



Brotherhood Synagogue ה"ב

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Volume XXXIX Number III

Kislev / Tevet 5780 December 2019

Charlotte Berglas ^{z"l}

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

Charlotte Berglas, who passed away in September, joined Brotherhood Synagogue in the mid-1990s and was soon an integral part of the congregation. She studied Torah reading with me and claimed many of the most important Torah readings as her own. She celebrated an adult Bat Mitzvah. She organized bulletin mailings, polished the silver adorning the Torah, took adult education classes, knitted for charity, was honored—along with Bob Wolf—on Simchat Torah, and was a regular at all synagogue services. The last time at services, just a few days before her death, was for the Bat Mitzvah of my daughter Gabrielle, something Charlotte had been looking forward to for years.

At Charlotte's funeral service, after recounting her life as a refugee from Germany in England, later an immigrant to the United States, and always a well-respected nurse, Debbie Pearlstein added a personal observation. She noted that "there was something about Charlotte that made her important to those who knew her, that earned their respect. I saw that in the Christmas cards Charlotte received every year. She had not lived in England in almost 60 years, but she was still on the holiday card list of multiple friends from her younger days there. Sometimes her friends passed on, but their children were still sending her seasons' greetings. Yes, I know she visited England regularly before she became too ill to fly, but most of us lose track of people from old jobs and old neighborhoods pretty quickly. Something about Charlotte inspired people to stay in touch with her for decades.

"So what was it about Charlotte that kept people visiting, writing, helping? Perhaps we all have a different answer to that. For me it was the respect she deserved for overcoming loss of home and family, for building and rebuilding a professional and personal life for herself in multiple countries, for striving to increase her Jewish commitments, and that she was proud and smart and funny."

I will let Charlotte have the final words. A year after her adult bat mitzvah of 2001,

she wrote a column in our newsletter about the experience: "As many of you know, I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah a year ago, and the sounds of Mazal Tov still echo in my ears. As the end of the year draws near, I reflect on the experience with a great deal of emotion, satisfaction and joy, and I realize how much my life has been enriched by the event.

"Things happen when we least expect them. About four years ago during a casual conversation with Rabbi Alder, he asked me if I had ever considered becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Frankly, the thought had never occurred to me; after all, I had always associated Bat Mitzvahs with twelve to thirteen year olds, and here I was a mature adult who had long passed that phase of life. Bat Mitzvahs as we know them today did not exist when I was of age, there was no ritual ceremony, just a birthday gathering at home, and I received special gifts from my family. At this point in my life, a Bat Mitzvah did not seem appropriate, and Rabbi Alder accepted my explanation most graciously.

"But he had planted a seed, and it took three years to root, grow and mature. The more time I spent attending services together with the opportunity to read from the sacred scroll, the greater my desire to formally declare

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30 PM
Following services: Shabbaton dinner and speaker, Jonathan Weisman
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 9:30 AM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 4:15 PM
Bar Mitzvah of Sarah Silver

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 9:30 AM
Remembrances of Charlotte Berglas ^{z"l}


FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 9:30 AM

my commitment to reclaim the covenant as it had been given to my ancestors at Mount Sinai. This ambition and deep feeling did not go away; so, after a lot of soul searching, I decided that it is something I couldn't not do.

"I have had the privilege and honour to be joined by Deborah Newman and Ellen Renstrom who shared the experience with me. Though of very different backgrounds, we came together relating to each other and experiencing a sense of strength that helped us work together to achieve our goal. It was exciting and rewarding to share the motivation that joined us to become Bat Mitzvah sisters. A lot of work went into planning the event. It was over so quickly, but with each passing day, the spiritual value and significance of the occasion remain with me.

"I am acutely aware how important it is to remain involved in continuous learning, research and participation on all levels of Jewish education. Perhaps not surprisingly, I am stimulated to learn and grow in my quest to improve my knowledge of the Torah. What a privilege it is to be part of a group so uniquely geared toward the path of study."

Please come to Sabbath services on Saturday, December 14th, when we share our remembrances of Charlotte. 

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. Socks are not needed, thanks to the generosity of Bombas Socks and Emily Hofstetter, niece of our members Eileen and William Hofstetter. She arranged for the delivery of 3 large cartons of men's socks, for which we are most grateful.

