



Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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Fighting for our Jewish Values

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

Winston Churchill once said, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others." Truth be told, many of us would prefer a benevolent dictatorship, if only we get to decide. But democracy means that the majority—or at least the Electoral College majority—have the right to decide who is president. And we can only hope that all citizens act from good motives, trying to build a society that conforms to their values.

Values arise out of a culture; they are the internalized monitors of what is proper and improper. America's Jews participate fully in American culture. And we enjoy its benefits and freedoms. But can we also usefully speak here of specifically Jewish values? Given the sheer scope of American culture, does it overwhelm everything else, leaving little or no room for a distinctive Jewish culture, hence for distinctive Jewish values?

Why does the Statue of Liberty have the hold that it does on the American Jewish imagination? Most probably because it was put in New York harbor at just about the time that these great waves of immigration were coming from Europe into New York. And the Statue of Liberty represented a welcome that spoke to our ambivalence: would we really be accepted in this country?

In the Torah portion this past Shabbat, Sarah dies and Abraham says to the Hittites among whom he dwells: "*ger ve'toshav anochi eimachem*. A guest and a resident I am with you." And the traditional commentators say, "wait a minute, is he a *ger* or is he a *toshav*? Is he a guest at their pleasure or has he been accepted as a resident?"

Abraham's question is the same question that American Jews asked thousands of years later. To what degree are we really accepted in this country, and to what degree are we only tolerated? And the astonishing thing about the biblical passage is the answer of the Hittites to Abraham. They don't say "we don't care what religion you are as long as you

are a good person." They don't say, "we accept you because we are so tolerant." They say *nesee eloheem ata betocheinu*, they say "we are privileged to have you in our midst because you represent the presence of God."

This is the way we should see the acceptance of Jews and Jewish values in America. We still sometimes feel this ambivalence. We're never quite sure how accepted we are, because we occasionally do hear negative and anti-semitic voices. Just over 100 years ago, Mark Twain wrote his famous defense of the Jews. It was as if he was sounding a warning: that the Jews were a precious resource and could be squandered only at great risk to humanity.

Twain concludes his essay, "Concerning the Jews," as follows: "The Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people... He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him... The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was... All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of this immortality?"

The secret, I believe, is a people in covenant to God, who strive to abide by the values imparted to them through Torah by working as a community for the repair of the world. **Now let's go out there and fight for our values and repair our world.** 🐟

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 6:30 PM

Board Oneg Following

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:30 AM

Bat Mitzvah of Sylvia Maxwell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:30 PM

Speaker: Tal Rozenbaum

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah of Ross Brodsky

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6:30 PM

Dinner and speaker following services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah of Noah Goldstein

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 4:00 PM

Bar Mitzvah of Duncan Occhiogrosso

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9:30 AM

Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed

The 34th season of Brotherhood Synagogue's homeless shelter begins on January 3 and runs through March 30 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available and no matter how much time you can devote, a few hours or a night, your help is needed. It is a heartening, rewarding and hands-on opportunity to do good. If you are able to volunteer, please call our office at 212.674.5750.

Another Happy Camper

by Debra Pearlstein

I spent two years in my teens at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, located 75 miles north of New York City along the NY/CT border. Camp Ramah is the “camping arm” of the Conservative movement, established in 1947. There are currently eight Ramah camps in the US and Canada, programs in Israel, several day camps (including one in Nyack serving NYC), and, in many of the camps, inclusionary programs for campers with disabilities. The Ramah programs now serve around 10,000 campers every summer.

Those are useful facts about Camp Ramah if this is the first time you have heard about it, but the most important fact I can share is that Camp Ramah gets the credit for making me a committed Jew. Before Ramah, my Jewish experiences were a mixed bag. The holidays and food were pretty nice, but Hebrew School was an ordeal which left me completely turned off. Services dragged on since I didn't really understand what was happening. And, although I was proud of having recently become a bat mitzvah, the process had made clear that girls and boys were not equal in my synagogue, with the girls relegated to a Friday night ceremony while boys were called to the Torah on Saturday. I did not like feeling a second class citizen. Looking back, I think I was on a path that would have led to my being a proud “cultural” Jew but one with minimal engagement with my Judaism.

