have cut people off as well, on purpose or inadvertently. Forgive the person who made an unkind remark about you. The more you forgive, the less the world can injure you; forgiveness is a soft shield for your soul.

In forgiving, include yourself. Fight against perfectionism. Leave a dropped stitch in the knitting of your life. There will always be more possibilities to get something wrong than to get it right. Allow yourself the latitude of mistakes, without self-punishing. God is supposed to be perfect, not human beings. Have expectations of yourself, but don't enforce them with a hammer.

The New Year is coming. You have not wasted a single day of the future. So here is your chance to live purposefully. Will you achieve this every day? Of course not (see paragraph above). The key resolution is not to triumph or to always succeed. Resolutions of the spirit come down to one thing: in this New Year, grow.

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Beatrice Huppert

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Shnyder

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 9:30 AM

Adult Education Winter 2020 Announcement

Beat the winter chills by warming up to a good Jewish study course filled with conversation and camaraderie.



Check out the brochure in the synagogue lobby or the Adult Ed page on the Brotherhood website
<http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/adult-education.html>



Classes begin late January

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.

We had a fabulous Hanukkah Party! Our happy group enjoyed eating delicious food together, getting to know each other better, and opening mysterious presents! Thank you to Brenda and Paulette for making the party a great success.



Our next outing on **Tuesday, January 14**, arranged by Sheila Zaslower, will be to the Jewish Museum. We will have a docent lead tour of the new, hugely acclaimed exhibit: "Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art." We plan to meet at 4:15 pm in the lobby at 1109 5th Avenue at 92nd Street. The cost of the one hour tour is \$25 per person which includes museum admission fee. Please RSVP to Sheila Zaslower (szaslower@aol.com) right away if you would like to join us as the tour is limited to 20 attendees. The Jewish Museum also has a wonderful exhibition of the works of Rachel Feinstein. Sheila recommends that you arrive early to see this exhibit at no additional cost.

Following the tour, dinner arrangements have been made at Pascalou, a lovely French bistro located nearby at 1308 Madison Ave between 92nd and 93rd St. Their price-fixed dinner will cost approximately \$35 per person, with details to follow for those attending. Please respond separately for the tour and the dinner.

Save the date! On **Tuesday, February 25**, we're doing dinner and a movie at Brotherhood! We're watching *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*, a fabulous oldie starring Paul



Newman and Joanne Woodward, known to our book club members! Details to follow.

Our discussion of *Fleishman is in Trouble* was the most animated one in a long time! A very interesting book with many controversial issues being discussed in a room full of interested and interesting people led to a lot of fun for all the attendees. Our thanks are due to Professor Margaret Boe Birns for presiding over it and making the read even better for us all.

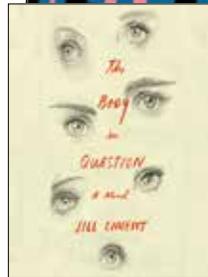
Our next book club will take place on **Tuesday, January 21 at 7pm** in the Library room at Brotherhood Synagogue as usual. We're reading *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk.

It has been reviewed as "A brilliant literary murder mystery." Professor Margaret Boe Birns will guide our discussion, and Brotherhood will graciously provide the usual libations and dessert. Please save the evening of **Wednesday, February 26** for our following book club, discussing *The Body in Question*, by Jill Ciment. Thank you, Ellen Kenigsberg, for keeping our group organized so efficiently! Please make sure to notify Ellen (ellensken14@gmail.com) if you plan to join us for any of our meetings.

We are seeking suggestions for winter-spring activities and members who wish to run them! If you have an idea for an outing and are willing to lead it, please call or email Agnes or Roberta!

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 or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.



Shabbat Club

Saturday, January 18, 1:00 pm

Ophir Tal, *shaliach* (emissary from Israel), will speak about immigration to Israel and its effects on Israeli society. He will also talk about the movie *Sallah Shabati*, part of the ongoing Israeli Film Series: Immigrant Stories. This 1964 social satire will be shown at the 14th Street Y on Jan. 28 in conjunction with The Brotherhood Film Series.

