



Brotherhood Synagogue ה"ב

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Black Jews and Brotherhood

by Rabbi Daniel Alder



In August I was honored to be a speaker at the centennial gala celebrating the 100th anniversary of “a community founded by Chief Rabbi Wentworth Arthur Matthew, and elders of blessed memory.” Held at the Alhambra Ballroom in Harlem, the event celebrated the life of Rabbi Matthew who was the founder of Harlem’s Commandment Keepers Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation. I went representing our founding rabbi, Irving J. Block²⁷, and the relationship between Brotherhood Synagogue and the black Jewish community.

In his memoir, *A Rabbi and his Dream*, Rabbi Block says that he “saw in Rabbi Matthew a self-confident man who possessed great inner strength, with a powerful voice that revealed the persuasiveness of a born leader. His piercing, penetrating eyes captured everyone’s attention, and with a large white tallis wrapped around his broad frame, he cut a striking figure. I would often characterize him as a lion of Judah. We developed a friendship and I visited his congregation often...”

In the years that I worked with Rabbi Block, I was fortunate enough to meet some of Rabbi Matthew’s disciples. Here at Brotherhood Synagogue, Rabbi Hailu Paris would occasionally speak and Cantor Eliezer Brooks would lead services. We were privileged to have black Jews as members, including Vertella “Val” Gadsden who served as our president.

Back in 1964, Rabbi Block spoke at a plenary session of the Commission on Synagogue Relations of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York in which he spoke of black Jews “who are a part of us, spiritually tied to us, and yet they are estranged from us. Worse yet, we are estranged from them.... But this is not only a call for assistance. The fact is that we, the white-skinned Jewish community, desperately need to close ranks with the black-skinned Jewish community. In the great moral crises which confront our nation, a community of Negro Israelites, steeped in the traditions of our forefathers, immersed in the laws and ethics of our religious civilization—this group has the opportunity to make a worthwhile and lasting contribution to the entire Negro people of America. Who better than the Jew knows the sense of collective justice and community responsibility? Who better than the Negro Jew can reach his brother of like skin at a time of tension, mistrust, hostility and growing anti-Semitism among the Negro people of America?”

This year the Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7 pm will feature Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr. speaking on “The History of the Black Jewish Community in the United States and Africa.”

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Ben-Zion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6:30 PM
Veterans’ Shabbat
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6:30 PM
Yahrzeit for Tree of Life Victims in Pittsburgh
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 9:30 AM
Aufruf of Rachel Fell and Max Turowsky

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 6:30 PM
Guest Speaker: Dr. David Godin
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Dara Benyacar

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 9:30 AM

Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture

Wednesday, November 6, 2019
7:00 PM

The History of the Black Jewish Community in the United States and Africa

Rabbi Capers C. Funnye Jr.

Capers C. Funnye, Jr. is rabbi and spiritual leader of Beth Shalom B’nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago.



Rabbi Funnye also serves as the chief rabbi of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis, Inc., serving congregations in the United States, the Caribbean, South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and Uganda. In this capacity, Rabbi Funnye works to bring diverse communities into the Jewish fold, through the Halakah, the Jewish code of law.

SAVE THE DATES!!

Shabbaton @ Brotherhood Friday, December 6

Following our Shabbaton congregational dinner join us for a conversation with **Jonathan Weisman**, a veteran Washington journalist, deputy Washington editor at The Times and author of the novel *No. 4 Imperial Lane* and the nonfiction book *(((Semitism)))*: *Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*.



Saturday, December 7

**Torah Talk, Spiritual Yoga,
Terrific Toddler Time**

BCRIC



The Brotherhood
Comm ittee
on the Refugee and
Imm igration C. isis

Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 pm

The Brotherhood Committee on the Immigration and Refugee Crisis (BCRIC) held its first meeting last month. We invite all who are interested to join us at our next meeting at the Synagogue on **Tuesday, November 12 at 6 pm**. Our cornerstone project is a partnership with nearby Seafarers International House. There will be various opportunities to interact with and support refugees and asylees who are living at Seafarers, including dinners on November 4 and 18. **For more information, contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net. BCRIC will also be coordinating Brotherhood volunteers who want to accompany immigrants to legal hearings or assist at a legal clinic. We look forward to working with you!**

—In partnership,
Barbara Stern and Ellie Wertheim

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 1:00 pm

Phil Rothman will take us on a tour of the synagogue and discuss the building's architectural and historical significance. Landmarked in 1965 and originally designed as a Quaker Meeting House, it served as a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Abolitionist Movement. The tunnel underneath our building that was used as an escape route for runaway slaves is still visible and accessible today.