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 pm

This month's Hadassah meeting will focus on Chanukah.



The Brotherhood Committee
on the Refugee and
Immigration Crisis

BCRIC UPDATE (Brotherhood Committee on the Immigration & Refugee Crisis)

On November 12, the Brotherhood Committee on the Immigration and Refugee Crisis (BCRIC) met to talk about ways that Brotherhood members have been volunteering on behalf of immigrants and refugees. The Brotherhood-Seafarers International House (SIH) Partnership got off to a strong start with 15 members attending bi-weekly dinners with people who have recently been released from immigration detention centers who are temporarily living at nearby SIH. Upcoming Partnership dinners are on December 2 and 16. We are also inviting SIH guests to join us at Brotherhood and other neighborhood activities, and to get together informally for restaurant meals.

Anyone interested in participating in these activities can contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net. Other Brotherhood members will be volunteering to assist asylum seekers complete asylum applications through the Congregation Beit Simchat Torah legal clinic (contact Bob Wolf at rwolf@tarterkrinsky.com) and to accompany immigrants to legal hearings through the New Sanctuary Coalition (contact Ellie Wertheim at elliewertheim@yahoo.com).

BCRIC will also periodically inform the Brotherhood community about ways to support immigrants and refugees that are initiated by other synagogues and organizations. New Committee members and volunteers for all activities are welcome!

—In partnership,
Barbara Stern and Ellie Wertheim

Social Action

Collecting Through December 11

Children's Toy Drive for



The Social Action Committee is running a toy drive to benefit Sanctuary for Families, New York's leading service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and related forms of gender violence. Every year, Sanctuary empowers over 10,000 adults and children to move from fear and abuse to safety and stability, transforming lives through a comprehensive range of services.

We are collecting NEW TOYS in boxes (not used or gently used!) for CHILDREN ALL AGES!

Kindly bring your donations to the collection box in the lobby.

Thanks in advance to all who contribute!



Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am

VOLUNTEER at a Family Community Service Event at Hebrew Home in Riverdale



Join us for a day of family community service as we visit with residents, sing songs, and tour the facilities at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale.

We will meet at the Hebrew Home at 10:00 am and the event ends at 11:30 am.

There are only a limited number of volunteer spots available so please e-mail Helaine Teperman (helaine.teperman@bernstein.com) asap if you'd like to join the group!

Ages 8 and up are welcome.

Drivers are needed, so when you RSVP, please indicate if you will be able to drive and provide rides for others.

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.



Thank you very much to Sheryl Lerner for organizing our beautiful November event at the Morgan Library. Our docent for the Sargent exhibit was excellent, and high tea sitting in the stunning courtyard of

the museum made the day even more memorable. Let's do it again soon, Sheryl!

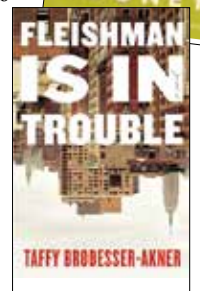
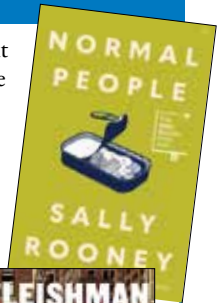
Please save the evening of **Tuesday, December 10** for our **Hanukah Party!** We will get together for a delicious dinner and play our gift exchange game as usual—no panic needed; details will be sent to everyone who plans to attend! Our party will be at 6pm in the 2nd Floor Reception Room at Brotherhood, with good food, potato latkes galore, wine, and lots of good games among lots of good friends! Please RSVP to Brenda Pace at Bapace172@gmail.com and/or Agnes Marton at Iagnesmarton@gmail.com.

Discussing *Normal People* at our November book club was a very enlightening glimpse for us all into the lives of contemporary young adults. Please save **Wednesday,**

December 11 for our next book club discussion—we have chosen *Fleishman is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner. Professor Margaret Boe Birns will guide our discussion as usual, and Brotherhood will graciously provide our usual libations and dessert. Thank you, Ellen Kenigsberg, for organizing our group so efficiently and for taking such good care of us! Please make sure to notify Ellen—ellensken14@gmail.com—if you plan to join us for the meeting.