All are welcome to attend this meeting, and all Shabbat Club meetings—members, nonmembers, friends. Meetings begin at 1pm, last about an hour, and are held in the second floor reception room opposite the sanctuary. Light refreshments are served.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for Shabbat Club topics or discussion leaders, call the office or contact Deborah Newman.

Upcoming Shabbat Club Meeting: February 1

Cantor Isaac Yager will lead a discussion on the meaning of Shabbat Shira, which happens this year on February 8. He will also teach us some relevant songs for this special Shabbat.

Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, January 16, 7 pm

Linda Kates will lead a discussion of *kaddish.com*, a novel by Nathan Englander. The celebrated Pulitzer finalist and prize-winning author delivers his best work yet, a streamlined comic masterpiece about a son's failure to say Kaddish for his father. To the horror and dismay of his sister, he hatches an ingenious if cynical plan, hiring a stranger through a website called *kaddish.com* to recite the prayer and shepherd his father's soul safely to rest.

Save the dates for upcoming book club meetings (Book TBA):

February 20, 2020 • March 19, 2020

If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Margie Katz at margie.katz@me.com. All are welcome!



Interfaith

Hunger Van at Brotherhood Sunday, January 26, 11:00 am -12:30 pm



Please VOLUNTEER with us on Sunday morning, January 26, when Brotherhood Synagogue will be hosting *The Hunger Van* for an all-Brotherhood volunteer morning!!

We are asking for donations to help cover the costs of the meals we will be preparing: \$20 per individual and \$30 per family. Please email Roberta (rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) or call the office to volunteer by no later than Tuesday, January 21. Please volunteer!

Brotherhood Film Series

In Conjunction with the
Israeli Film Series: Immigrant Stories
at the 14th Street Y Presents:

SALLAH SHABATI

(1964, 110 minutes)

Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 pm

This social satire portrays Sallah Shabati (played by Haim Topol from *Fiddler On the Roof*) a Mizrahi Jewish immigrant, arriving with his family in Israel. Upon arrival, he is brought to live with his family in a broken down, one room shack in a transit camp. His comical money-making schemes, aimed to achieve adequate housing, satirize the political and social stereotypes in Israel of the time.



The screening will be followed by panel discussion moderated by Ophir Tal, 14th St Y/DJL Shaliach, and featuring the son of creator of the film, Amir Kishon, stand up comedian Dotan Malach, Brotherhood Film Series Curator and Trustee, Debra Aaron and BCRC (Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis) Co-Chair, Barbara Stern. Barbara volunteers with various local organizations supporting asylum-seekers and people released from immigration detention.

Venue: Theater at the 14th Street Y

General Admission @ \$20.00 each

Tickets: https://14streety.secure.force.com/ticket#sections_a0F1R00000S9DsxUAF



Save the Date:

Brotherhood Film Series
Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm

AMERICAN MUSLIM (2019)

Produced, Directed, and Edited by Adam Zucker

Five Muslim Americans in Brooklyn and Queens, each once an immigrant and now a U.S. citizen, deal with a new reality of Islamophobia in the Age of Trump. Under the shadow of the Muslim Ban, they are each forced to navigate the changing reality of what it means to be an American Muslim.

SHABBATON@ BROTHERHOOD

Friday-Saturday, February 7-8

An evening with

Mark Hetfield, HIAS President and CEO *Welcoming the Stranger: A Jewish Response to the Refugee Crisis*

Join us for Friday night services on February 7 and a delicious congregational dinner, which will be followed by a talk with Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS. Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 70 million—more than any time in history. Because of our experiences and our values, the Jewish people have a unique connection to these most vulnerable people. Join us to learn more about Jewish displacement in history and the current global refugee crisis, and explore how Jewish values call on us to respond.



HIAS
Welcome the stranger
Protect the refugee.

Mark Hetfield is President and CEO of HIAS, which, founded in 1881 as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is the world's oldest organization dedicated to refugees. Mark has led the transformation of the organization from one focused on Jewish immigrants to a global agency guided by Jewish values that assists and resettles refugees of all faiths and ethnicities and is a major implementing partner of the United Nations Refugee Agency and the U.S. Department of State. In February 2017, under Mark's leadership, HIAS became the first and only national refugee resettlement agency to file a court challenge against the Trump Administration and its Executive Order implementing a Muslim and refugee ban, a challenge which led to an injunction against the order and is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. Mark holds both a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.