But Ramah changed that. I had a great time. All the stuff everyone likes in camp—the friends made, the sports played, the shared experiences—there was that, of course. But there was also a whole new perspective on living a Jewish life. I had experienced Sabbath services back home, but at camp we *davened* every morning in t-shirts and shorts, and with practice I understood the service better. I had learned in Hebrew School about Sabbath observance and it sounded like a list of all the things you couldn't do. But *Shabbat* did not seem restrictive when everyone was observing it the same way; instead, it seemed a peaceful break from the ordinary routine.



Same with the *kashrut* there—the food may not have been great, but it was no hardship to eat by those rules when everyone else was. In breaks from all the swimming and softball games and arts & crafts, we also engaged in Jewish learning that was my first really positive Jewish study experience. I learned a bunch of Hebrew, much more than I had managed at Hebrew School.

There was Israeli dancing and culture (today supported through the presence of educators and support staff from Israel). I loved participating in the hundreds of voices singing *birkat hamazon* after meals, and harmonizing, clapping, and foot stomping through Israeli/traditional song marathons. And I still recall when a group of counselors organized a women-only service (at that time, if “only” women were present, they could lead the service) and for the first time I saw women read Torah. Maybe there was room for women after all.

Some of this was hard for me at first because my Jewish background was limited compared to the kids from Jewish day schools or religious homes, but I caught on. And my exposure to kids from these backgrounds gave me a sense of other possibilities. It opened my eyes to living and studying Judaism in much more meaningful ways than I had experienced before. I came home from those summers committed to continuing my Jewish education and added various observances to my life. My experience is hardly unique: recent studies have shown that a Jewish camping experience correlates strongly with higher commitment to Jewish identity for years to come (measured in things like participation in Jewish life in college and preferring to date other Jews). It is not that anyone at camp preaches about being “more” Jewish, but that sharing in the rituals and learning along with one's friends, seeing Jewish practices modeled by older, committed counselors and staff, in an environment in which it is natural and fun, brings Judaism to life positively. So thank you, Camp Ramah, for some of the top formative Jewish experiences in my life. ♪

Life Goes On

Just as the Bulletin will be published, our group will tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art's amazing new exhibit: *Jerusalem 1000-1400, Every People Under Heaven*. We're fortunate to gain insight into the key and inspiring role this beautiful city has occupied in times of both war and peace while creating art of great beauty and complexity. And fortunate to enjoy dining in the company of good friends—and fortunate as well to have a great dinner together with friends after the exhibit.

December is time for our annual Chanukah party! Please save the date: the evening of Wednesday, December 14th. Details to follow to group members as soon as they are available.

Unfortunately, the LGO Book club will also meet past the publication of the Bulletin and therefore we do not have the date and book for our next meeting yet. Details will be sent to everyone as soon as they are available; but we can say now that NYU Professor Margaret Birns will guide our discussion as usual and wine and desserts will be served. As before, the cost of participating is \$20 per person.

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 Lagnemarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750. ♪

A Community Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Gramercy Park

Tuesday, December 27, 6 pm

Join us for communal blessings and singing at the annual community lighting of the Chanukah menorah in Gramercy Park. Just following, join us for refreshments in our Community Room!



How To Read A Terrorist's Face.

SEE HOW

israelsonit.com

An Israeli company, WeCU (“We See You”) Technologies has developed a system that can detect the intentions of a person. It uses concealed stimuli that cause potential evildoers to have involuntary physiological reactions which are picked up instantly by remote sensors in the environment.

DID YOU KNOW that this is just one of a multitude of Israeli inventions that make us safer and improve the planet we all share. It's the Untold News about Israel. Learn more at IsraellsOnIt.com.

Friday, December 2
following Shabbat Services at 6:30 pm
BOARD ONEG

The Brotherhood Board of Trustees invites the congregation to a special Oneg Shabbat on Friday, December 2 to celebrate our community! All are welcome!

**Speaker at Services – Tal Rozenbaum,
Shaliach to Downtown Jewish Life (DJL)**

Friday, December 9, 6:30 PM



Please join us at Shabbat services on Friday evening December 9 at 6:30 pm when Tal Rozenbaum, Shaliach (Israeli emissary) to Downtown Jewish Life—a consortium consisting of a number of downtown Jewish institutions, including Brotherhood Synagogue—will address the congregation and explain his role and the work he is doing with DJL.