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.



SHABBATON@BROTHERHOOD

Friday–Saturday, December 6-7

An evening with

Jonathan Weisman, author of **(((Semitism))) : Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump**

Following services and a congregational dinner, we'll be joined by **Jonathan Weisman**, Washington-based economic policy reporter for *The New York Times*. In his 25-year journalism career, he has covered the White House, national politics, and defense for the *Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *The Baltimore Sun*, among other publications.

Jonathan will discuss his acclaimed book, *(((Semitism))) : Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*. *(((Semitism)))* chronicles the rise of bigotry, anti-Semitism and racism unleashed in the age of Trump. It details the creation of the Alt Right out of the GamerGate controversy and a new breed of bigots bred on the Internet. And it takes to task the Jewish community in the United States for a single-minded obsession with Israel that blinded it to the threat inside its borders.

Book available for purchase in advance or at the dinner for \$25

Please visit the [Brotherhood website](#) or weekly email to register for the dinner.



"It is the advent of Trumpian politics—its nonstop carnival of paranoia; its scapegoating of Hispanics and African-Americans; its anti-immigrant phobia—that has rung Weisman's alarm bells.... More sinister for him than the foaming lunacies of the neo-Nazis is the alt-right's embrace of conspiracy theorists; the routine mutation of fantasy into fact; the appetite for seeing secret hands (George Soros for instance) at work in plots to undermine America—all of which have a whiff of late Weimar about them, not to mention the long history of populist anti-Semitism in the United States."

—Simon Schama, *The New York Times*

ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD BOOK FAIR

Monday, December 9 – Wednesday, December 11 in the Community Room

Books
make great
gifts!

Conveniently OPEN during Nursery School AND Hebrew School hours!

Monday 2:30 pm - 6 pm	⋮	Tuesday 9 am - 6 pm	⋮	Wednesday 9 am - 6 pm**
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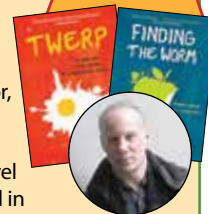
We invite you to visit our Book Fair!

A large collection of Jewish-themed books for children and adults will be available for purchase. It's a great time to pick out Chanukah gifts for family and friends!

****SPECIAL
Author's Visit
5:15 pm on
December 11**

Children's Book Author
MARK GOLDBLATT

On Wednesday afternoon December 11, we will have a special visit and reading from children's book author, Mark Goldblatt, author of *Twerp* and *Finding the Worm*. Goldblatt's first novel for young readers, released in 2013, was *Twerp*, a novel for young (and old) readers. In 2015, *Finding the Worm* (a sequel to *Twerp*) was released to critical acclaim. Please join us for this special event!



Volunteer Opportunities Still Are Available!!

Please email Francine Silberstein (fsilberstein@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) to volunteer to staff the book fair during any of the hours above and we are still looking for volunteers to help set up the fair on Monday, December 9 and break down the fair on Wednesday, December 11.

Please volunteer!

A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE GOES TO BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE!



A Community Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Gramercy Park and Chanukah Concert

Monday, December 22, 4:30 pm

Please join us for the lighting of the first candle of the menorah in Gramercy Park and a Chanukah Concert with our congregational choir, **Harmoni-AH!** The concert will consist of traditional and contemporary Chanukah songs and will surely be an event not to be missed!

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Thomas Silver and Natasha Silver Bell on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah Silver. Sarah will be celebrating her simcha with her older brothers, Sam and Ben.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

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

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Meredeth Kelly and Cantor Isaac Yager on the birth of their daughter, Hazel Henia Yager.

Myra Hushansky on the birth of her granddaughter, Nomi Berk, born to Susy and Emile Berk; and to Nomi's older brother, Eitan.

Condolences to:

Elliott Zenkel on the passing of his sister, Francine Schoeman Alper. Brenda Schumann on the passing of her husband, and our member, Norman Schumann.

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

The Chesed Committee will be holding an open meeting on Monday, December 2nd, at 6:30 pm to plan a program for late winter/early spring of 2020. Please come if you are interested in making suggestions or learning about the Chesed Committee's activities. We welcome your input.