Friday, February 7

6:30-7:30 pm: **Shabbat Services** with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager

7:30 pm: **Congregational Dinner** for members and friends

8:30-9:15 pm: **Speaker - Mark Hetfield**

9:15-9:45 pm: **Oneg Shabbat** Stay for dessert, coffee, and after-dinner conversation.

Saturday, February 8

9:30-Noon: **Shabbat Services** with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager

9:30 am: **Torah Talk** with Phil Rothman: "Go Forward!"

Noon: **Kiddush Lunch** in the Community Room

1:30-2:30 pm: **Spiritual Yoga** with Rebecca Kryspin. All levels welcome.

3:00-4:00 pm: **Terrific Toddler Time**

Dinner tickets are \$30 for each adult; \$16 for children under 13. To reserve seats, please send this order form and a check payable to Brotherhood Synagogue to the Synagogue office **by February 5**. We encourage you to sign up early, as congregational dinners tend to sell out! Please, no phone reservations.

You may also visit the Brotherhood website to sign up and pay for the dinner online at www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Barry and Florie Huppert on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Beatrice Huppert**. Bea, a student at 75 Morton School, will celebrate her simcha with her siblings, **Nathan, Leah, and Isaac**.

Irene Shnayder on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, **Samuel Shnayder**. Sammy, a student at Clinton School, will celebrate his simcha with his younger sister, **Isabel**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Emily and Russell Shattan on the birth of their son, **Jeremy Ira Neimark Shattan**; and to older brother, **Wyatt**.

Condolences to:

Harvey Lipkis on the passing of his mother, **Goldie Lipkis**.

A Note from Development:

As we enter the new year with the chills of January upon us, my thoughts go to all those who remain homeless in our midst. The Brotherhood Synagogue responded to the homeless crisis as the first synagogue to open a homeless shelter. That was back in 1983 and this month, we embark on our 37th year of offering a warm, safe and inviting winter shelter for the homeless. We welcome an average of 8 guests per night 3 nights of the week. Guests are provided a hot meal served by volunteers who join our guests at dinner. After a warm, safe night's sleep, our guests receive breakfast and a brown bag lunch. Your gift to the Annual Fund helps us continue this important activity, along with so many of our other programs and services. The Annual Fund supports a vast array of offerings, from Hebrew School for Children with Special Needs, to scholarships for Hebrew School students, to Senior Transportation, free High Holiday services for the community at large and Interfaith Outreach, just to name a few. Details on how to make a gift are as follows:

Send your check to The Brotherhood Synagogue at 28 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003; call the office at 212-674-5750 to make your gift by credit card or by stock transfer; or use our secure website at <https://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/make-a-donation.html>.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you a safe and happy winter season!

—Marilyn Strozak,

Director of Development

BCRIC UPDATE

(Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis)



The Brotherhood Committee
on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis

The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis (BCRIC) partnership with Seafarers International House continues to thrive. In addition to our regular biweekly dinners, on December 16 we joined Seafarers guests who have been recently released from immigration detention for a holiday gathering with food and music shared from our religious and cultural backgrounds. We also invited Seafarers guests to join us at the menorah-lighting ceremony in Gramercy Park, and we hope that Seafarers guests will join us at other Brotherhood events. On an individual level, we are also offering opportunities for our Seafarers friends to accompany us to museums, cultural events, and dinners at local restaurants, and we have arranged for free tickets to local Peoples Symphony Orchestra concerts. In all of these activities, our goal is to build community between Brotherhood members and Seafarers guests.

Upcoming dinners are on Mondays January 6 and 20. If you are interested in participating, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

BCRIC continues to be an active member of the citywide Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis (SCRIC), and to support activities sponsored by other synagogues and Jewish organizations. On January 8 at 6:30 pm, Brotherhood members are invited to participate in a Census 2020 program sponsored by Congregation Shaarey Tefila. The program will include a presentation on the importance of counting every New Yorker to ensure that we get our fair share of federal funding and the special challenges of including immigrants in the count, followed by a discussion of how our synagogues and organizations can organize to help ensure a full count. For more information, contact Jolie.schwab@gmail.com.