Save the Date

**Salon Sanctuary at Brotherhood Synagogue
Of Meistersingers and Mizmorim:**

*The Wandering Troubadour, the Origins of Klezmer,
and the Medieval Roots of Wagnerian Fantasy*

Thursday, January 12, 8:00 pm

An ensemble of Israeli, Swiss, Slovak, Brazilian, and American artists offer a unique program of medieval repertoire from Germany, Poland, France, Bohemia, and the Middle East—distinctive national styles that entwined over centuries and emerged as an iconic soundscape of Ashkenazi Jewry. (<http://salonsanctuaryconcerts.org>)

Members of Brotherhood Synagogue, please call our office (212) 674-5750 to receive the special discount code to purchase reduced price tickets (\$20).



**SHABBATON
AT BROTHERHOOD**

Friday-Saturday, December 16-17

A Conversation with Sadia Shepard

Sadia Shepard is a NYC-based author and documentary filmmaker. Her book, *The Girl from Foreign: A Memoir*, is an intimate look at her family's history that uncovers long-buried family secrets.



The child of a Muslim mother from Pakistan and a Christian father from Colorado, Shepard discovered when she was 13 years old that her beloved maternal grandmother was originally a member of the Bene Israel, a tiny Jewish community in India. After her grandmother's death she left New York for Mumbai on a Fulbright Scholarship with the goal to try and understand the history and future of the Bene Israel, and what role the three religious traditions of her family might play in her life. In addition to her memoir, Shepard created a documentary film, *In Search of the Bene Israel*, which follows members of the Bene Israel community as they try to decide whether to stay in India or to join the world's Jews in Israel.

Book available for purchase in advance or at the dinner for \$15

For complete details and to rsvp, see the enclosed flyer.

Friday, December 16

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: Speaker-Sadia Shepard

9:15–9:45 pm: Coffee and dessert

Saturday, December 17

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

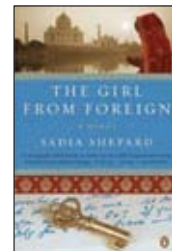
9:30–10:15 am: Torah Talk with Phil Rothman, Topic: "613: What a Concept" in the 4th floor library

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

7:30 pm: Havdallah/Eyal Vilner Big Band Concert/Vodkas and Latkes Party



ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD BOOK FAIR

Monday-Wednesday • December 12-13-14 • in the Community Room



Conveniently OPEN during Nursery School
AND Hebrew School hours!

Monday	⋮	Tuesday	⋮	Wednesday
12 pm - 6 pm		9 am - 6 pm		9 am - 6 pm**

There will be hundreds of books of Jewish interest for children, teens and adults!

Books are great gifts and great holiday gifts!

Volunteer Opportunities Still Are Available!!

Please email David Barry (davidbarry@verizon.net) 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 12 and break down the fair on Thursday, December 15. **Please volunteer!**



****SPECIAL
Author's Visit
5:15 pm on
December 14**

Veera Hiranandani, author of the *Phoebe G. Green* series and *The Whole Story of Half a Girl*
www.veerahiranandani.com



A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE GOES TO BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE!

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Charles and Heidi Brodsky on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Ross Brodsky**; and to grandmother, **Rita Herz**; and to aunt, **Lisa Holland Davis**. Ross is a student at Simon Baruch Middle School.

David Goldstein and Suzanne Silber-Goldstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Noah Goldstein**. Noah, a student at East Side Middle School, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, **Max**.

Tony and Jennifer Maxwell on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Sylvia Maxwell**; and to grandparents, **Rosalyn Weinman** and **Steve Bernstein**. Sylvia, a student at Booker T. Washington Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, **Amelia**.

Glen and Mallay Ochiogrosso on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Duncan Ochiogrosso**.

Duncan, a student at Lower Manhattan Community Middle School, will celebrate his simcha with his younger sisters, **Eliza** and **Casey**.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

Natalia Alfonso and Michael Schor on their marriage.

Cheryl and Ronald Sussman on the marriage of their son, **Bradley Sussman** to **Juliet Barrack**.

Sherry and George Kirschenbaum on the marriage of their son, **Gregory Kirschenbaum** to **Kimberly Dixon**; and to Gregory's sister, **Jill Kirschenbaum**.



Births, Mazal Tov to:

Melanie and Benjamin Robbins on the birth of their son, **Samuel Abraham Robbins**; and to older brother, **Noah**.

Condolences to:

The family of our member and former Trustee, **Dorothy Friedman**.

Michelle Abraham on the passing of her mother, **Paula Finger**.

Carol Ginsburg on the passing of her husband, **Steven Ginsburg**.