*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.

Brotherhood Book Club



Thursday, December 19, 7 pm

Barbara Feingold will lead a discussion of *A Spy in Exile* by Jonathan de Shalit. "This thriller offers a peek into the dark behind the curtain where today's deadliest conflicts are fought..."—The Wall Street Journal.

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

Shabbat Club

Saturday, December 28, 1:00 pm

"Privacy: Perspectives on The Constitution, The Torah, The Talmud" will be the topic on Saturday, December 28. Our congregant, Dennis Consumano, will lead the discussion. We will meet at 1:00 pm in the second floor reception room. All are welcome to attend and there will be light snacks and beverages.

Upcoming Shabbat Club Meeting: January 18, 2020

Ophir Tal on the movie *Sallah Shabati*, part of the Israeli Film Series: Immigrant Stories. This 1946 social satire film will be shown at the 14th Street Y on Jan. 28, co-sponsored by Brotherhood Synagogue.

President's Post

by Tracie Basch

As I sit and write this month's column, the sky is gray, it is raining and cold, and the leaves are mostly gone from the trees. Thanksgiving is a week away. A lot of people talk about what they are thankful for at Thanksgiving. This is not a practice that we have in my family, but I think that it is always good to stop and think about what we are grateful for. For me, right now, it is good health and being surrounded by family and friends, and since it has gotten cold out, the fact that I have a warm place to call home. I know that there are plenty of people who cannot say the same.



Starting in January, we will once again be opening our Community Room to our Homeless Shelter guests for the next three months. Every Monday night, you can find me and my sons greeting our guests, serving them and dining with them. Although unhappy at the thought that there is a need for homeless shelters, my sons look forward to this three-month stretch as it makes them feel like they are making a difference in someone's life—if only for a few hours. Volunteering at our shelter may not be for everyone, and I understand that, but even so there are ways that you can help. As you travel—for work, for vacation—there are still hotels that have little bottles of shampoo, lotion and basic toiletry items so please collect them and bring them to the synagogue office. One of the first things that our guests do is check out the little table where we lay out these items and they do take them. Sometimes, oftentimes, it is the little things that make a big difference in someone's life.

Sending warm thoughts to all of you.

—Tracie

A Note from Development:

As we enter the final month of 2019, the end of the 2019 tax-year is quickly approaching at the same time that the season of holiday gift-giving begins. **Won't you consider making a tax-deductible gift to The Brotherhood's Annual Fund before December 31, 2019?** To all those who have already made their Annual Fund gifts, we are ever grateful. However, as our costs continue to increase each year and membership dues and tuition simply do not cover the expenses we incur in running the wide variety of programs and services we offer—many at no cost to participants—we are reaching out to ask if you have not yet given this year to be as generous as possible in helping us meet these costs.

Your support of the Annual Fund enables us to continue offering programs like our Winter Homeless Shelter, our Tikvah Hebrew School for Children with Special Needs, Senior Transportation, our Chesed Programs, High Holiday services for the community-at-large—all at no cost to participants. In addition, your gifts enable us to have a generous scholarship program for students in our Hebrew School, offer a variety of Adult Ed Courses, engage in many Interfaith efforts, invite special speakers on topical issues, as well as maintain the upkeep of our beautiful landmarked building. **All this—and more—is made possible through your support of our Annual Fund!** Won't you please make your tax-deductible gift in the year 2019 before December 31st by sending your check to Brotherhood Synagogue, 28 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003? You may also call the Development office at 212-674-5750 to make your gift by credit card or go to www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org to make your gift online.

We remain ever grateful to each and every member of the Brotherhood community for your ongoing commitment and support and we wish you and your loved ones a Happy Hanukkah, and a healthy and happy 2020!

—Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development



YAHREZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

December 7-13

Ronald Abitbol, Mark Adelsberg, Ralph Adler, Harry Bernstein, David Bober, ^Edith N. Conway, Rita Domow, Roger Flather, Elsa Friedman, ^Benjamin Friedman, *Honey F. Goldby, Alexander Gordon, *Leon Graham, Harry Aaron Gross, Rosalind Halper, ^*Kenneth Halpern, Hugo Hamburger, Benjamin Hauptman, ^Anne Hayt, Benjamin Hushansky, Barbara Joslyn, Bernard Jurysta, *Benjamin Klein, Evelyn Kreloff, ^Betty Landino, ^Donald Learner, Abe Leinweber, *Samuel L. Magerfield, ^Gertrude Novom, Herman Nussbaum, ^*Rose Greenberg Rechtschaeffer, Renee Goode Rigby, ^Joseph Ripinsky, ^Morris Rosenberg, Sol Russon, Emanuel Saxe, ^Annie Schindel, *Allan Shafer, Audrey Shebroe, ^Marc Sloane, ^Miriam Statsinger, ^Irving Statsinger, Edward Stempel, *Rose Cooperman Wallach, Ida Weinstein, *Esther Wittenstein

December 14-20

Dorothy Adelsberg, ^Daniel Altman, Gabriel Ascher, Max Balaber, Martin Berkowitz, ^Freya Bodkins, ^Evelyn Borden, *Irving A. Browner, Betty Casper, ^Irwin Cassell, Sidney Cohen, Tessie Consumano, ^Molly D. Cummings, ^Mildred Dorman, ^Isidore Dursht, Rebecca Ellenzweig,

^Lazar Ente, ^Ethel Epstein, *Leo Farland, ^Rae Feld, Bruce Fendell, Helen Firstenberg, *Anny H. Gelber, Dorothy Goldstein, ^Lenore Goldstein, William Greenleaf, ^Fritz Hahn, Jack Herman, Billy Jacobson, Abraham Kasman, Gertrude Kaufman, Leonard Kaufman, ^Alice Kenner, Hanna Lederer, Florence Levine, *Gussie Levine, ^*Marvin Levy, ^Gloria Love, ^Sylvia Mayo, ^Anna Meisler, Eric Morse, Marjorie Nadler, ^Edward Perlstein, ^Joseph Pessar, Charles Poole, *Anna Poswolsky, ^Linda Ripinsky, ^Arthur Rosenblum, Ruth Saxe, Robert Schein, *Anna Schlager, *David Schlanger, Pearl Schwam, ^William Seinfeld, Neil Siderow, *Fred Sirkin, Sol Sloan, Eliezer Slotnick, Morris Sussman, Ben-Zion Toback, *Hannah Toby, ^Paul Tuchfeld, ^Alexandra Weiler, Michael Weintraub, Renee Wexer, ^Richard Zeitlin

December 21-27

^*Rose Antell, Hermine Bauer, ~*Rachel Leah Berglas, *Joseph Berlowitz, ^Philip Blinder, Harry Bohrer, ^Esther Brickman, *Yetta Chizner, Martin Davis, ^Rose Epstein, ^Morris Esrig, Irving Feinland, Gloria Fisher, Marion Flash, ^Bessie Fradin, Isaiah Gellman, Alden Getz, ^Paula Glass, ^Flora Goldin, Gilda L. Goldstein, *Morris Goldstein, ^Abraham Goldstein, ^Samuel

Goldstein, *Willard Gourse, Harry Haberman, Lou Hacker, Benjamin Hayeem, ^Anne Soloway Hayt, Robert Hikida, David Hochbaum, Lillian Hurowitz, Michael Kaplan, Louis Kletzkin, ^Herman E. Kurland, ^*Dr. Isidore J. Landsman, Edna Larkin, Eugenia Lauterpacht, *Frances Lebon, ^Sophie Leifschutz, ^*Sadie Maisel, Ruth Mandell, Patricia Manly, Rita Morrison, ^Sheldon Moskowitz, ^Dianne Rubenfeld, ^Murray J. Schneider, Celia Schneier, David Schumann, Rebecca Segal, Bill Seregi, Milton Shiller, David Silver Jr., ^James Slater, ^Leila Sloane, Louis Slotnick, *Mildred Steckler, ^Louis Stutzel, Miriam Sussman, ^Joseph Teperman, ^Richard Turkheimer, *Rose Fogelhood Unterweiser, Murray Weinstein, ^Lillian Weiss, Anna Wisgordinski, Jack Wishnie

December 28 -January 3

Tess Abramowitz, Phyllis Adelsberg, ^Frieda Rinder Antler, Dorothy Bergman, *Frances Greengras Carton, ^Helen Seinfeld Chodos, Abner Cohen, ^Leon Dankberg, ^Jack Davis, Ethel Edelstein, ^Benjamin Eisenstadt, Isaac Epstein, Evelyn Fisher, Arlene Ford, ^*Chester B. Franklin, ^Alan J. Freedman, *Libby Fried, ^I. Edward Ginsburg, Docia Glusband, Stanley Goldberg, ^*Blanche Greenhouse, Hayeem Benjamin Hayeem, Isadore Kasman, Benjamin Klein, ^Samuel Kleinhaut, Miriam Kramer, ^Gertrude Krupen, ^Ilsa Karger Levy, *Anna Meyers, ^*Resi Hamburger Nachman, *Lena Presser, Leonard Pressman, Eric Renstrom, *Sylvia Ringler, Ruth Rooney, *Rev. Saul Roselle, Estelle Rosenthal, Norman Rottenbach, *Sarah Schlanger, Daniel Schwartz, *Joseph M. Sepersky, Lena Shargel, Dr. Stephen Silverman, Everett Singer, *Rose K. Solomon, Laura Sonneberg, Anita Talmas, Arlyne Warmbrand, ^Hannah Weiner, Ruth Weiss, Annie Weprin, Moishe Wigdor, Mildred Wishnie

Hunger Van at Brotherhood

Thanks to all who volunteered to participate in a solidarity social action activity at the Muslim-Jewish *Weekend of Twinning* FFEU the Hungry event on Sunday November 17 along with our partner organizations FFEU, The Hunger Van, Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee. **We packed 5,000 meals!**

Please **SAVE THE DATE** and **VOLUNTEER** with us on **SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26**, when Brotherhood Synagogue will be hosting *The Hunger Van* for an all-Brotherhood volunteer morning!! More details to come in the January bulletin and the weekly mail!

If anyone would like to know more about the Interfaith Committee and its activities, or, if you'd like to join our committee, please email Bob Wolf (rwolf@tarterkrinsky.com) or Ellie Wertheim (elliwertheim@yahoo.com) or Jeff Ross (drjaross@gmail.com) for more details!



The Brotherhood Synagogue



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Fax: (212) 505-6707



www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER

CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²¹ 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

Hebrew School News

We are looking forward to our **Annual Brotherhood Synagogue Book Fair**, an important part of our celebration of Jewish Book Month! This year, Jewish Book Month is November 22 (24th of Cheshvan)–December 22 (24th of Kislev=Erev Chanukah). Yes, we are known as “The People of the Book,” but how did Jewish Book Month come into existence? In 1925, Fanny Goldstein, a librarian at the Boston Public Library, set up an exhibit of books about Jewish life and used it as a focus of what she named “Jewish Book Week.” In 1927, the event was adopted by communities around the country. During its first fifteen years, the annual date of the program coincided with either Lag B’Omer or with Shavuot, both of which are regarded as scholars’ festivals. In 1940, the event was moved to pre-Chanukah, so as to promote books of Jewish content as Chanukah gifts. Jewish Book Week became so popular and so filled with activities that it was extended to a one-month period in 1943—and has remained so ever since. In celebration of Jewish Book Month, we host our Annual Brotherhood Synagogue Jewish Book Fair!

The Brotherhood Synagogue Book Fair dates are Monday, December 9 through Wednesday, December 11. If you are inter-

ested in volunteering at the Book Fair, please contact Francine Silberstein at fsilberstein@brotherhoodsynagogue.org. On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, our Nursery School students and their families will visit the Book Fair, and in the afternoons, our Hebrew School students and their families will visit the Book Fair. On Tuesday afternoon (December 10), Kitah Zayin (7th Graders) will spend time at the Book Fair reading to Gan (Kindergarten) and Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students.

Over the years we have hosted many wonderful Jewish book authors: Nina Jaffe; Peninnah Schram; Fiona Rosenbloom; Nechama Liss-Levinson; and Veera Hiranandani. On Wednesday afternoon December 11, our children’s book author will be Mark Goldblatt, author of *Twerp* and *Finding the Worm*. Goldblatt’s first novel for young readers, released in 2013, was *Twerp*, a novel for young (and old) readers. In 2015, *Finding the Worm* (a sequel to *Twerp*) was released to critical acclaim.

We invite you to visit our Book Fair! It has a large collection of Jewish-themed books for children and adults. It’s a great time to pick out Chanukah gifts for family and friends! Speaking of Chanukah...


Our now-famous pop-up **Brotherhood Synagogue Chanukah Store** will open on

Monday December 9 (the same day as our Book Fair opens!!!) and will stay open through Chanukah! It will, like our Book Fair, provide you with many opportunities to select fabulous Chanukah gifts for your family and friends. All proceeds benefit the Hebrew School! (Chanukah begins on Sunday evening December 22!)

On Sunday morning, **December 22 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm** we invite you to join in our **Annual Family Chanukah Party and Concert** featuring the Mira Rivera and Jerry Korman Family and Friends’ Band. The Band plays Chanukah favorites, as well as Klezmer Classics! There will also be Chanukah Arts and Crafts booths with coloring, beading and other Chanukah related projects! To top it off, there will be *sufganiot* (jelly donuts) and latkes (*livivot*=potato pancakes) so that we call all delight in the scrumptious flavors of Chanukah! Chag Sameach!!!

Please also join us **Sunday evening December 22 at 4:30 pm** for the **Community Lighting of the 1st Candle of the Chanukah (Chanukah Menorah) in Gramercy Park**.

Wishing you all a light-filled and joyous Chanukah!

—Barbara Simon,
Hebrew School Principal 



CHANUKAH STORE AT BROTHERHOOD!!!

December 9 through December 27!!

toy dreidels • chocolate gelt • Chanukah themed puzzles and games and books • candles and menorahs and other toys & games!

Brotherhood’s Chanukah store has just what you need to make Chanukah fun!

Stop by the lobby and pick something up for your celebration!



Teen Groups

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 FOR 8TH - 12TH GRADERS!!

Upcoming Downtown BBYO Meetings at Brotherhood! 

Thursday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Thursday, 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).

♪ Cantor's Notes ♪ by Cantor Isaac Yager

Everything was business as usual when I came home a few weeks ago after having led evening services. Meredith had two weeks left until her due date and displayed the normal signs of discomfort found towards the end of pregnancy. I was half awake around midnight when she casually told me that she thought her water broke. "Not possible," I thought, naively thinking that my daughter's arrival could be controlled. Ultimately, our lives changed forever in that moment. Of course, two more weeks of preparation would have been useful. But now that our girl is here, I wouldn't have had it any other way. Hazel Henia Yager was born on Sunday, November 3 at 9:22 am, 19 inches long and weighing in at 7 pounds 11 ounces (my *b'hatzlacha* baby). She's our best work and Meredith and I couldn't be more in love with her. Hazel's Hebrew naming will take place on February 15, 2020. We invite the entire community to share in our *simcha*. In the meantime, check out how cute our girl is...



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



December 13

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

December 20

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

Nursery School Thoughts by Whitney Levin

My son Ben sometimes gets anxious. His anxiety manifests itself in a few key issues. It used to be haircuts. The latest is fire alarms. Well, being a responsible school, Brotherhood needs to hold fire drills. My blue roomer wakes up in the morning asking "Will we have a fire drill today?" As he eats breakfast: "Will we have a fire drill today?" As we are walking to school and slightly more frantic: "Will we have a fire drill today????!!!" He does not calm down until he can ask both Merrill and Sara if there will indeed be a fire drill that day.

Merril and the teachers have noted his anxiety and the whole team has mobilized. I've spoken to Lisa (the school psychologist), Merrill, Sara and his teachers Deb and Laurie. Fellow brotherhood parents and grandparents have all offered helpful advice. Compton, Norman and Justin, the security and building staff, have also spoken to me about this issue, detailing for me how he's done on the day of a given fire drill. (Usually not well—although standing with Justin makes him feel safe.) Ben has also made friends with Amit, the head of Brotherhood security, who will tell him right away if there is a fire drill that day or not.