— In partnership,

Barbara Stern and Ellie Wertheim

MetroCard Drive for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Asylees during the Month of January

MetroCards are a major expense for refugees, asylum seekers and asylees as they try to get around the city for appointments—whether to appear in court, meet with agencies or seek employment. BCRIC (The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis) will be collecting MetroCards during the month of January for donation to HIAS which for 130 years has been helping refugees rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. The MetroCards should be either for 10 rides or 2 rides and placed in an envelope indicating the amount of rides so the MetroCards can be distributed appropriately. The envelope may be brought to the synagogue's offices on the third floor during January for deposit in a box labeled "MetroCard Drive." The Committee appreciates your help in this worthy cause. Tikkun Olam.

N.B. We encourage members and friends to attend the Shabbaton dinner on Friday, February 7, following services when the guest speaker will be Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS, to learn more about the Jewish response to this crisis.



The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Don't let the shorter and colder days, or any physical constraints, discourage you from coming to services or other activities at Brotherhood. If you need a ride, or a walking escort to the synagogue, let the Synagogue Office know and we will try to accommodate you.

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

President's Post

by Tracie Basch

It might be January when you are reading this, but as I sit here writing this column, it is less than a week after the events in Jersey City have unfolded. At this point, there is a still a lot that is unknown about the full motive behind the attack. What is clear, though, is that once again, gun violence and anti-Semitism has converged in this country, leaving a community, and all Jews, in mourning.



I know that I have spoken quite a bit this year about anti-Semitism. It wasn't really a planned theme or focus—I am just reacting to what I hear, see and feel around me. It concerns me that we are seeing such a rise in overt anti-Semitic acts and it angers me that it seems as if nothing can be done to stem its tide. I used to think that living in NYC had some measure of protection—but not anymore. No law can change what is in people's hearts—we have seen this throughout our history. The only way to change people is to educate them. But they need to have an open mind and heart and want to change—it can't be forced. That doesn't mean that we don't stop trying—because if we can change one mind, we have achieved some level of success. And who knows, maybe that one mind will be able to change others and have a cascading effect.

My hope for all of us as we enter this new year, and new decade, is that we see a lot more peace and understanding between people.

Shalom,
Tracie

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 1:00 pm

Join us at our next meeting.

Homeless Shelter Donations

Our homeless shelter opens on January 2. We will be providing shelter and food for 8 men each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night until the end of March. Donations of unused scarves, hats, gloves and underwear will be much appreciated.



Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

January 4-10

^Tessie Adler, ^Frances Berger, Selma Berman, Nathan Borkow, ^Roberta Cummings, Henry Daniel, ^Isidor Diamond, *Florence Eichner, Beatrice Feder, ^Louis Philip Foster, Charles Friedenber, *Jack Friedman, Mimi Gettinger, Sarah Glickstein, Josepha Gold, ^Jerome Goldstein, ^Roger Gomby, Edward Greenberg, *Lewis Gross, ^*Daniel Halpern, Joseph Kalish, ^Clara Kaufman, David Kitover, Abraham Kitt, ^Israel Klonsky, Isaias Lerner, Jeanne Levine, *Nachama Rachel Lewinstein, Ruth Lewis, *Claude Markel, *Joseph Michael, Estelle Moskowitz, Marie Myhrberg-Blomgren, Anne Osofsky, ^Ismar Cohn Reisner, Phillip Rosen, *Leroy S. Rosenbaum, ^Esther Rosenberg, *Bertha Scheiner, Nathan Scher, ^Doris Gordon Selkowitz, Joseph Silberberg, Edward L. Silverstein, *Betty Siskind, ^Esther Stutzel, *Samuel Warfman, Doris Watty, ^Phyllis Weinstein, *Abraham Weiss, ^Edward Weiss, Marguerite Wimer, Melvin A. Wool