Marge Ginsburg on the passing of her father, **Steven Ginsburg**.

Nicole Bergen on the passing of her mother, **Juliet Kafka Bergen**.

Leah Glasser on the passing of her mother, **Kate Richkin**. ☹️

Social Action News

Sunday, December 11, 10:00 am

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. **Only a few spots left for volunteers, so please e-mail Beth Barry (blbar1@aol.com) right away!** 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.

Collection for the Hebrew Home Visit in the Synagogue Lobby Through December 9

For the visit, we are also doing a mini collection in the lobby of small gifts for the residents. The following items are recommended by the Hebrew Home: non-skid socks • toiletries • gently used blankets • knitted blankets • slippers • mens undershirts • greeting cards, pens, paper, stamps for residents to send cards to loved ones



Brotherhood's **Marge Ginsburg** with a group of her high school friends who came to donate blood on Sunday November 20 at the **14th Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood Drive**.

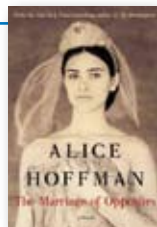


Brotherhood's **DOROT** volunteers on Sunday, November 20.

Shabbat Club Saturday, December 10, 1 pm

At our next Shabbat Club meeting on Saturday, December 10, **Phil Rothman** will speak on "Less known but hopefully interesting facts about Chanukah."

Please join us! All are welcome to the monthly Shabbat Club meetings. Snacks and beverages are provided. ☹️



Brotherhood Book Club Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Naomi Weinstein will lead a discussion of *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman—a forbidden love story about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to painter Camille Pissarro—the Father of Impressionism.

Future Brotherhood Book Club dates and facilitators are below.

Thursday, Jan. 19 Susan Franklin *Here I Am* by Jonathan Foer

Thursday, Feb. 16 Debra Aaron *Notorious RBG: The Life & Times* of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Thursday, Mar. 16 Marnie Potash TBD

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 to join us!

President's Post

by Trudi Rae Bartow



I've been thinking a lot about transition lately. Maybe it's the political climate, maybe I've been listening to a lot of David Bowie, or maybe it's because after 15 years in the publishing industry I've decided to transition into the gift business. Change is an incredibly scary process (at least for me!) as it pushes you out of your comfort zone. But no matter my fear I like to live my life following the motto that change is as good as a vacation. Change can be incredibly transformative to your mind, you opinions, and your routine as it wakes you up and makes you see the world around you. I liken it to hearing the shofar on the holidays. The shrill, piercing blast of the shofar cannot be ignored, you hear the shofar and you are forever changed.

Now that I'm in my period of transition I get the amazing opportunity to hit the reset button on a lot of stale situations and one of them is my contribution routine at Brotherhood. In the past I have paid my dues and given to the annual fund and considered my obligations fulfilled. But this year I am going to change that. I'm still going to pay my dues and give to the annual fund, as you all know the annual fund is a necessary gift to keep our home thriving, but I'm also going to look for new ways to support the work of Brotherhood. Maybe I'll sponsor an one in a good friend's name or give money to the chesed committee to help buy food for mourners during shiva. Maybe instead of just dropping off items during one of our social action committee drives I'll volunteer to help sort, box and deliver the items. There are so many ways you can shake up your giving routine at Brotherhood and if you want to brainstorm with me or learn about some exciting opportunities just reach out at trudirae@gmail.com.



Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

December 3-9

Matthew Arnoff, Samuel Bolotin, Murray Borden, Allan Campbell, Ann Chain, ^Minnie Cohn, ^Orene Moskow Fisher, Roger Flather, Elsa Friedman, *A. Herman Friedman, Rose Gelb, *Honey F. Goldby, ^Pauline Gordon, ^Rose Gottlieb, *Leon Graham, Harry Aaron Gross, Rosalind Halper, Robert H. Harris, ^Anne Hayt, Sheila Heller, *Solomon Hudes, Benjamin Hushansky, Henry Iskowit, Barbara Joslyn, Bernard Jurysta, Max Karten, *David Katz, ^Kate Knopf, ^Edith Kowal, George Landon, ^Donald Learner, ^Stephen Lewin, Harry Liebowitz, Daniel Lipner, *Louis Lipshie*, *Harris Mahler, ^Isabelle Mersky, *Sarah Meyer, Jonathan Moore, ^Maurice Musiker, *Richard Naftalis, ^Abraham Novom, ^Gertrude Novom, Herman Nussbaum, Phillip Padva, ^Sidney Palew, ^Sidney Paley, Louis Richkin, ^Herman L. Rosenberg, Sylvia Rothenberg, *Reuben Rothman, Sol Russon, Emanuel Saxe, ^Marc Sloane, *Matthew Solomon, Louis Sussman, ^Lillian Teitelbaum, Herbert Vogel, Ida Wigdor

December 10-16

Mark Adelsberg, Ralph Adler, Gabriel Ascher, Harry Bernstein, David Bober, ^Evelyn Borden, ^Edith N. Conway, ^Molly D. Cummings, Rita Domow, Rebecca Ellenzweig, ^Ethel Epstein, ^Benjamin Friedman, ^Lenore Goldstein, Alexander Gordon, ^Kenneth Halpern, Hugo Hamburger, Benjamin Hauptman, Billy Jacobson, Abraham Kasman, *Benjamin Klein, Evelyn Kreloff, Sylvia Kriegel, ^Betty Landino, Hanna Lederer, Abe Leinweber, ^*Marvin Levy, *Samuel L. Magerfield, Eric Morse, *Anna Poswolsky, Mark Raffel, ^*Rose Greenberg Rechtschaeffer, Renee Goode Rigby, ^Joseph Ripinsky, Richard Ripps, ^Morris Rosenberg, ^Arthur Rosenblum, ^Annie Schindel, *Allan Shafer, Sol Sloan, ^Irving Statsinger, ^Miriam Statsinger, Edward Stempel, Morris Sussman, *Rose Cooperman Wallach, ^Alexandra Weiler, Ida Weinstein, Michael Weintraub, *Esther Wittenstein

December 17-23

Dorothy Adelsberg, ^Daniel Altman, Max Balaber, Rita Balsam, -*Rachel Leah Berglas, Martin Berkowitz, ^Freya Bodkins, ^Esther Brickman, *Irving A. Browner, Betty Casper, ^Irwin Cassell, Sidney Cohen, Theresa Consumano, ^Isidore Dursht, ^Lazar Ente, ^Rose Epstein, *Leo Farland, ^Rae Feld, Murray Finkelstein, Helen Firstenberg, *Anny H. Gelber*, Isaiah Gellman, Alden Getz, ^Flora Goldin, William Greenleaf, Harry Haberman, ^Fritz Hahn, Lillian Hurowitz, Michael Kaplan, Barry Kaufman, Gertrude Kaufman, Leonard Kaufman, ^Alice Kenner, Florence Levine, *Gussie Levine, ^Gloria Love, Patricia Manly, ^Sylvia Mayo, ^Anna Meisler, Pearl Miller, Marjorie Nadler, ^Edward Perlstein, ^Joseph Pessar, Charles Poole, Dianne Rubinfeld, Ruth Saxe, *Anna Schlager, *David Schlanger, ^Murray J. Schneider, David Schumann, Rebecca Segal, ^William Seinfeld, Neil Siderow, David Silver Jr., *Fred Sirkin, ^Leila

Sloane, Eliezer Slotnick, Martha Stokes, Benzion Toback, *Hannah Toby, ^Paul Tuchfeld, Murray Weinstein, Jack Wishnie, ^Richard Zeitlin

December 24-30

Ruth Ackerman, ^*Rose Antell, Hermine Bauer, *Joseph Berlowitz, ^Philip Blinder, *Frances Greengras Carton, *Yetta Chizner, ^Helen Seinfeld Chodos, Abner Cohen, Ilse Cypel, ^Leon Dankberg, Martin Davis Morris Esrig, Evelyn Fisher, Marion Flash, ^*Chester B. Franklin, *Libby Fried, ^I. Edward Ginsburg, ^Paula Glass, Bila Raisel Goldklang, Gilda L. Goldstein, *Morris Goldstein, *Abraham Goldstein, ^Samuel Goldstein, *Willard Gourse, Benjamin Hayeem, ^Anne Soloway Hayt, Robert Hilkida, David Hochbaum, Louis Kletzkin, Miriam Kramer, ^Herman E. Kurland, ^*Dr. Isidore J. Landsman, Edna Larkin Edna Larkin, Eugenia Lauterpacht, *Frances Lebon, ^Sophie Leifschutz, Fannie Lichtenstein, ^*Sadie Maisel, Ruth Mandell, *Anna Meyers, Sheldon Moskowitz, Eric Renstrom, *Sylvia Ringler, Celia Schneider, Bill Seregi, Lena Shargel, Milton Shiller, Everett Singer, ^James Slater, Louis Slotnick, Laura Sonneberg, Joanna Spiro, *Mildred Steckler, ^Louis Stutzel, Miriam Sussman, ^Joseph Teperman, Richard Turkheimer, *Rose Fogelhood Unterweiser, Ruth Weiss, ^Lillian Weiss, Annie Weprin, Anna Wisgordinski, Mildred Wishnie, Arthur Ziff

