



# Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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Volume XXXV Number V

Shevat / Adar 5777 February 2017

## Tu BiShevat is Coming

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

The fifteenth (Hebrew: *tu*) day of the month of Shevat (hence *Tu BiShevat*) is a minor holiday known as the New Year for the Trees. In ancient times it affected laws related to tithing. After Temple times, it was marked only by the eating of fruit associated with the land of Israel.

In modern times, this minor festival has gained new attention and acquired additional meaning. With the return to the land of Israel, Tu BiShevat's connection to the land has been emphasized. Concerns about the environment have added another layer of meaning to a day associated with caring about nature.

This year Tu BiShevat falls on Shabbat and we will be celebrating it on Friday evening, February 10th following the 6:30 pm services. We will gather together in our Community Room at 7:45 pm to observe an interesting ritual developed by the Kabbalists. Loosely modeled on the Pesach Seder, the Tu BiShevat Seder also has four glasses of wine/juice and the ritualized eating of specific foods. These foods are fruits (and nuts) that were seen to symbolize the four worlds of creation.

According to Kabbalah, these four worlds move from that which is completely spiritual to the physical world. These worlds are: *azilut*, "emanation"; *beriah*, "creation"; *yetzirah*, "formation"; and *assiyah*, "the physical world." The Tu BiShevat Seder ritual proceeds from the most physical world to the most spiritual while eating fruits associated with each world.

The most physical world is symbolized by fruits and nuts with inedible skins or shells. The inedible represents the *kelippot*, "shells." In Kabbalah, the world begins with a great shattering that scattered sparks of holiness and encased them in shells of impurity or the mundane. Thus, in the world of the physical, the holy is hidden by the shells.

In the world of formation, we consume fruits that are edible on the outside but have a pit at their core. In this world, the holy is more accessible, but there remains an element of the

inedible/impure. In the world of creation, the fruit is completely edible, and in the world of the spirit or emanation, there is neither fruit nor anything tangible. In the Kabbalistic Seder, there are accompanying texts to be read with each fruit eaten.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld sees the four worlds as four approaches to the environment. We begin with conflict between humans and nature, move to a concept of stewardship, then to recognizing the "rights" of animals, and finally to a notion of deep ecology with a profound sense that we are one with the universe.

Alternatively, Rabbi Strassfeld suggests viewing the Seder as the evolution of relationships. We begin by keeping a protective shell around ourselves, not willing to let our soft core, our hearts, be vulnerable. As a relationship develops, we open ourselves up, but there is a place deep inside, that which is most vulnerable, that we still keep protected. Finally, a successful relationship moves to where there is nothing held back. Trust is complete and freely given. In such a relationship, there are moments of union when the border between you and the other person blurs or even disappears. This can be true of relationships with human beings or with God. 🌿

### Celebrate Tu BiShevat at Brotherhood on Friday Evening February 10th



Join us for a celebration of Tu BiShevat—the birthday of the trees—at a mini-seder directly following Friday evening Shabbat services on February 10. We will meet in the Community Room at 7:45 pm.

All are invited to participate in the seder which will include a sampling of different fruits (those with seeds, those without), nuts, cookies, and white and red juices as well as some discussion on the importance of trees, land, and conservation.

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 9:30 AM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Jack Schulman*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6:30 PM  
*Tu BiShevat Seder to follow*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 9:30 AM

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6:30 PM  
*Guest Artist: Neshama Carlebach*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 9:30 AM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 5:15 PM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Aidan Fischer*



## Life Goes On

Our January tour of Grand Central Station was fantastic thanks to Rick, our super experienced tour guide, and the amazing beauty of our city's landmark masterpiece. Dinner together afterward at Cipriani's, one of Grand Central's fabulous restaurants, was a terrific finish to a lovely day.

Please save the evening of **Wednesday, February 22nd** for our next event—dinner and a movie! We will watch the film *Nobody's Fool* at Brotherhood Synagogue followed by a special dinner elsewhere—details to come. For those that are members of the book club, you may remember the excellent discussions we had regarding Richard Russo's book: *Everybody's Fool*, the sequel to *Nobody's Fool*, and it will be interesting to revisit them again after watching the movie.

Our January book club meeting discussed Michael Chabon's *Moonglow*, a fascinating, magical novel. The date for our February meeting will be sent to our members when we have it. NYU Professor Margaret Birns will guide our discussion and wine and desserts will be served as usual. Please remember always to RSVP if you plan to attend; participation is \$20 per person.