January 11-17

^Harold Altman, ^*Meyer Antell, Edgar Baurer, Jessie Zera Benardete, Ida Berkowitz, *Philip Block, ^Harry Blum, Yosef Chaim Borochoy, Lennie Brass, Galina Bronshteyn, Beatrice Chernick, Nathan Cheshes, Stella Cooper Orkin, ^Beth Cosnow, *Benjamin Dymn, *Meyer Ellenbogen, *Ben Farland, Yale Fendel, *Rachel Finebaum, Lisa Fisher, Irving Flax, *George Fraenkel, *Anna Frankel, Rabbi Moses Fried, ^Mark Geller, *Vicki Germaine, Rachel Gersbein, Solomon Glassman, ^*H. Mark Goldshlag, Abraham Gross, *Clara Gross, Ilse Jacobson Henry, *George Hirschfeld, ^Bernice Hoffeld, ^Sophie Hoffman, Neil Kaplan, Victor Kramer, Deborah Larkin, Ralph Lusskin, Mace Mason, Dora Mayer, Leonard Miltenberg, ^Fay Nelson, Joseph Nobel, Barbara Okanes, Gertrude Riff, *Belle Robinove, ^Herbert D. Roistacher, Samuel I. Rosenfeld, ^Natalie Simon Rosenfeld, Yita Chaya Royardo, Philip Rutkin, *Isabelle P. Schechter, Fred Schultz, ^Edward Schwartz, ^Charles D. Seeman, Sandy Seidman, Lily Seregi, Julian Silbiger, Stanley Simon, ^Sylvia Wasserstrom Solomon, ^Jack Stark, ^Samuel A. Valentine, ^William Warmbrand, ^Gertrude Weiner, *Joseph Zalkind

January 18-24

^Mary Abbey, Isaac Alhadeff, *Herman Alshan, ^Barbara Altman, Fred Bayroff, ^Cylka Berke, *Henry Biegeleisen, Phyllis Block, *Edward H. Breiterman, Morris Brown, Rae Brumberg, Sidney Burack, *Beatrice Chizner, *Herman Cohen, Marion Cooper, ^May Lipton Cummins, *Julius Dolitsky, Milton M. Enzer, ^E. Joyce Feitell, *Fannie Feldman, *Faye Frankel, Morris Friedman, ^Shaynii K. Gadsden, Abraham Glasser, ^Liza Gleizer, George Goldberg, Lisa Goldberg, ^Joseph D. Goldreich, *Irving Goodman, Julia Greenbaum, *Minnie Gross, Ilse Hammerstei, *Sarah Handler*, *Lillian R. Hayt, ^Yaakov Michele Hirsch, Goldy Hushansky, *Aaron Bernard Israel, ^David Janow, ^Lawrence Janow, ^Cecelia Josselson, *Edith R.

Karban, *Charlotte Chernoble Klein, Lee Kohn, ^Leon Krentzman, Estelle Lasser, ^Jean Miller, *Gilbert Naftalis, Max Neiden, *Florence Newfield, Esther Nirenberg, ^Frieda Pearl, Shirley Pearlstein, *Murray Pfeffer, ^*Herbert Plaut, *Eva Posner Post, Hannah Pressman, Phillip Raffe, Lawrence Raizman, Edward Renstrom, ^Howard Topol Roberts, Irving Rubenstein, Sylvia Rubinstein, Koula Saba, Charlotte Hope Saltzman, Sophia Savits, *Monroe I. Schechter, Isidore Schneider, ^Jeannette Mildred Seinfeld, ^Abba Settle, Pauline Shapiro, ^Theresa Rena Sidran, George Silver, Miriam B. Singer, Barry N. Spilkin, ^Rose Strong, ^Evelyn K. Sussman, Leo Teviowitz, *Bea Topal, Larry Toporek, Nathan Tucker, ^William Tudor, ^Isaac Versh, ^Maurice Volk, ^*Celia L. Warmbrand, Lloyd Weiss, Marc Zeitlin