December 31-January 6, 2017

Tess Abramowitz, Phyllis Adelsberg, ^Frieda Rinder Antler, ^Frances Berger, Dorothy Bergman, Selma Berman, ^Roberta Cummings, ^Jack Davis, ^Isidor Diamond, *Ethel Edelstein, *Florence Eichner, Isaac Epstein, ^Fritz Falkenstein, ^Alan J. Freedman, *Jack Friedman, Dacia Glusband, ^*Blanche Greenhouse, *Lewis Gross, Isadore Kasman, ^Clara Kaufman, Abraham Kitt, ^Samuel Kleinhaut, ^Isreal Klonsky, Jeanne Levine, ^Ilisa Karger Levy, *Claude Markel, ^Resi Hamburger Nachman, *Lena Presser, Leonard Pressman, ^Ismar Cohn Reisner, Ruth Rooney, *Rev. Saul Roselle, ^Esther Rosenberg, Estelle Rosenthal, Sylvia Rosenzweig, Norman Rottenbach, Arthur Sampson, Nathan Scher, *Sarah Schlanger, Daniel Schwartz, *Joseph M. Sepersky, Dr. Stephen Silverman, Rose K. Solomon, Arlyne Warmbrand, Doris Watty, ^Hannah Weiner, *Abraham Weiss, Moische Wigdor, Melvin A. Wool

The Chesed* Committee

WANTS YOU TO KNOW

We want to support Brotherhood members when they are having a tough time. Please do not assume that we will hear about an illness or death or a family crisis through the grapevine. Call the synagogue office and ask the office staff to let the Chesed Committee know what is going on so we can be in touch to see what we can do to help.

*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.

The Brotherhood Synagogue



28 Gramercy Park South
New York, N.Y. 10003
Phone: (212) 674-5750
Fax: (212) 505-6707



www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,

CANTOR MIKE WEIS,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK^z: 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

The Hebrew School begins the month of December with **Parent-Teacher Conferences** during the week of December 5. (If you have not yet set up your appointments with your children's teachers, there is still time to do so.)

The following week—December 12–14, we are looking forward to our **Brotherhood Synagogue Book Fair**, which coincides with Jewish Book Month! This year, Jewish Book Month is November 24 (23 of Cheshvan) - December 24 (24 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 Judaic books 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-Hanukkah, so as to

promote books of Jewish content as Hanukkah 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 a Jewish Book Fair.

This year’s **Jewish Book Fair** dates are Monday-Wednesday, December 12-14. The Book Fair fills our Community Room with activity and excitement. If you are interested in volunteering at the Book Fair, please contact **Book Fair Coordinator David Barry** (email: davidbarry@verizon.net). In the mornings, our Nursery School students and families visit the Book Fair, and in the afternoons, our Hebrew School students and their families visit the Book Fair. On Tuesday afternoon (December 13), the older children of Kitah Zayin (7th Graders) spend time at the Book Fair. In addition to looking for books of interest for themselves, these 7th graders spend time with the Gan (Kindergarten) and Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students helping them to select Jewish books and reading to them.


Over the years we have hosted many wonderful Jewish book authors: Nina Jaffe; Peninnah Schram; Fiona Rosenbloom; and Nechama Liss-Levinson and Mark Goldblatt. On Wednesday afternoon, our guest children’s book author will be **Veera Hiranandani**. She is the author of *The Whole Story of Half a Girl* (Delacorte Press), which was named a Sydney Taylor Notable Book and a South Asian Book Award Finalist. Ms. Hiranandani will focus on her book *The Whole Story of Half a Girl*, which tells the story of Sonia Nadhamuni. Sonia has a mother who is Jewish-American and a father from India. Because her father loses his job, Sonia finds herself yanked out of private school and is thrown into the unfamiliar world of public education. For the first time in Sonia’s life she is asked questions about her mixed heritage—questions she does not always know how to answer. Throughout the book Sonia is looking for answers to questions about her identity, about what really matters—and who her true friends are.