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

## SHABBATON AT BROTHERHOOD

Friday-Saturday, March 3-4

### The Importance of Humor in Parenting and Life: An evening with (Brotherhood's)

## Marjorie Ingall



© Deborah Capellen

Columnist and author (and Brotherhood Hebrew School parent!), Marjorie Ingall, will share with us excerpts from her widely acclaimed book, *Mamaleh Knows Best: What Jewish Mothers Do To Raise Successful, Creative, Empathetic, Independent Children*. Blending personal anecdotes, humor, and research, Marjorie offers abundant examples of how Jewish mothers throughout history have nurtured their children's independence, fostered discipline, urged a healthy distrust of authority, consciously cultivated geekiness and kindness, stressed education, and maintained a sense of humor—time-tested strategies which have proven successful in a wide variety of settings and fields over the vast span of history.

Book available for purchase in advance or at the dinner for \$20.

**MARJORIE INGALL** is a columnist for *Tablet Magazine* and a regular contributor to *The New York Times Book Review*. For seven years she wrote the East Village Mamele column for *The Jewish Daily Forward*. She has been a contributing editor at *Glamour* and a contributing writer at *Self*, and has written for *Ms.*, *Wired*, *New York*, *Real Simple*, *Redbook*, and *Parents*.



#### Friday, March 3

6:30–7:30 pm:

Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Weis

7:30 pm: Congregational Dinner for members and friends

8:30–9:15 pm: Author, Columnist & Brotherhood member, **Marjorie Ingall**

9:15–9:45 pm: Coffee and dessert

#### Saturday, March 4

9:30–Noon: Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Weis

9:30–10:15 am: Torah Talk with Phil Rothman, Topic: "Where Does God Live?" in the 4th floor library

Noon: Kiddush Lunch in the Community Room

2:15–3:15 pm: Spiritual Yoga with Rebecca Kryspin. All levels welcome.

4–5 pm: Terrific Toddler Time

## Camp Ramah

by Harvey L. Tepner

My introduction to Camp Ramah was anything but auspicious. After a three year hiatus of unstructured summers my parents informed me, a newly-minted teenager, that I was going back to summer camp. The camp was Camp Ramah, a Jewish conservative-movement camp located north of Toronto.

I had previously been to summer camp, but the ups and downs of my father's business had put that on hold. My prior summer camp was an all boy's camp with a strong focus on sports. They were pretty good summers, but they weren't summers with a Jewish footing. Going to an observant Jewish summer camp was going to be something new.

My family's Jewish identity was never in question, and being Jewish was critically important to my parents and grandparents and within our community. My parents ensured that my siblings and I had a strong Jewish foundation and identities, even though our household was not very observant.



The choice of Camp Ramah was consistent with this: Jewish day school, participation in Jewish youth organizations, episodic attendance at synagogues beyond the holidays, all reinforced by ethnically compartmentalized Montreal where our social network and community were largely Jewish.

On the first day, my father drove my sister and me to camp where we were met by a somewhat quirky college student walking a goat (who turned out to be my bunk counselor and eventually one of the founders of the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan), and another staff member sporting a t-shirt advocating Quebec

separatism, something not quite in alignment with the sentiments of the Canadian Jewish community, then or now. Not quite what I was expecting but it got much better.

Ramah Canada has a beautiful campus, a terrific waterfront and a lot of space. The people were friendly and returning campers were tight knit but welcoming to newcomers. I found it easy to make friends and quickly got into the rhythm of the camp. I particularly appreciated the extensive waterfront activities (sailing, canoeing, swimming and water skiing), sports, evening group programs, overnight camping trips, and more than tolerated the Jewish-themed courses that occupied 75 minutes several times a week. Even the food seemed to be pretty good although tuna fish lasagna was an unexpected encounter.

What really made Ramah special was the spirit of the camp and the community. And, the kickoff was the first Shabbat celebration. A

*Continued on next page 7*

**A Conversation with  
ZOA's Susan Tuchman, Esq. and Zach Stern  
on BDS and Anti-Semitism on Campus**

**Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 pm**

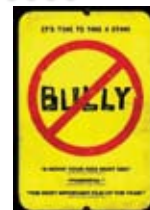


Anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing are serious problems at universities across the country, creating a hostile campus environment for many Jewish students and causing some even to fear for their safety. The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is playing a leading role in building knowledgeable and strong pro-Israel student leaders on campus, and in advocating for the civil rights of Jewish students to a learning environment that is safe and welcoming. Come hear from Zach Stern, Managing Director of ZOA Campus, and Susan Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, to learn more about the problems our children are facing and how they can be effectively addressed.

Sponsored by the Israel Committee

**Bully** (2014)

**Sunday, February 12, 3:00 pm**



*Bully* is a documentary on peer-to-peer bullying in schools across America. This year, over 13 million American kids will be bullied at school, online, on the bus, at home, through their cell phones and on the streets of their towns, making it the most common form of violence young people in this country experience. *Bully* is the first feature documentary film to show how we've all been affected by bullying, whether we've been victims, perpetrators or stood silent witness. The world we inhabit as adults begins on the playground. *Bully* opens on the first day of school. For the more than 13 million kids who'll be bullied this year in the United States, it's a day filled with more anxiety and foreboding than excitement.