January 25-31

Lazar Agababayev, ^Rose Alster, Jossie Barcelona, Molly Baron, Abraham Block, Siegfried Blum, Barbara Brooks, *Abraham Chizner, Ira Cirker, ^Louis Diamond, ^Mary Diamond, *Helen Elkin, Irvin Fisher, ^Jennie Fox, Paula Franklin, *Hanie Friedman, ^Rose Schlamowitz Glass, Norman Goldfinger, ^Gertrude Goldschmidt, Ben Gross, Sally Grossman, *Bessie Honig, Jean Iskowitz, ^Joseph Israel, ^Dora Jaffe, Jack Kasman, ^*Jennie B. Klein, *Bea Kramer, ^Sarah Lederman, ^Walter Lese, Arthur Levitz, Joel Levitz, Aaron Machlin, Lillian Manischewitz, *Joseph Meyers, Susan Miller, Joel Ontell, Helen Philipps, Bernice Putterman, Theodore Rabb, Frieda Rauch, Rabbi Andrew J. Robins, Dr. Thomas Robitscher, ^Lillian Roniss, Schiffy Rosenblum, ^Henry Rosenblum, ^Stanley Rosenthal, *Harry Satosky, Milton Schupak, Henry Sellner, *Adam Siegal, Robert Silverman, Hyman Slotnick, Irma Louise Spitzer, ^Sari Orovan Steiner, Rose Stopler, ^Honor Hess Ward, ^Alice E. Warfman, ^*Leo E. Williams, Louis Jeffery Wolfson, Jimmie Yee

The Brotherhood Synagogue



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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER

CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²⁴ 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

This month Rabbi Alder will visit our Hebrew School classes. In preparation for his visit, students in Gan (Kindergarten) through Kitah Zayin (7th Grade) are in the process of thinking of the questions they will ask Rabbi Alder. Over the years, Rabbi Alder has been asked many questions such as:

About Being A Rabbi:

What does a rabbi do? | What is it like being a rabbi? | How does one become a rabbi? | Is it fun to be a rabbi? | What did you do before you became a rabbi? | Did you always want to be a rabbi? | Were your parents supportive of your decision to be a rabbi? | What do you like best about being a rabbi? | What is the least best thing about being a rabbi? | Who teaches the rabbi? | Who was the first rabbi? | Can anyone become a rabbi? | Who inspires you in your work as a rabbi?

About G-d:

Why can't you see G-d? | How come you can't hear G-d? | What does G-d look like? | How do we know that G-d exists? | Who made G-d? How did G-d make the world?

About The Torah:

Why are there so many Torahs in the Brotherhood Synagogue Aron HaKodesh (the Holy

"Much I have learned from my teachers, more from my peers, but most of all from my students."

—Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 7a

Ark)? | Since there are so many Torahs in the Aron HaKodesh, how do you decide which Torah to read from? | Who wrote the Torah? | How long does it take to write a Torah? | How many letters are there in the Torah? [304,805] | How many words are there in the Torah? [79,847] | How many words are there in the Book of Genesis? | Did Cain have children? | How many words are there in the Book of Exodus? | In the Book of Exodus, why did Pharaoh want to kill only the Jewish boy babies? (and not the Jewish girl babies)? | How does it feel marching around the synagogue holding a Torah? | What is the Hebrew word for the profession of writing Torahs? | Why do we read the Torah over and over again (every year)?

About Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

How far in advance should one start his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations? | How do you feel when you officiate at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

About Hebrew:

Where did the Hebrew language come from? | Why does Hebrew have five "final letters" and no capital letters?

About Israel:

Who invented the flag of Israel? | How old do you have to be to go on a Birthright trip to Israel? | Why is there so much controversy about Israel?

About Mitzvot:

Were you always kosher when you were younger? | How did you feel about yourself after you decided to become kosher? | To be a good Jew, which is the most important commandment to follow?

About Being Jewish:

Can you still be Jewish if you are an agnostic? | Is it okay to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah if you are not sure you believe in G-d? | How do you feel about the state of world Jewry today?

About Ritual

Why do you boys/men wear a kippah? | Why do parents bless their children on Shabbat? | Why does the Eternal Light burn forever? | Why do some Jewish congregations separate men and women during prayer services?

Personal Favorites:

What's your favorite holiday? | What is your favorite food? | Which teams are your favorite teams? (baseball, basketball, football, etc)

This is just a sampling of the types of questions our Hebrew School children will be asking Rabbi Alder. We are all very proud of our Hebrew School children and their teachers—who, along with their parents—teach and inspire them.