Please come to Veera Hiranandani’s presentation on Wednesday December 14 @ 5:15 pm and/or stop by our Book Fair Monday-Wednesday! You are welcome to browse through our extensive collection of Jewish-themed books for children and adults. It’s a great time to pick out Chanukah gifts for family and friends!

Simultaneously, on Monday December 12, our now-famous pop-up **Brotherhood Synagogue Chanukah Store** opens—and will be located just outside of our ground floor cloak room! It will provide you with additional opportunities to select fabulous Chanukah gifts for your family and friends.

The following Sunday, December 18 from 11:30 am to 1 pm we invite you to join in our **Annual Chanukah Party and Concert** featuring the Mira Rivera and Jerry Korman Family 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! On top of it all, there will be sufganiot (jelly donuts) and latkes (livivot=potato pancakes) so that we can all delight in the scrumptious flavors of Chanukah! Chag Sameach!!!

Please join us for the **Lighting the 4th Candle of the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah)** in Gramercy Park on **Tuesday December 27 @ 6 pm.**

Wishing you all a light-filled Chanukah!
—Barbara Simon
Hebrew School Principal 



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 18
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!!*



Nursery School Thoughts

by Daniel Basila

On school days—as rare as they might be in these autumn months—when I get my kids mostly fed, mostly dressed, mostly clean, and to school sort-of on time, I am filled with a (very deep) sense of accomplishment. But I am also filled with a deep sense of gratitude: my kids will spend the rest of their morning and early afternoon in a nurturing environment where they are treated with the heaping ration of dignity and respect—spiritually, physically, and intellectually—that all humans deserve (and so many rarely get). Never do I drop my kids off in the morning, and feel even the tiniest pang of guilt, the slightest hesitation, or even a twinge of doubt that Brotherhood is the best place for them to be in nursery school. I know they are safe, comfortable, loved, and educated (in the best and broadest sense of the word). What a fortunate situation for a father of two three-year-olds to find himself!

Our children's ideas and potential must flourish in spite of a world whose harsh brutality and indifference to suffering can seem unavoidable and overwhelming. A Leonard Cohen lyric has been running through my head since he died last month: *"Ring the bells that still can ring/Forget your perfect offering/There is a crack in everything/That's how the light gets in."* As my children awaken to the world around them, set out to take joy in its bounty, contribute their talents to its collective future, and learn to navigate its cruelties, I take deep comfort knowing that their first sustained experience outside of our home is at Brotherhood. Surely, just as they learn and

thrive, they will crack and heal and scar. Thankfully (and I've seen this with my own eyes) the teachers of Brotherhood sweep light into our children when they crack and as they heal. So, *"[the] children show [their] scars like medals."*

At Brotherhood, the teachers take the time to develop a deep understanding of their students, and put in the work and attention required to develop a meaningful rapport with these young, quickly developing kids. This intense focus and attention to detail translates into their almost magical way with the children. The teachers are empathetic and kind, and interweave lessons into the smallest of interactions. The kids are engaged. The school day counts. Over the past years I've watch all of the kids grow into well-adjusted, fun, empathetic, sympathetic, curious, and confident little girls and boys. Although our kids will not be able to stay at Brotherhood forever, we know that its influence, and the love and care with which they were tended will be with them for many years to come. ~



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

.....
Friday, December 2

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

.....
Friday, December 9

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

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

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



CHANUKAH STORE AT BROTHERHOOD!!!

December 12 through December 21!!



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!

♪ Prayerbook 101: Where the Heck Are We? ♪

by Cantor Mike Weis

Whether you're one of those people who loves to come to shul or who generally can't stay far enough away, chances are at some point in your synagogue-going life, you've wondered either to yourself or aloud, where the heck we are in the prayerbook. Page numbers are helpful when they are announced, but that doesn't happen very often, and in the absence of that, how would you even know when to turn the page?

Think of this article, then, as a how-to guide for decoding all the noise that you've been hearing on the bima. All you need is a little bit of Hebrew—not a lot—and a bit of information.

The general term for one who leads a service, cantor or otherwise, is shaliach tzibbur, which means emissary of the congregation. We need an emissary because, in the days before prayer books, the rabbis realized that not all worshipers knew enough Hebrew to say the proper formulas for all the prayers. The role of

the shaliach tzibbur was instituted, therefore, in order to ensure that even those who do not know the public forms of prayer can still fulfill their personal obligation to pray.

This is accomplished by the correct recitation of the prayer by the shaliach tzibbur, followed by the simple response of those present with the word "amen." By saying the word "amen" to the prayer of the shaliach tzibbur, it is considered as if the worshiper had recited the entire prayer correctly him or herself. So in a very real sense, you do not actually need to know where we are in the prayerbook at any given moment, but you still have to keep your heart and ears open and listen for your proper cues.

But what cues should you listen for?

The recitation of the prayer by the shaliach tzibbur may be chanted or sung aloud in its entirety as is the custom among the Sephardim, in which case there are no cues. More commonly, though, among Ashkenazi Jews, most

of the prayers are recited silently, with the cantor chanting aloud only certain words of significance, as well as the ending of each prayer. The ending of a prayer, usually signified by the words, "Baruch Ata Adonai..." is known as the "hatimah," or signature, of the prayer. The shaliach will normally begin chanting the hatimah a few words before the hatimah.

In our prayer book, Sim Shalom, the place where the shaliach tzibbur begins is always notated by a small box in the text. I urge you to take a look at the prayerbook, and search for all the little boxes, because THAT is what the shaliach tzibbur will be chanting at any given moment. If you can read Hebrew, even a little, the boxes will be an invaluable tool in helping you to follow along. Once you've mastered "the boxes," you will be well on your way to knowing where the heck we are at any given moment whether the rabbi announces the page number or not.

Good luck! ~

Brotherhood Synagogue



Cheshvan / Kislev 5777
December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>☆ Saturday Mornings: Shabbat Corner 9:45 am Junior Congregation 10:30 am • Alef-Bet Club 11 am</p>				<p>1 7:30 am: Minyan 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>2 4:11 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services Board Oneg Following Services</p>	<p>3 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Sylvia Maxwell</p> <p>TOLEDOT</p>
<p>4 9 am: Tikvah</p>	<p>5 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>6 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude with Rabbi Alder</p>	<p>7 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah 7 pm: The American Jewish Story through Cinema</p>	<p>8 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</p>	<p>9 4:10 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 Speaker: Tal Rozenbaum</p>	<p>10 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Ross Brodsky 1 pm: Shabbat Club</p> <p>VAYETZE</p>
<p>11 9 am: Tikvah 10 am: Hebrew Home Visit (off-site)</p>	<p>12 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>13 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude with Rabbi Alder</p>	<p>14 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah</p>	<p>15 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</p>	<p>16 4:23pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Shabbaton dinner and speaker Sadia Shepard</p>	<p>17 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Noah Goldstein 9:30 am: Torah Talk 2:15: Spiritual Yoga 4 pm: Terrific Toddler Time 4 pm: Bar Mitzvah of Duncan Occhiogrosso 7:30 pm: Eyal Vilner Big Band Concert/ Vodka & Latkes Party</p> <p>SHABBATON</p> <p>VAYISLACH</p>
<p>18 9 am: Tikvah 11:30 am-1 pm: Chanukah Concert and Party</p>	<p>19 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events</p>	<p>20 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: Board Meeting</p>	<p>21 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah</p>	<p>22 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner</p>	<p>23 4:15 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>24 ☆ 9:30 am: Services</p> <p>VAYESHEV</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Menorah lighting in Gramercy Park</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 4:20 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>31 ☆ 9:30 am: Services</p> <p>MIKETZ</p>

BIG BAND
EYAL VILNER'S 14-PIECE SWING BAND!
BIG LATKES
LOTS'A VODKAS
ADMISSION: \$10
DECEMBER 17
7:30 PM

BROTHERHOOD FILM SERIES

Save the Date
The Return (2012)
Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 pm
Director: Adam Zucker

With no access to their heritage, four women are forging a new sense of self. In the country that was once the epicenter of the Jewish world, and now regarded as "the Jewish graveyard," they are figuring out how to be Jewish in today's Poland. How do you build your identity when our past has been stripped away? *The Return* is a documentary that explores the unique reality of being young and Jewish in Poland today by following the lives of these young women, who were raised Catholic only to discover they were Jewish in their teens. (<http://www.thereturndocumentary.com/>)

In February: *Bully*, Sunday, February 5 at 4:30 pm