**The screening is FREE FOR ALL with a facilitated discussion just following.**  
Sponsored by the Special Events Committee

**A COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATION WITH  
MALCOLM GLADWELL**

**Monday, February 13, 2017 | 7:30 p.m.**



Join Brotherhood Synagogue, UJA-Federation and Manhattan synagogues for a conversation between UJA CEO Eric Goldstein and Malcolm Gladwell, writer at *The New Yorker* and best-selling author of *The Tipping Point* and *David and Goliath*. Together we'll explore theories of human behavior and the power of change within us all.

Hosted at Park Avenue Synagogue  
50 East 87th Street, New York City

Couvert: \$18. Your gift represents a charitable contribution.

To register, visit  
[ujafedny.org/Malcolm-gladwell](http://ujafedny.org/Malcolm-gladwell).

UJA-Federation of New York's *CommUnity*: UJA+Synagogues initiative brings the Jewish community together around shared values. *CommUnity* offers educational briefings, hands-on volunteer opportunities, and scholars-in-residence at local synagogues.



**NESHAMA CARLEBACH**

**Musical Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat  
Friday & Saturday, February 24 & 25**

**Friday at 6:30 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat &  
Maariv  
Special Oneg to Follow**

**Saturday at 1:00 pm  
Shabbat Club & Tisch  
A Conversation with  
Ms. Carlebach**

**Saturday at 8:00 pm  
Havdalah & Concert  
(\$20 Admission)**

For concert tickets, go to  
<http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/04event.html>



## President's Post by Trudi Rae Bartow



Whenever the temperatures drop below 30°F the only thing I want to do is wrap myself in fleece and snuggle on the couch, binge watching Netflix. When my stomach starts to rumble the only thing that will satisfy is a large bowl of steaming stew. I'm not writing about the stereotypical Jewish comfort soups and stews like cholent, chicken with matzo balls (or kreplach), or pea soup with flanken but a hearty lamb stew in the Sephardic tradition. My favorite version was formed from a collection of recipes I have read and tasted over the years. The ingredients and steps are below in case you want to give it a try! It includes not only a bunch of hearty and healthy root veggies but it also calls for a generous portion of red wine. It is a simple dish brimming with flavor. It also contains a hefty dose of turmeric, a spice that has strong anti-inflammatory and anti-aging properties. What a treat!

Serves 8 (or 6 if you have a healthy appetite!)

1 tablespoon turmeric	3 pounds lamb meat cut into chunks for stewing
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes	3 tablespoons tomato paste
2 teaspoons black pepper	1/2 cup red wine
1 teaspoon salt	1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
3 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil	4 cups steamed rice
2 medium onions, minced	

In a small dish, mix the turmeric, red pepper and salt and pepper together.

In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat until hot (but not smoking). Add in the onions and sauté for 10 minutes until they start to turn golden brown and soften. Add the lamb meat to the pot and brown on each side for a few minutes. Drain the fat that collects at the bottom of the pot.

Sprinkle the seasoning mixture evenly over the meat and onions.

Cover the meat with 4 cups of water. Bring to a slow boil, then reduce the heat to medium low and let simmer for 2 hours. Use a shallow spoon to skim the fat from the surface every 30 minutes or so. Add the red wine in after the first hour.

After the 2 hours add the tomato paste and stir until dissolved. Simmer for another 20 minutes until the sauce thickens and add additional salt and pepper to taste.

Serve the stew over a bed of rice and garnish with parsley.

Want to share your favorite soup/stew recipe? Email me at [trudirae@gmail.com](mailto:trudirae@gmail.com) and if we get enough we can publish the collection as the winter flavors of Brotherhood cookbook!

Happy Eating!  
Trudi 🌸

## Shabbat Club Saturday, February 25, 1 pm

The monthly Shabbat Club will meet on **Saturday, February 25, at 1 pm** in the second floor reception room, opposite the sanctuary entrance. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Musical Scholar in Residence, **Neshama Carlebach**, will join us for a conversation focused on finding your spirit in the midst of chaos. She will also share anecdotes about her father.

Please watch the weekly email announcements for further information, or contact Deborah Newman if you have any questions. All are welcome to attend Shabbat Club meetings!

**SAVE THE DATE: March 18**—led by Alan Fell, on *Conversion in Judaism-From Ruth to the Present* 🌸

## SAVE THE DATE

Join us and Downtown Jewish Life (DJL) at

## ISRAEL BONDS COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Celebrating the  
**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM**  
Sunday, March 19, 2017 • 10:00 AM

To be held at  
The Brotherhood Synagogue  
28 Gramercy Park South  
New York, NY

FOR BOND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Lunzer, Registered Representative  
212.446.5835 - [robert.lunzer@israelbonds.com](mailto:robert.lunzer@israelbonds.com)

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## Happenings in Our Kehilah

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

**Andrew and Karen Schulman** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jack Schulman**. Jack is a student at Birch Wathen Lenox.

**Ian and Bar Fischer** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Aidan Fischer**. Aidan, a student at School of the Future, will celebrate his simcha with his younger sister, **Riley**.

### Weddings, Mazal Tov to to:

**Ruti Teitel and Robert Howse** on their marriage.

**Sharon Slotnick and Gene Morris** on their marriage.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Courtney and Russell Blaymore** on the birth of their daughter, **Bella Raye Blaymore**; and to older sister, **Harlie**.

**Victoria and Eitan Leger** on the birth of their daughter, **Sage Leger**; and to older siblings, **Jude and Myla**.

**Robyn and Andrew Arias** on the birth of their daughter, **Daphna**; and to older brother, **Caleb**.

**Jessica and Jonathan Right** on the birth of their son, **Cooper Right**.

### Condolences to:

**Harriet Ripinsky** on the passing of her sister, **Linda Ripinsky**.

**Bob Moran** on the passing of his mother, **Gloria Fisher**.

**Sharon Hakakian Bergman** on the passing of her grandfather, **Haghnazar (Agha Joon) Yechezkel Hakakian**.

**Debra Salzman Hill** on the passing of her uncle, **Conrad Jack Morgenstern**.

**Martha Agensky** on the passing of her father, **Jay Negin**.

**Melissa Rutkin** on the passing of her father, **Philip Rutkin**. 🌸

## 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



## YAHREZITS

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

### February 4-10

\*Helen Belle Aaronson, ^Dr. Bernat Abraham, Blume Alter, Robert Arias, Beatrice Babitz, Harriet Bernstein, ^Pauline Birnbach, ^Alice Blumenthal, \*Lillian Blye, \*Temma H. Bohrer, Leo Burson, Claire Klaitz Cohen, Bertha Cooperman, Sarah Eisenberg, Carole Epstein, Emanuel Evans, David Fener, Steven Futterman, Harold H. Goldberg, ^Henrietta P. Green, Solomon Greenberg, ^Felicia Greene, ^Morris Greene, ^\*Daniel Franklin Greenhouse, Felicia Grubler, Norman Halper, ^Irving Handler, Esther Ir, Moshe Josephson, \*Rose Katz, ^Philip Kimmel, Ronnie Kornfeld, ^Betty Lampert, Clarice Lefkowitz, Thelma Levine, ^Barney Levine, \*Morris Levine, Rose Levine, Elayne Lieberman, \*Florence Liebowitz, Sarah Liebowitz, Hyman Lipkis, Max Miller, David Miller, ^Jeanne C. Moskowitz, ^Solomon Novom, Isidore Olsfanger, \*Renee Pollack, Bessie Potell, ^Lee Avram Rappaport, ^Rose Schindel Rich, Jack Schor, Ruth Share, Ronald Shiffman, ^Jack Silverman, ^Evelyn Singer, Tessie Sklar, ^David Milton Solomon, Daniel Stacher, Zindel Storzum, ^Sylvia Tint, ^Augusta Toby, Helene Vassil, Karl Waldbrand, ^\*Jonas Weintraub, David Weissman

### February 11-17

Sasson Abada, Gustave Altman, ^Ruth Appelbaum, \*Lilian Bachrach, Nathan Barry, \*Celia Berkowitz, Mary Blum, Leon Blumenthal, Benjamin Braff, Lorraine Cohen, Rosalind Donziger, Judith Friedjung, ^Sylvia Glassman, Esther Golden, Ethel Gostin, ^Helen Green, \*Rose Gross, ^\*Louis Gross, Max Hamburger, \*Jane Deborah Hansen, Beatrice Harper, ^Benjamin Janow, Bernard Jereski, Arthur Kantor, ^Hannah Kirshbaum, Brenda Klotz, Ilene Korach, ^Joan Koven, ^Victor Kuhne, Phyllis Kurland, ^Anna Levine, Martin Licht, Alice Lichter, ^Melvin Lipp, ^Dr. Paul Pincus Lippman, ^Herbert Magram, Gail Ann Lowe Maidman, Frieda Belkowitz Maloff, Lawrence Maloff, ^Ruth Weichman Mantel, Adolf Markovitz, Morton Maxwell, ^Louis Nudelman, Miriam Olken, Belle Plutzer, Dov Rahav, Irene Raphael, ^Carole Reiff, \*Tillie Rosenbaum, Aaron Rosenbloom, ^\*Elizabeth Rossman, ^Bertha Russ, Mabel Sarner, ^Philip Satonoff, ^Dinah Simila Chaya Schumer, Celia Shander, Sam Shapiro, ^Ann Silberberg, Brenda Silver, Judge Sidney Squire, ^Rose Teitelbaum, ^Michael

Weiss, \*Ida Robinove Weller, ^Blanche Wind, ^Margo Wolff, Murray Zenkel

### February 18-24

Morris Adelsberg, Altagracia Alvarez, \*Steven Mark Berkowitz, \*Herbert Blye, Sara Borochov, Bertha Brenner, Lillian Burack, \*Lillian Cantor, ^Eve Cassell, Stanley Chusid, ^Selim Eliahu Cohen, ^Yetta Dienstag, \*Aaron Fassler, Howard Feinstein, Charles Fell, \*Rose M. Finneman, Murray Goldfinger, ^Anne Goldsmith, \*Harry Gross, Sid Grossman, Nelly Guggenheim, Klara Halpern, ^Marl Hendel, ^Lillian Hoffman, ^Jack Janal, ^David Janow, Hyman Kampel, J. Lawrence Katz, Milton Klein, ^Mollie Kronenberg, ^Fred Krupnik, ^A. Harry Kupersmith, \*Michael Lasser, Cary Leeds, ^Anna Jelosnik Levine, ^Rose Levine, ^Harold Levine, Elaine Grace Lippman, ^Samuel Lubell, ^Sara Miller, Theresa Rogoff, \*Benjamin Rosenberg, ^Ina Safra, Louis Schiffman, ^Albert Shear, Ben Sherman, Sheila Siderow, Rhea Soifer, ^Lillian Turteltaub, Aston S. Valentine, ^Fannie Weisman, \*William Werner, ^Morris Zelmanowicz

### February 25-March 3

Ardelle Allenson, Anna Baslow, George H. Behrens, Stan Berger, Naomi Berk, Solomon Bersoff, Marjorie Bobker, ^Natalie Brickman, Fredrick Bryan, Tillie Cohen, Harry L. Cohen, \*Hannah Cohen, ^Anna Eidelberg, \*Burton Farland, Myrtle Feinsilber, ^Sarah Lerner Feldman, ^Isidore Flame, Eleanor Gimman, Meyer Glazer, ^Morton Globus, ^Sally F. Gold, ^Morris Goldstein, ^Paul Goldstein, \*Sadie Goldwasser, Dora Haber, Jenniel Harrison, Shirley Helfant, ^Selma Hochhauser, Mordechai Horton, Donald Michael Iskowitz, Martin Kace, Bernard Kitover, Estelle Landsman, ^Judith Levenstein, Anna Levins, Morris Lichter, Herman Lutwak, Frances Mann, ^Pearl B. Merkelson, Jeffrey Milman, \*Katie Naftalis, ^Rachel Novom, Ilse Nussbaum, ^Rose Perlstein, ^Harry Pollak, ^George W. Rabinoff, Gerald Charles Randolph, ^Lee Avram Rappaport, ^Claire G. Rich, ^Howard I. Rich, Murray Rockower, David Ross, ^Sam Rothstein, Dorothy Rubin, ^Rebecca Rubinoff, ^Frieda Schindel, ^Rose Wade Settle, Max Shugalter, \*David Siepser, ^Irving Silberstang, Lenore Sofferman, ^Emma Stahl, David Sussman, Esther Toback, \*Rifke Weingast, Abraham Weinman, Abraham Weinman, ^Hyman Werner, \*Pauline Werner

## Brotherhood Book Club

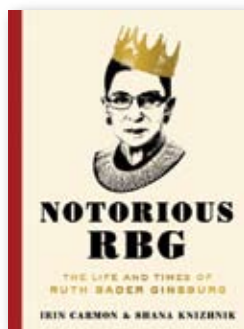
Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Debra Aaron will lead a discussion on *The Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsberg*.

Future Brotherhood Book Club dates and facilitators are below.  
Thursday, Mar. 16 • Marnie Potash • *Today Will be Different* by Maria Semple

Thursday, Apr. 20 • Susan Halper • *Dark Room* by Susan Faludi

All are welcome to participate in the Book Club. Please contact Margie Katz [margie.katz@me.com](mailto:margie.katz@me.com) to join us!



## The Chesed\* Committee

### WANTS YOU TO KNOW

If you are a caregiver for someone elderly or sick, DOROT runs a telephone-based educational and support network for caregivers, covering topics such as caring for a parent or caring for a partner/spouse with Alzheimer's. Call DOROT at 212-769-2850 or register online at [dorotusa.org](http://dorotusa.org).

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

## The Brotherhood Synagogue



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Fax: (212) 505-6707



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

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,  
CANTOR MIKE WEIS,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK<sup>21</sup> D.D.: Founding Rabbi

HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus

SHIYA RIBOWSKY: Cantor Emeritus

TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

## A Note from Development

It's been a full month-and-a-half since I've come onboard as Director of Development at The Brotherhood Synagogue and I am finding the entire community—Trustees, members and staff—warm and welcoming, as well as energized, full of ideas and ready to help us meet the fundraising challenges ahead.

The Annual Fund is set upon reaching an ambitious goal of \$750,000 this year and we cannot get there without your help! As the saying goes, “it takes a village” for us to continue offering the robust and diverse programs and services we do, and to keep the lights and heat on in the building. We hope that each of you will join your fellow “villagers” in contributing to the health and welfare of this wonderful place

called the Brotherhood. We are deeply grateful to each and every one who has made a contribution to the Annual Fund and we ask those who have not yet done so to please contact us at your earliest convenience. You may make your gift by check, money order, or credit card and you may also go to our website at [www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org](http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org) to make a secure online gift.

Given that the Annual Fund is our most important priority at this time, we are also looking at new ways to invigorate our overall fundraising efforts, from establishing a Planned Giving Program to getting a Young Leadership Group of 20's and 30's together to take on specific projects while honing their fundraising and leadership skills. We also plan to establish a

major gift program, soliciting major individual and foundation gifts as we seek to ensure the future by creating endowments for specific Synagogue programs.

And finally (for now!), Development hopes to announce a number of small parlor meetings in the Spring, each one focused on a specific topic to bring members, donors and new friends together in an intimate setting to learn about various Brotherhood programs and topics directly from the experts who run them as well as those who benefit from them. If you are interested in taking part in any of these efforts, please feel free to contact me.

And so, it is with great enthusiasm—working with Development Committee Chair Donna Rothchild and our devoted Trustees, Rabbi Alder and Phil Rothman, along with the participation of our members and friends—that I embark upon growing the fundraising efforts of this unique and beloved Synagogue.

May we continue to go from strength to strength!

Until next month's Newsletter, you may contact me anytime at 212-674-5750 x203 or at [mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) if you wish to discuss your charitable giving or just to say hello!

—Marilyn Strozak

Director of Development

## Hebrew School News

by Barbara Simon

Tu BiShevat, which falls this year on February 10th/February 11th, is my favorite holiday! It is the precursor to Earth Day (April 22nd) and to the environmental movement. The Jewish people's special relationship with trees dates back to the Bible. The Torah instructs us (Leviticus 19:23-25) that for the first three years after a tree has been planted, one may not eat of its fruit. The fourth year (which is the first good year) the fruit should be offered to G-d in praise and thanks. On the fifth year and after that, one may eat of the tree's fruit. Because of the difficulty of keeping track of which day each tree was planted, the rabbis assigned one day on which to celebrate the “birthday” of all trees. That day, the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, is “called” Tu BiShevat (meaning: the 15th of Shevat) or *Chamisha Asar BiShevat* (also meaning the 15th of Shevat) or *Rosh Hashana L'llanaot* (the New Year of the Trees).

Tu BiShevat reminds us that all of nature was made by G-d, and that we are partners with G-d in taking care of our world—including the trees, bodies of water, the air, and animals. Jewish law (Deuteronomy 20:19-20) commands that we not waste or destroy our resources. This concept, central to Jewish law is termed *baal tashchit*. The notion of *baal tashchit* arrived centuries prior to the popular slogan “Reduce, reuse and recycle!”

When the *chalutzim* (Jewish pioneers) resettled Israel in modern times, they found that through neglect, much of the land had

become bare desert or swampy marsh. By planting and caring for millions of trees, the *chalutzim* helped to turn Israel back into a green and blooming land.

Tu BiShevat is celebrated by Jews throughout the world. In Israel, school children plant trees on Tu BiShevat—and here in America we plant trees in Israel by sending money to the Jewish National Fund's tree planting project. We also engage in indoor planting activities here in the USA.

On the Tuesday before Tu BiShevat (February 7th) our Gan (Kindergarten) class will be planting parsley. That parsley, which will take about 8 weeks to grow, will be ready just in time for our next major holiday—Passover. (Parsley is an important symbol at the Passover Seder.)

On the Wednesday prior to Tu BiShevat (Wednesday February 8th) our Kitah Dalet (4th Grade) class will be holding a Tu BiShevat Seder. At Tu BiShevat Seders it is common to enjoy three types of fruit: fruits with pits, such as dates, peaches, and olives; fruits with shells, such as nuts, oranges and pomegranates; and fruits that can be eaten in their entirety—such as raisins and figs. It is also customary for Tu BiShevat Seders to display the seven species which have been in the land of Israel since ancient times (Deuteronomy 8:8): wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and honey.

With the arrival of Tu BiShevat, spring begins in Israel. We, here in the Northeast, take vicarious pleasure in celebrating the beginning of Spring! Wishing you a fruit-filled Tu BiShevat!



Please join us at Brotherhood  
for our wonderful  
**Family Shabbat services!**

**Friday, February 3**

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3  
with Daphna Mor

5:30 pm - Children ages 4-6  
years old with Katie Shea

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

**Friday, February 17**

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3  
with Saskia Lane

Ramah Shabbat can be compared to a gregarious Simchat Torah celebration. The entire camp comes together for Kabbalat Shabbat services, then a communal Shabbat dinner, followed by raucous singing and dancing which took on a life of its own. Morning Shabbat services were low-key, inclusive and gave campers the confidence to actively participate.

My enthusiasm at the end of my first Ramah summer was so great that the next year, two of my best friends from Montreal joined me at Ramah. I continued with Ramah for several more years as a camper and then a staff member at both Camp Ramah in the Berkshires and Canada.

Two years ago, I convinced one of my 13-year old daughters, Sydney, who was not happy with her prior summer camp, that she should give Ramah Canada a try. I explained it would be welcoming, fun and the religious observance would blend in seamlessly with everything that was going on. She agreed to try it for a month.

So, like my father before me, I took Sydney to camp where, with great apprehension, she said goodbye. After two weeks, she told my wife and me that she only wanted to stay for the one month. After three weeks, she told us she wanted to remain for the rest of the summer. This coming summer, Sydney will be returning for her third summer and the following year will spend her fourth summer with Ramah in Israel. We find much in common with our respective Ramah experiences. One of my happiest days each year is seeing my daughter on visiting day at Ramah.

Ramah allows boys and girls and young men and women the ability to participate in a fulsome summer camp life, but with a strong, and welcoming Jewish foundation. There is a ruach/spirit within the Ramah community that is infectious, and it appears to be present at each Ramah camp.

I found Ramah to be an effective Jewish finishing school, filling in the gaps about how to live a Jewish life. Ramah does not demand a lifetime of Jewish observance, but in that wonderful cocoon of a summer camp, Ramah demonstrates how Jewish and everyday lives can easily intersect, all cloaked within a very social, active and fun filled framework. Finally, Ramah builds strong relationships. Now, 40 years after I first set foot in Camp Ramah, I still maintain numerous close friendships that started at Ramah.

As a Jew, deeply committed to my community and Jewish continuity, I believe that Camp Ramah and other Jewish camps offer an opportunity not to be missed. Ramah in particular, leaves a positive lasting impression and reinforces strong Jewish communal values. Ramah represents the single most important Jewish experience of my life, and I take great pride that my daughter Sydney is a Ramahnik. 🌊

## Nursery School Thoughts

by Samantha Fox Hollander

Many months ago, when I envisioned our cold December holiday break, I had hoped to plan a relaxing vacation to escape our plugged in hustle and bustle NYC lives. As a business owner, mother of Davy who is in the Nursery School Red Room, Ozzie who is 1.5 and attends Saskia's Pre-Toddler Program, and wife to a wonderful man who works long hours we needed time to connect to one another and disconnect from those that did not share our bloodline. We packed sunblock, bathing suits and a mini menorah I bought in Duane Reade (which came with birthday candles), and flew to Punta Cana on Christmas Eve. Family and friends alike insisted it was a terrible mistake to fly out on such a busy travel day but we decided to go ahead and give it a shot. Once at the airport, and waiting for about 45 minutes to check our overweight bags, the kids had already started to melt. We played about 11 games of *I Spy*, both kids had already been reprimanded for petting the bomb searching dogs, and we were almost out of snacks

(at 4:30 am). My daughter saw the desperation on my face and said "Let's sing a song." Just then she broke out into *Bim Bam* with the hand motions and all, while surrounded by 2,000 of NYC's most eager travelers. While my 1.5 year old followed in song and hand motions, I zoned out and reflected. Of all of the silly songs we sing on a daily basis, the one my children chose to both elevate our moods and feel joyful, was one that they sing at Brotherhood Nursery School and in the Toddler Program. It was a flood of comfort and warmth for both my husband and me, that while choosing to fly on Christmas Eve may have been a questionable decision, our choice to fully engage in all areas of Brotherhood were confirmed to be both happy and comforting to our children. Our vacation was all that we hoped for—relaxing, meaningful, fun and encouraged us to reconnect. Watching our daughter ask our waiter in Punta Cana for challah on Shabbat proved to be the perfect ending to a warm Hannukah vacation. 🌊

## 🎵 Singing in the Light 🎵

by Cantor Mike Weis

For many years, she performed relentlessly.

She performed in her father's shadow. She performed only in Orthodox settings. And she performed only after having apologized...for not being a man to carry on her father's work. She performed when she should have been in mourning for him. After getting married, she performed rather than take a honeymoon. She performed pregnant and, later, while nursing. She even performed during the ensuing and heart-wrenching divorce process.

Through it all, she was at the top of her field, one of the shining stars in the heavens of Jewish entertainment.

And then she quit.

Neshama Carlebach appeared on stage with her father, the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach<sup>27</sup>, only once. He died a few months later from a heart attack.

"Everything we were working for and towards—I could taste," she shared in a recent interview with *The Times of Israel*, "And then I walked away from it. In 2011 we were a six-time entrant at the Grammy Awards—not nominations, but entrants. We were working with a gospel choir. Everything we were working for and towards—I could taste," she said. "And then I walked away from it. I was dying inside. I had mourned for my father in public, but never in private."

"I realized I wasn't making choices," she added, "I had traveled from one end of the earth to the other. I was singing for him [my

father]. I was singing for my family, but I wasn't singing for me," she said.

She didn't sing for an entire year.

Today Carlebach, 41, in her own right a star in Jewish entertainment, has returned to performing but with a more judicious eye as to where and when. Whether it's performing with an African-American Baptist church choir or singing before the People's Climate Change March in 2013, Carlebach still sees music as a way to give voice to the voiceless.

"I believe we can have a wonderful world. I believe we can heal through music. That's the voice I want to sing to," Carlebach told *The Times*.

As to the desire to carry on her father's legacy while simultaneously plotting her own course, Carlebach says "I'm so driven and inspired to bring him to the world. I feel at times like I'm his arms and legs, his mouth and eyes. He wanted to hold and hug and love every human being on the planet."

"He wanted originality. He wanted strength. I never wanted to replace him, I never wanted to be him," she said. "Some people will say, 'What's it like to be in his shadow?' I'm not in his shadow. I'm in his light."

Neshama Carlebach will appear at Brotherhood as Musical Scholar-in-Residence on Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25 with a concert scheduled for Saturday night. For concert tickets, visit <http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org/04event.html> or call the synagogue office. 🌊

# Brotherhood Synagogue



Shevat / Adar 5777  
February 2017

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b> 9 am: Tikvah	<b>30</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>31</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Judaism and Islam	<b>1</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study at Brotherhood 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know 7 pm: BDS on Campus with Susan Tuchman of the ZOA	<b>2</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner	<b>3</b> 4:58 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 6 6:30 pm: Family Shabbat Grades 2-7 6:30 pm: Services	<b>4</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Jack Schulman  <b>BO</b>
<b>5</b> 9 am: Tikvah	<b>6</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>7</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Judaism and Islam-Past, Present and Future Relationships	<b>8</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study at Calvary 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know	<b>9</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner	<b>10</b> 5:07 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services 7:45 pm: Tu Bi Shevat Seder	<b>11</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>TU BI SHEVAT BESHALACH</b>
<b>12</b> 9 am: Tikvah 3 pm: Brotherhood Film Series - <i>Bully</i>	<b>13</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>14</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Judaism and Islam-Past, Present and Future Relationships	<b>15</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study at Brotherhood 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know	<b>16</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	<b>17</b> 5:15 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services	<b>18</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>YITRO</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>PRESIDENTS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> 10 am: English-in-Action 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Board Meeting	<b>22</b> Noon: Interfaith Bible Study at Calvary 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know 7 pm: Life Goes On	<b>23</b> Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action	<b>24</b> 5:24 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services Guest Artist - Neshama Carlebach	<b>25</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services 1 pm: Shabbat Club 5:15 pm: Bar Mitzvah of Adrian Fischer 8 pm: Neshama Carlebach - Havdalah and Concert  <b>MISHPATIM</b>
<b>26</b> 9 am: Minyan 9 am: Tikvah  <b>ROSH CHODESH</b>	<b>27</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>28</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Judaism and Islam-Past, Present and Future Relationships	<b>1</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>2</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner	<b>3</b> 5:32 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Shabbaton Dinner 8:30 pm: Speaker: Marjorie Ingall  <b>SHABBATON</b>	<b>4</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services 9:30 am: Torah Talk 2:15 pm: Spiritual Yoga 4 pm: Terrific Toddler Time  <b>TERUMAH</b>

*Save the Date*

## Traditional Jewish Bread Baking Class

With Brotherhood Member Mark Goldey  
Sunday, March 5, Noon-3:00 pm

Learn to make bialys, pretzel, and cornbread—the good stuff—like your parents used to get at the neighborhood bakery. One secret is the flour. Another is the technique. With a little practice, you can make these things at home, better than your local bakery. Learn how! **This class is limited to 12 participants and to those 16 years old and above.**

\$36 for members, \$46 for non-members (the fee covers the cost of the materials supplied).

Please visit the Adult Education page of the website or call the office to register.