And that brings us back to the Babylonian Talmud—Ta'anit 7a *"Much I have learned from my teachers, more from my peers, but most of all from my students."*

Our children continue to inspire and teach us all.

—Barbara Simon,
Hebrew School Principal

Teen Groups

Downtown BBYO at Brotherhood for teens grades 8-12!

Chapter Meeting: January 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

BBYO, the world's leading pluralistic youth movement for Jewish teens in grades 8-12, has a co-ed chapter that meets every other Thursday at Brotherhood and offers a full array of activities—social, community service, and leadership development—all with Jewish teens in charge! BBYO fosters leadership and friendship and is an international movement of more than 80,000 teens. **Come get involved!**

Missed our first meetings? No worries! Just come to any of our meetings and see what it's all about! **Brotherhood Synagogue will cover the cost of 50% of membership!** Contact Jon ZefTel with any questions (jzefTel@bbyo.org).

6th & 7th Grade Weekly Youth Group!!

Eat dinner with your friends—and make new friends, too! Plan activities, including field trips to museums, exhibitions, plays, and concerts! Participate in Social Action programs... and so much more! And, have fun and learn about Judaism and being Jewish, of course!

The 7th Grade Group meets on Tuesdays from 6:00- 7:00 pm.

The 6th Grade Group meets on Wednesdays, from 6:00-7:00 pm.

No need to enroll. Just come when you can. We look forward to seeing you! (The Youth Group does not meet when Hebrew School is on vacation).

If you have any questions about the Teen Groups, please contact Michael Mantell at Youthgroup@BrotherhoodSynagogue.org.



BBYO heads to the Knicks Game - 1/12

Regional Leadership Training Institution (RLTI) (Chapter and Regional Leaders only) - 1/26

Downtown Winter Kickoff- 1/30



Phil showing the Kitah Aleph students the Torah.

Nursery School Thoughts

by Era Zwickel

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated during the Hebrew month of Kislev, during the darkest days of the year. The annual December candle-lighting holiday is a warm, cozy ritual that brings us around the Chanukkiah (the Chanukah Menorah). The focus of the holiday is not so much going to temple, or reading certain scriptures, but rather, staying at home with friends and family. On Chanukah, we eat, play, and just spend time together. (For many English speakers the spelling of the festival is a bit confusing: Is it Hanukkah or Chanukah? In Hebrew, we use the “ch” sound, but in English, both terms are widely accepted.)

The lights of Chanukah inspire us on all levels. Light is a metaphor for wisdom and understanding. The bright flames awaken clarity: “OH I SEE”!



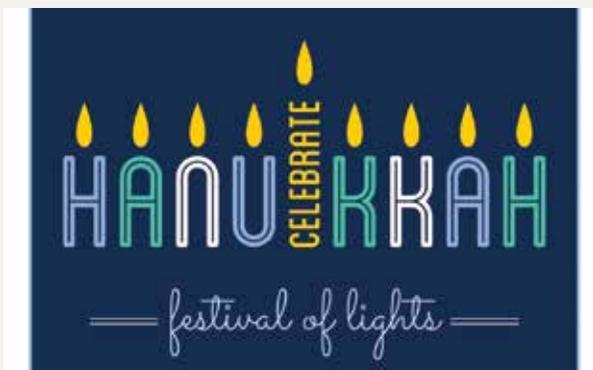
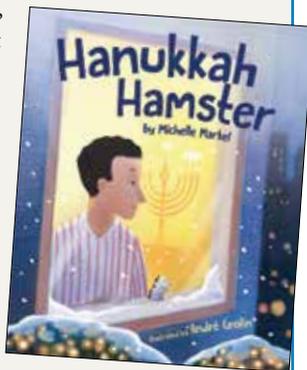
In Israel, where I lived, we used to celebrate Chanukah with all 3 generations of our family eating and playing in our home, just above my parents' house. The Chanukkiah was placed in our deep recessed window, shining bright

for all to see. The Chanukah story was felt deeply in our hearts, and through the years, we were inspired by the courageous story of the Macabbis and the many Hebrew songs that were written in the spirit of the holiday. One of the songs, “Hava Narima,” was based on Handel’s Oratory. Every Israeli child knew it well.