Social Action

Friday, November 8, 6:30 pm at services

Celebrate Veterans' Shabbat

Please join us at services and help us to honor American and Israeli veterans.



All veterans urged to attend to be our honored guests. Special Oneg to follow services.

Friday, November 22, 6:30 pm

Speakers at Services: David Godin, MD FACS and Allison Godlewicz, Au.D.

Brotherhood member, Dr. David Godin, will discuss hearing loss and hearing health along with his colleague, Allison Godlewicz, who will discuss hearing aids.



Sunday, November 24, 10 am – 1 pm

DOROT Thanksgiving Food Delivery

Generations Helping Generations...

Join members of our Social Action Committee for our annual DOROT Thanksgiving Food Delivery and Visit on Sunday, November 24. DOROT is a wonderful organization focused on helping the elderly maintain independent lives in their own homes. The Thanksgiving Food Delivery and Visit is a meaningful way for generations to help generations celebrate

Thanksgiving. We will meet at Rodeph Shalom (7 West 83rd Street) at 10:00 am for a brief orientation. After the orientation, we will pick up a Thanksgiving meal, deliver the meal to a senior, and spend about an hour visiting with the senior. For those of you who have participated before, the visit tends to be the most important part of the day. We will be done before 1:00 pm. DOROT asked for participants 18 years old and older, and space is limited! Please contact Roberta at rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org if you wish to volunteer.

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, Sheila Zaslower, for the interesting, informative, and fun October tour of some Chelsea art galleries including the amazing new Pace Gallery. Dinner at the Spanish Diner in the Mercado in Hudson Yards was delicious—and checking out that vivacious area after dinner was a special bonus.

On **Tuesday, November 12**, our group will enjoy an exclusive art tour of the exhibition “John Singer Sargent: Portraits in Charcoal” at the Morgan Library starting at **3:30 pm**. Prior to the tour, we have reservations at **2:00 pm** at the Morgan Cafe for coffee/tea and sweets for those who want to enhance their experience and converse with friends. The cost will be \$27 per person for the tour including the entrance fee. The coffee break will probably cost around \$20 per person, with further details to follow. **Please contact Sheryl Lerner who is heading this event at sheryl678@aol.com with any questions or to reserve your space by November 1.** Please know that the group is limited to 15, so

please make your reservation ASAP. Thank you to Sheryl for arranging it all—we look forward to this lovely experience.

Discussing “Mrs. Bridge” at our October book club enlivened this curious book for us all. Please save **Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 pm** as usual for our November book club meeting. Professor Margaret Boe Birns will guide our discussion as usual, and Brotherhood will graciously provide our usual libations and dessert. The new book has not been selected yet—the title will be emailed to all our book club members by Ellen Kenigsberg; thank you to Ellen for taking such good care of us! **Please make sure you notify Ellen—ellensken14@gmail.com—if you plan to join us for the meeting.**

Seeking suggestions for fall-winter 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. 🌸

Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art

A docent-led tour at the Jewish Museum

Thursday, November 7, 5:00 pm



Born to a Jewish family in Odessa, Edith Halpert (1900–1970) was the first significant female gallerist in the US, propelling American art to the fore at a time when the European avant-garde still enthralled the world. In 1926, Halpert opened the Downtown Gallery in NYC, the first commercial art space in Greenwich Village. She promoted a diverse group of living American artists, fundamentally shifting the public's opinion of whose voices mattered in the art world. Though an outsider in many respects—as a woman, an immigrant, and a Jew—Halpert was, for over 40 years, the country's defining authority of the American art landscape. For further information about the exhibit, please visit <https://thejewishmuseum.org>.

Brotherhood's Special Events Committee has arranged for a docent led tour of this fascinating exhibit at the Jewish Museum (Fifth Avenue & 92 St). The group will gather at 4:45 pm in the museum lobby. The tour will be 45 minutes and group size is limited to 20. Cost is \$20 and payment must be made in advance and is non-refundable. To register, please call the office (212.674.5750) or email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or register online on the website or the weekly mail. We have a few spots left!

An Evening with Matti Friedman

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 pm

The Israel Committee is pleased to sponsor award-winning Canadian-Israeli author and journalist Matti Friedman for a truly original perspective on Jewish history and current events.

His recent Op-Eds in the *NYT*, "There Is No Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" and "The One Thing No Israeli Wants to Discuss" have triggered intense discussion and have been widely shared in the Jewish community.



Friedman's articles have appeared in many publications including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Atlantic*.

His books, *Pumpkinflowers*, *The Aleppo Codex* and most recently *Spies of No Country* have garnered numerous literary awards.

Mark your calendars! This is an evening not to be missed!

Memorial for the Tree of Life Shooting in Pittsburgh

Friday, November 15



The one year *yahrzeit* (by the Jewish calendar) for the Tree of Life Shooting in Pittsburgh will take place on Shabbat, Friday November 15. At services we will honor the memory of those killed as well as affirm our commitment to fighting anti-Semitism.

2019 Season of Twinning Volunteer to Feed the Hungry

Sunday, November 17, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sponsored by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, Muslims Against Hunger, Brotherhood Synagogue, and the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee

We are seeking volunteers to help prepare meals for the hungry as our communities join together to work to fight against hunger and homelessness.

At a perilous moment of extremism and polarization, join us to stand against Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism and affirm our common moral imperative to help those most in need.

Please email Roberta (rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) ASAP if you wish to volunteer!

Shabbat Club

Saturday, November 23, 1:00 pm

Jews in the News, or in Your Life

Have you met or read about someone Jewish, in the US, Israel, or elsewhere—who is admirable or unusual, or whose life is worth sharing for some reason? Come to our November meeting prepared to talk for a few minutes about such an intriguing person. Perhaps you recently learned about her or him, or you've known the person's story for a long time. It would be helpful if the person is alive (or recently alive), active, or was active in a Jewish way, or at least identifies as Jewish. The name could be well-known, or could be a personal friend or relative. However, it's your connection—that makes the person special to you, possibly inspires you—that matters, and will make this sharing worthwhile to everyone else. You can

bring a photo or article, or other reference material. As always, the meeting is inclusive—all are welcome to attend, and this time all are also welcome to be presenters. Alternatively, you can just sit back and listen! We meet as usual in the second floor reception room, at 1pm. There will be light snacks and beverages.

Upcoming Shabbat Club meeting:

December 28: Dennis Consumano on *Privacy*

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Guy and Daniela Ben-Zion on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ethan Ben-Zion. Ethan, a student at Village Community School, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, Noah.

Michelle Benyacar on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Dara Benyacar. Dara, a student at Wagner Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her older brother, Harris.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

David Larkin on his marriage to Molly Barnett; and to David's parents, Debbie and Ralph Larkin.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Debra Baron and Jason Snaider on the birth of their son, Mason Phoenix Snaider; and to older sister, Sadie.

Dana Seshens and Robert Kresberg on the birth of their son, Maxwell Davis Kresberg; and to older sister, Riley.

Kimberly and Raphael Osness on the birth of their son, Benjamin Reid Osness; and to older brother, Samuel.

Condolences to:

The family and friends of our member, Charlotte Berglas, on her passing.

Gail May on the passing of her mother, Sylvia Arbesfeld.

Joseph Cogan on the passing of his brother, Seth Cogan.

Amy Berk on the passing of her mother, Carol Upham.

Marcia Ellias on the passing of her mother, Karyl Ellias.

Susan Keohane on the passing of her husband, Thomas Keohane.

Michelle Abraham on the passing of her husband, Larry Abraham.

President's Post

by Tracie Basch

What a month October was! Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot all fell (or mostly fell) within the month, making it one of the busiest months of the year for Brotherhood.



We also had our first Shabbaton of the season where Alex Rosner, who is not only a survivor, but was saved by Oskar Schindler, spoke after the Friday night dinner. In my Kol Nidre message to you, I focused on the concept of L'ilmod u L'lamed from the Ahava Rabbah prayer—to learn and to teach—and how by each of us learning and teaching we can do our part to reduce anti-Semitism. (If you missed my speech, you can see it on our website under Live Stream and then search for the Yom Kippur services).

By now, if you have learned one thing about me, it is that I do as I say. So, for this Shabbaton, I invited an educator to join us as my guest. I have known this woman for years, but last year, I was fortunate that she was one of Zach's fifth grade teachers. This woman, who is not Jewish, has made it her mission to teach every child that enters her classroom about the Holocaust. Last year, I shared my grandparents' story with the entire fifth grade—they appreciated hearing a story that had a happy ending—and I promised her that I would do so every year, even if my child is not in her class. So, when I first learned about Alex Rosner's visit to Brotherhood, I immediately thought of her and how meaningful this experience would be for her and extended an invitation. I am so glad that I did, and so glad that she accepted. Now, she has a first-hand experience that she can add to her teachings which will impact hundreds of children.

Teaching and learning is important. Thinking of someone else and doing something meaningful for them may even be more important.

— Tracie

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

The Chesed Committee is always looking for ideas of how we can better support the Brotherhood community, and for volunteers to help us do it. If you have program or project ideas and/or want to be part of our efforts, please reach out to the committee through the synagogue office. 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, November 21, 7 pm

Susan Franklin will lead a discussion of *Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado.

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



The 30th Annual Bikur Cholim Conference on Visiting the Sick

Sunday, November 10, 9:15 am - 3:30 pm
at UJA-Federation of New York, 130 East 59 Street

If you would like to attend this year's Bikur Cholim conference on Sunday, November 10, please email Roberta (rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) or call her in the office. **The Chesed Committee has graciously offered to cover registration costs.**

Morning Workshops: Building a Caring Community—Organizing | Essential Visiting Skills: The How To's | Expressive Writing as Healing | Filling in the Gaps—Visiting those with Dementia and Memory Impairment | Self-Care and Living with Vitality | Visiting with Someone at End of Life | Bikur Cholim in the 21st Century! Inventive and Practical ideas

Afternoon Workshops: Inside the Texts | The Shiva Visit and Nichum Aveilim—Being Present at a Time of Loss and Bereavement | When a Child is Ill | Creative Connections with Music and the Arts | Elderlaw and Financial Planning | Addiction and Bikur Cholim

More information: <https://jewishboard.org/event/bikur-cholim-2019/>



YAHRZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

November 2-8

^Esther Abeles, Bennet Abramson, Florence Blumenthal, Richard Bogen, ^Harry Burrell, *Louis A. Capaldo, *Lizzie Cassell, Joseph Chetrit, Lewis Cohen, *Abraham Cohen, *William B. Cooper, ^Lillian Denny, Paula Fields, *Abraham Franklin, ^Sylvia Friedberg, Rose Friedman, Jerome Gillman, ^Lisa Goldstein, ^Louis Green, ^Harry Gross, Dr. David D. Hain, ^Dr. Morton J. Hellman, Esther Henzel, ^Herman Jacobs, Esther Kapelus, ^Samuel Kaplow, Anna Kitover, Betty Kistle, ^Isabel Lahana, Judi Leff, Stanley Lefkowitz, Betty Levy, Fred Lipman, Harold Lipman, Max Lippman, Peter Loy, ^Bernard Mantel, Harold Margolis, Abraham Miller, *Harry Padv, *Jules H. Press, ^Sylvia L. Press, Eva Rabinovich, ^Adele Raskin, ^Anna Reisner, ^Robert M. Richman, Gerald Rockower, Fay Rubenstein, ^Gerald Sager, ^Regina Schindel, *Lea Schlager, ^Gertrude Schwartz, Yisaschar Hirsch Meier Shelley, ^Diane Silberling, ^Henry A. Silver, Rose Singer, *Mary Spiegel, Daniel Stein, Rose Stern, George Vassil, *Sophie Versh, *Paul Warshauer, *Selma Wechsler, David Wilf, Miriam Wosk, ^Abraham Zacks, ^Herman Zeitlin

November 9-15

Clara Aaron, ^Jack Bardack, Libbie Bezief, ^George Birnbach, Lillian Borkow, Louis (Lipa) Brill, Leon Brumberg, Saul Cantor, Irving Cohen, Sylvia Dolitsky, ^Herman Douglass, Abraham Ellenzweig, Prof. Taamrat Emmanuel, Lillian Epstein, Ruth Kempner Fuss, ^Harry Gold, *Bertha Goldstein, Louis Green, ^Harry Greenfield, ^Dora Grossman, Abraham Henzel, *Philip Heyman, ^Abraham M. Hoffman, Irving Korman, ^Caleb Lahana, ^Arnold Lesser, ^Brenda Alice Levy, ^Jack Low, ^Louis Magram, *Abraham Mald, John Malino, Sylvia Margolis,

Harry Mayers, Jerome Menell, Naomi Mittman, ^Emanuel Morgenstern, ^Alice Novom, Sol Pearlstein, ^Samuel Perlman, ^Fred Phillips, Ann Plutzer, ^Myer Press, ^Betty Ress, Kate Richkin, Jessie Rosen-Axell, ^Lee S. Topolski, Pauline Schnapp, Herbert Seidel, Robert Silver, ^Shiphrah Silver, *Jeannette D. Solomon, ^Dr. Julian Stern, ^Lee Strauss Topolski, Eric Wagman

November 16-22

^Freida Abraham, Sarah Brown, Julius C. Edelstein, ^Lily Ente, Rose Entus, *Samuel Fassler, *Matilda Fedelman, *Fred H. Feldman, ^Belle Feuerstein, Samuel A. Fineman, ^Jack Fink, ^Malcolm H. Flash, ^Samuel Friedman, Jacob Goldberg, Sadie Goldberg, ^Betty Goldin, Edith Goldman, Ethel Block Gordon, ^Robert Victor Hoffman, *Henry L. Hudes, Harry Jacobs, ^Minnie Jedwick, ^Minnie Katz, ^Harry Katzman, ^Geza Kestenbaum, ^Sylvia Krentzman, Benjamin Levine, *Samuel Levine, *Helene Lind, *Issay Lourie, Anna Marie Ross Maikish, Jacob Morris, Louis Newman, ^Freida Novom Posner, Theodore Rauch, Leon Rosenberg, Walter Rosenthal, Rose Rottenbach, Philip Salant, Samuel Schechter, ^Abraham Schonhau, Berta Shiller, ^Joseph Simon, ^Herman Steinberg, *Emma Stertzer, Kay R. Strauss, Milton Warren, Ellen Wechsler

November 23-29

Maurice Abraham, *Goldie Appel, ^Harry Blumenthal, Jerry Burger, Annette Cantor Wexler, ^Ida Cohen, *Martin S. Drucker, *Julius Duberstein, Henry Entus, *Barnett Finebaum, Gary Fisher, ^Penny Forman, ^Doris C. Freedman, Shirley Friedes, ^Gerald J. Friedman, Arthur Frommer, Lina Frommer, Abraham Glazer, Yankel Glickstein, *Rabbi William Goldberg, Arthur Greenbaum, Sadie Grobow, ^Hilda Harris, Emma Hayeem, *Morris

Herbst, *Naomi Holcomb, Florence Jacobs, Dr. Herman Jacobs, ^Rose Kaminsky, Ida Kaplan, ^Hannah Kaplan, Aaron Kars, Fannie Karten, Andrea Katz-Andrade, Jack Kleinman, ^Ruth Rose Klonsky, David Kreloff, ^Barnet Kurland, Bernard Levy, ^George Levy, Rose Lewis, Elias Lieberman, ^Gussie Low, *Anna Meyer, *Harry Meyer, *Louis T. Meyer, Robert N. Strauss, Caroline Nachman, Michael Nappi, ^Morton Raskin, Joseph Rogoff, Dr. Meyer Rosenblum, *Samuel Rossman, ^Louis Schaefer, ^Kate Schonhau, ^Pearl Sekular, ^Anne Silberling, Mollie Silverstein, David Sandler, ^Jean Gordon Sperling, Sarah Spiegel, *Jonas Spiegel, ^Rev. Jesse W. Stitt, Ned Sussman, Semyon Vaidman, ^Max Joseph Wasserman, *Flora Weinstein, ^Edward Weisman, ^Dr. Maurice Yarkow

November 30-December 6

Myer Agin, Matthew Arnoff, Jay Barnett, Nellie Beck, Ann Bledstein, Samuel Bolotin, Murray Borden, Edward Bratter, Allan Campbell, ^Susan Capaldo, Ann Chain, ^Minnie Cohn, Annaliese Daniel, ^Orene Moskow Fisher, *A. Herman Friedman, *Sylvia Gewirtz, Ephraim Glasser, ^Pauline Gordon, ^Rose Gottlieb, Sheila Heller, *Solomon Hudes, Henry Iskowitz, Max Karten, *David Katz, Dorothy Klein, ^Kate Knopf, ^Edith Kowal, George Landon, Ann Rechtschaeffer Levy, ^Stephen Lewin, Harry Liebowitz, Daniel Lipner, *Louis Lipshie, *Harris Mahler, ^Isabelle Mersky, *Sarah Meyer, Pearl Miller, ^Maurice Musiker, *Richard Naftalis, ^Abraham Novom, Phillip Padv, ^Sidney Palew, Rodney Pollick, Louis Richkin, *Herman L. Rosenberg, ^Joseph Rothenberg, *Reuben Rothman, Rabbi Jeshia Schnitzer, *Molly Seidman, *Matthew Solomon, Louis Sussman, ^Lillian Teitelbaum, ^Herbert Vogel, Esther Wertzer, Ida Wigdor



All our thanks to member Millie Fell for teaching another great round challah class for our members and friends just before Rosh Hashanah!

The Brotherhood Synagogue

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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

The Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School Musical Interview with Producer Judy Shapiro

In recent years, the Hebrew School has produced many wonderful adaptations of popular Broadway musicals, with the children singing many of the songs in both Hebrew and English. Among them: *My Fair Lady* (2007); *Peter Pan* (2008); *The Wizard of Oz* (2009); *Oliver* (2010); *Fiddler on the Roof* (2011); *The Pajama Game* (2012); *Guys & Dolls* (2013); *Annie* (2014); *The Wizard of Oz* (2015); *Grease* (2016); *Fiddler on the Roof* (2017); *Bye Bye Birdie* (2018); and *The Sound of Music* (2019). This year's Hebrew School musical will be decided by the Hebrew School Musical Creative Team later this month. The "behind the scenes magician" of the Hebrew School musical is the amazing Judy Shapiro.

How and when did you find the Brotherhood Synagogue?

I found the Brotherhood when my Mother died in 2000. I needed a place to say Kaddish.

How did you get involved with the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School?

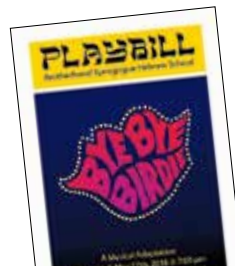
Actually, when I first started coming to Brotherhood for Friday night services, I didn't know there was a Hebrew School. For some reason, I found myself going downstairs and found all these sign-up sheets for auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie* (2005). This was one of the first plays I saw on Broadway and I thought I would like to work on it. That's how I found out about the Hebrew School.

How did your working on the Hebrew School musicals lead you into producing our Hebrew School musicals—and producing off-Broadway shows, in general?

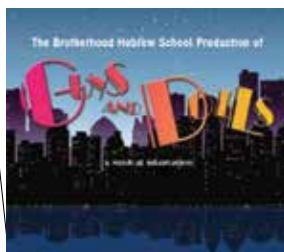
I first started volunteering for the Hebrew School musical while I was still working, but I loved doing it. After retiring, I became more and more active in working on the musicals. I love working with the kids, seeing them develop skills they didn't know they had. It helps the children build their self-confidence and exposes them to "team work." Since my childhood, I have always loved theater! My minor in college was Dramatic Arts. For the past few years, I have started to pursue producing in Off Broadway theater in vehicles that mean something to me.

What do you see as the goal of our Hebrew School musical?

To give each child that would like to participate a chance to be on or off stage and build the musical. Each child is important to the show.



Cast of Grease



Cast of The Sound of Music



Can anyone in the Brotherhood Synagogue Community participate—or is it only for Hebrew school children?

Participation is not limited to Brotherhood Hebrew School children, but participants must be members of the Brotherhood Synagogue.

What have you learned from producing the Hebrew School musical?

I have learned that producing the musical is a labor of love. There are so many elements that go

The children make new friends by working on a project together.

What is the process for selecting the Hebrew School musical?

Usually, Barbara, Daniel Meron, myself and the director/choreographer meet and discuss possibilities. This year, we are asking Hebrew School families for their input.

How is the casting done?

After auditions, Barbara, Daniel, myself and the Director/choreographer discuss the casting assignments.

into producing the musical. It takes a great deal of time and energy, so passion for this work is important. Producing our musical builds community. It's not only the children that are participating, but it's also the parents. Everyone is welcome to help out and everyone is recognized for their participation and who does not like being recognized?

This year auditions for our Hebrew School musical will take place on Monday evening December 2nd from 6:10 pm – 7:00 pm in our Community Room. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate! 🌈

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!!

November Downtown BBYO Meetings at Brotherhood!

Thursday, November 7, 6:30 - 8:00 pm*

Thursday, November 21, 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 evening from 6:30-8:00 pm right here at Brotherhood! Join in the fun!! BBYO offers lots of activities—social, community service, and leadership development—all with Jewish teens in charge—and is international movement of more than 80,000 teens! Now is a great time to get involved! **Brotherhood will cover half the cost which covers the entire period from 8th-12th grade!**

To learn more about BBYO contact Jon Zeftel, BBYO Manhattan regional director, at jzeftel@bbyo.org.

* Knowledge for College evening at BBYO

Nursery School Thoughts

by Ariana Ost Martz

In Judaism we are taught to begin each day with the most ancient gratitude practice of all. Upon waking, we recite the 'modeh ani' prayer with fervor. The 'modeh ani' is a gift to us parents as it can help us teach our children to approach the world through a thankful lens.

"Modeh anee lefanecha melech chai vekayam, she-he-chezarta bee nishmatee b'chemla, raba emunatecha."

"I give thanks before you, King living and eternal, for You have returned within me my soul with compassion; abundant is Your faithfulness!"

Isn't it amazing to see modern day buzzwords like compassion, abundance and faithfulness in this ancient prayer? This prayer removes our sense of control over our lives by stressing that getting our soul back each morning is not to be taken for granted.

Yes, gratitude is an easy word to throw around. But how do you come to truly mean it?

Upon implementing a morning gratitude practice, our mind might start racing with to-do lists, complaints, fears, and the stories we tell ourselves. If we interrupt the automatic mental loop, however, and focus instead on all of the vows in our lives, then we will attract more of them.

The energy and intentions with which we start our day sets the tone for the hours that follow. Power and opportunity are only present in the moment. We can only act now, think now, be now and do now. Making the choice to start your day with a positive perspective and feeling of gratitude means that you will see your time through that lens, no matter what the world may throw at you.

Experiencing gratitude makes our children more sensitive, compassionate and kind. We must teach them to acknowledge that there is magic all around, especially in the quiet moments. How do we enable our children to understand these concepts? How can they come to understand how grateful they should be? Rituals and songs are fun tools that help add a playful dimension to tradition and mindfulness.

Every morning and evening, we ask our daughter what she is happy about, thankful for and excited for. More often than not, the answer is related to school! We are so grateful that Brotherhood is an integral part of our lives. We feel blessed that we walk by the lush, green, serene and vibrant Gramercy Park every day.

When you change what you see, you change how you see. 🌈

🎵 Cantor's Notes 🎵

by Cantor Isaac Yager

I recently came across the texts and study materials I used for my own Bar Mitzvah which took place more than twenty years ago. The papers were nestled in one of the many boxes I inherited from my parents during their downsizing move several months ago. Squished in between beaded necklaces and Austin Powers action figures were the fruits of my thirteen year old labor. I can't remember the last time I had seen these papers. Whenever it was, it was during a time when becoming a cantor was not in my purview, and most certainly when Hebrew and trope were not a part of my daily routine. I was surprised to see the notes that I had written to myself in the margins of the Hebrew text, things like "r'via and et nachta both go down" and "r'vir sounds like this" next to a swooping downward arrow that I had drawn in to illustrate the way I had heard the sound. Truthfully, I don't remember much about my own Bar Mitzvah preparation. I remember listening to the audio cassette recording of my Haftarah over and over again trying to replicate the sound of my hazzan. I also remember practicing my Haftarah on a school trip that took place a few weeks before my big day. I went to a Montessori school from second grade to eighth grade where we took some pretty adventurous trips, or at least adventurous enough to force

my mother to warn my teachers that my punim needed to return scratch free before the day I became a Jewish man. On this particular trip, I remember that we had gone spelunking (cave exploring) somewhere in rural Connecticut. From the depths of this cavern, I chanted the Ki Tavo Haftarah as best I could from memory (it was pitch black) for an audience of underwhelmed and unenthusiastic adolescents. Nevertheless, I can assure you I sounded fabulous. I vaguely remember at the completion of my Bar Mitzvah, right after the candy had been thrown, my rabbi giving me a look of solid approval. Folklore says that he might even have said, "You should think about becoming a cantor one day." I didn't think much of the idea at the time. I also didn't think much of the idea during my freshman year of college when my first voice teacher (who worked as a cantorial soloist) resurrected the idea. Yet, looking at the marginalia I left behind in my Bar Mitzvah papers from my new perspective of someone who teaches this craft for a living, it's clear that I did not relate to this process superficially. And for all the hemming and hawing that led up to my decision to become a cantor, recognizing the genuine respect my young self had for this craft brings me wholehearted satisfaction today. 🌈

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



November 15

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

November 22

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

A Note from Development:

As many of you who attended our recent "Security Shabbat" in September know, The Brotherhood Synagogue, along with many—if not most—houses of worship, is taking additional measures to insure the security of everyone who enters our premises. Given the state of today's world, including the recent rise in anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic attacks, we have been proactively addressing security issues on many fronts. After an in-depth and competitive application process, we are proud to announce that The Brotherhood Synagogue is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from the Federal Government for specific security enhancements to our building. The Development Department has also applied for a grant from the New York State Department of Homeland Security's Program for Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes and we will keep you informed of the status of that grant as soon as the announcements are made. There are many additional security measures that the Synagogue has put into practice as well, which have been addressed in other forums, so please be assured that your safety and security here are our number one priority.

Look for more in the next issue on the 2019/20 Annual Fund and other Development "developments." In the meantime, we wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving Holiday!

—Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development 🌈

Brotherhood Synagogue



Cheshvan / Kislev 5780
November 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 3:30 pm: Tikvah 5:34 pm: Candles 5:15 pm: Nursery School Dinner 6:30 pm: Services	2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Ben-Zion NOACH
3 9 am: Tikvah	4 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	5 9:30 am: Toddler Class 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales NO HEBREW SCHOOL	6 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Study (Cavalry) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History 7 pm: Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture Speaker: Rabbi Capers C. Funnye Jr.	7 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 5 pm: Edith Halper and the Rise of American Art at the Jewish Museum 6:30 pm: BBYO	8 4:26 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services Veterans' Shabbat	9 ☆ 9:30 am: Services LECH LECHA
10 9:15 am: 30th Annual Bikur Cholim Conference on Visiting the Sick (off-site)	11 VETERANS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	12 9:30 am: Toddler Class 3:30 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: BCRIC Meeting 7 pm: An Evening with Matti Friedman 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales	13 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Study (Brotherhood) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History	14 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	15 3:30 pm: Tikvah 4:20 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6) 6:30 pm: Services Pittsburgh Memorial	16 ☆ 9:30 am: Services VAYERA
17 9 am: Tikvah 10:30 am: Twinning Event	18 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	19 9:30 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> Book Club 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales	20 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Study (Cavalry) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Fundamentals of Trope 7 pm: The Sabbath Through History	21 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 Meeting 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	22 3:30 pm: Tikvah 5:43 pm: Candles 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 Speaker: Dr. David Godin	23 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Dara Benyacar 1 pm: Shabbat Club CHAYE SARAH
24 9 am: Tikvah 10 am: DOROT Thanksgiving Deliveries	25 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew	26 9:30 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Talmud Tales	27	28 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED ROSH CHODESH	29 5:34 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services ROSH CHODESH	30 ☆ 9:30 am: Services NOACH