To me, honestly, this seems all so over the top. My son is clearly being coddled! And yet, I am so touched by the degree to which the ENTIRE Brotherhood community—from parents to educators and staff—have come together to try and ease the way for one single child. I am constantly amazed at how they do this again and again for each and every child in this community. When I spoke to Merrill recently about how my son just needs to "grow up" and "start dealing" with this already as he will be off to kindergarten and in the "real world" next year, her response was indicative of the nursery school's overall philosophy. "He will grow up," she told me, "but he doesn't need to yet." At Brotherhood, our little ones are allowed to be little for just a while longer. Oh how precious that time is. ~



The Brotherhood Synagogue

CHANUKAH CONCERT & PARTY

Calling all Brotherhood kids and their families!

Please join us at our Brotherhood Synagogue Family Celebration of Chanukah

**Sunday, December 22
11:30 am–1:00 pm**

Prior to our Chanukah Concert, the World Series of Dreydle and other fun-filled arts and crafts activities will take place! Our Chanukah Concert will feature favorite guest artists Mira Rivera and Jerry Korman and Family—and will be followed by delicious Chanukah treats!

Please come celebrate with us and feel free to bring your friends!!



Brotherhood Synagogue



Kislev / Tevet 5780
December 2019

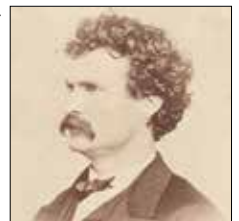
☆ Saturday Mornings: Shabbat Corner 9:45 am / Junior Congregation 10:30 am / Alef-Bet Club 11 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	3 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales	4 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History	5 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	6 4:10 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Dinner 8:30 pm: Speaker-Jonathan Weisman	7 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 9:30 am: Torah Talk 1 pm: Yoga 3 pm: Terrific Toddler Time 4:15 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Silver	
					SHABBATON	VAYETZE	
8 9 am: Tikvah 10 am: Family Community Service at Hebrew Home	9 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	10 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 6 pm: Life Goes On 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales	11 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History 7 pm: LGO Book Club	12 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 6:30 pm: BBYO	13 4:11 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6)	14 ☆ 9:30 am: Services	
	ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD BOOK FAIR						
	CHANUKAH SHOP						VAYISHLACH
15 9 am: Tikvah	16 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	17 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH!	18 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History	19 Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	20 4:13 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6) 6:30 pm: (Grades 2-7)	21 ☆ 9:30 am: Services	
	CHANUKAH SHOP						VAYESHEV
22 11:30 am-1 pm Chanukah Party & Concert for Kids & Families 4:30 pm: Community Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Gramercy Park	23 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	24	25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26 Noon: Lunch and Learn	27 4:17 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	28 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 1 pm: Shabbat Club	
EREV CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH SHOP	CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH SHOP	CHANUKAH	ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH MIKETZ	
29 ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH SHOP		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 4:22 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	4 ☆ 9:30 am: Services	
	CHANUKAH					VAYIGASH	

Mark Twain and the Holy Land A Guided Tour at the New York Historical Society Wednesday, January 8, 4:45 pm



Brotherhood's Special Events Committee has arranged for a guided tour of this fascinating exhibit at the New York Historical Society (170 Central Park West at 77 Street). In 1867, a young Mark Twain departed New York Harbor on the steamship Quaker City for a 5¹/₂ month excursion, with stops in Europe and around the Mediterranean. His funny, scathing, and revealing observations of the local sites and inhabitants first appeared as a series of letters in a San Francisco newspaper and eventually became one of the bestselling travelogues of all time, *The Innocents Abroad*, or *The New Pilgrims' Progress*. Learn about the storied journey behind the famed book and the changing American perceptions of the Holy Land.



Group size is limited to 15 and cost is \$23 pp, in advance, non-refundable. Please check the Weekly Mail or our online calendar to register and pay online. Price includes full-day Museum admission, individual vouchers for reduced Regular Admission tickets on a future visit, 10% discount in the Museum Store, and access to the films, *We Rise* and *New York Story*. Please call the office (212.674.5750) or email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org to reserve your spot by Monday, December 30.