For me now, as Liam’s grandmother, Kislev will be a double celebration. Not only is Kislev my Zodiac sign, but this coming Chanukah, we will celebrate and share our lights with the world from our windows in Los Angeles.

Liam will have the chance to repeat the blessings in Hebrew for eight nights. We’ll play traditional Chanukah games, and read some new books from the P.J. Library which we always enjoy and support.

Happy Chanukah! 🌸



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



January 17

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

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

January 31

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

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

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

Cantor's Notes

by Cantor Isaac Yager

After having witnessed the entire labor that led up to the birth of my daughter, I can say that the only part that made me wince was when the anesthesiologist administered the epidural. It was around midnight when he arrived and everyone was tired. As the doctor was finding the right spot for the needle he was making conversation with us both, mostly to distract the patient from the ten inch needle he was handling. When it came up that we lived nearby because I was a cantor in the neighborhood, the anesthesiologist broke character for a split second. “You’re kidding,” he said, “I’m a *baal korei* (Torah reader), I just read *Lech L’cha*.” It wasn’t long before I was “talking shop” with the anesthesiologist, discussing the subtle differences between *’vir* and *revia* in *Haftarah* versus *Torah* trope, all while the patient waited for some relief. My schmoozing even led the doctor to gesture for me to take a look at his handiwork. “Come here,” he said luring me over with his thumb. “I want you to see this.” Sure enough, there was not much to see, as the *baal korei* had made the needle disappear into oblivion (hence the wincing). It’s not often that I have the opportunity to talk shop in my personal life in the manner I did the night before my daughter was born. When I was pursuing opera singing, talking shop was a rampant epidemic among many of my colleagues. Between comparing auditions, voice teachers, technique, and other singer related neuroses, I think I became turned off to the cross section of professional life and everyday conversation. Today things are different. While I’m still a singer, and a neurotic one at that, I’m also a cantor. It’s not every day that I run into a *baal korei* and chat about the challenges of a triennial Torah reading versus a full *kriya* or techniques for remembering trope. And as it turns out, I don’t mind talking shop the same way I used to. Maybe this is because of the specificity of what I do and the respect I have for those who are skilled in this ancient art. Or maybe I just needed to distract myself from the ten inch needle going into my wife. Probably both. 🌸

Brotherhood Synagogue



Tevet / Shevat 5780
January 2020

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 MetroCard Drive Begins Noon: Lunch and Learn	3 4:22 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services	4 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Beatrice Huppert VAYIGASH
5 9 am: Tikvah	6 4 pm: Hebrew School	7 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	8 4 pm: Hebrew School 4:45 pm: Mark Twain and the Holy Land (Off-site)	9 Noon: Lunch and Learn	10 4:29 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services	11 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Shnyder VAYECHI
12 9 am: Tikvah	13 4 pm: Hebrew School	14 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 4:15 pm: Life Goes On 5:40 pm: Minyan	15 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	16 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 6:30 pm: BBYO 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	17 4:37 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6)	18 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 1 pm: Shabbat Club SHEMOT
19	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	21 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club	22 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	23 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	24 4:45 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services	25 ☆ 9:30 am: Services VAERA
26 9 am: Tikvah 11 am: Hunger Van	27 7:30 am: Minyan 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Studay 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew ROSH CHODESH	28 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7:30 pm: The Israeli Film Series: Immigrant Stories at the 14th Street Y <i>Sallah Shabati</i>	29 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	30 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 6:30 pm: BBYO	31 MetroCard Drive Ends 4:54 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6) 6:30 pm: (Grades 2-7) 6:30 pm: Services	1 ☆ 9:30 am: Services BO

Social Action

Love to knit or crochet? The Social Action Committee is excited to organize a charitable crafting activity. In addition to knitting hats for the homeless in Brotherhood's shelter, we are hoping to expand our donations. One idea is to knit or crochet squares that can be put together into welcome blankets for immigrants through the **Welcome Blanket Project**. Please contact Cindy Menell (cmenell@nyc.rr.com) if you would like more information.



We had a wonderful turnout of Brotherhood volunteers for our DOROT Thanksgiving Visits with seniors on Sunday, November 24 and for our visit with seniors at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale on Sunday December 7.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered!