



Brotherhood Synagogue בית

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New York, NY 10003

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Religion and the Endorsing of Candidates

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

We're coming to the end of a maddening long and contentious election process for picking our next president. By now, one would think, people have come to a conclusion on who they will vote for. I have nothing to add to the debate because not only do I believe it unwise, but to do so imperils the tax-exempt status of this synagogue.

There are those who advocate the overturning of the Johnson amendment, which prohibits houses of worship from advancing or hindering specific candidates or political parties. Some clergy members feel that this is an unfair limitation. They believe they should be able to speak in favor of candidates or parties they endorse, and they resent the possible rescinding of their tax-exempt status.

As the rabbi of a synagogue that includes people of different political stripes, I have given this question some thought. Clergy members are allowed to advocate for specific issues and many have taken stands on abortion or civil rights for example. But they may not promote a party or a candidate; that seems a sensible and helpful rule.

There are messy questions of how advocacy would work—could people funnel money through tax-exempt religious institutions to their candidates, or use religious organizations to lobby for specific

candidates? But aside from such process issues, Rabbi David Wolpe presents three fundamental reasons why the Johnson Amendment is good for religion and good for the country:

Politics can distract from religious life:

As a Rabbi or Priest or Minister, the more political you become, the less suasion you have over the intimate parts of people's lives. Politics can be so adversarial that people have a hard time coming to someone to officiate at a wedding or funeral or for counseling if they think the person is an advocate for the other side. Most of religious life is lived in intimate space; we comfort and soothe and take care of one another. We pray and celebrate together. To lose that to large public disputes is a tragedy for a religious community.

Causes can be clear; candidates rarely are:

When as a religious leader you tie yourself to a person, you become implicated in all they are and do. There is no way to stay "above the fray." Political life is messy. The best-intentioned politician will do things that cannot be anticipated or imagined during the campaign. You can promote a cause, and if the political winds shift, continue to promote it even if that necessitates a change in party or politician. You are preaching on a principle, not a person.

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Elsie Cole
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 5:30 PM
Bat Mitzvah of Abby Siskind

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6:30 PM
Veterans' Shabbat
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Alana Weissberg


FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 6:30 PM
Dinner and speaker following services
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Schatz

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 9:30 AM

Religion is a refuge from the world:

On the street, in the newspaper, in the office, people conduct an ongoing debate about politics. The aptly named sanctuary where we pray should be just that—a sanctuary from the din of debate.

The Johnson Amendment is less a limitation on religion than a defense of its integrity. Let's keep it for the sake of society, and the sake of the faithful.

And make sure you vote on Tuesday, November 8th! 

Phil Rothman

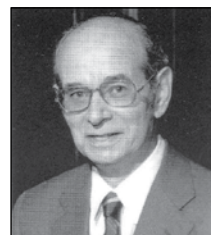
Executive and Educational Director will speak at the fourteenth annual

Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 • 7 PM

"A Rabbi's Rabbi"

In 1981 Rabbi Irving J. Block asked Phillip Rothman to become the Brotherhood Synagogue's first Hebrew School principal. He found in Phil, he said, a "beautiful principal" and Phil, in turn, found in him an inspiring, extraordinary rabbi—a rabbi's rabbi. Rabbi Block became his mentor—in all things, not just in religious education—and their friendship continued until Rabbi Block's death. He remains an inspiration for Phil—and for all of us who knew him—to this day.



Reception to follow.

Camp

by Tracie Basch

Ask almost any child about what they are looking forward to during the summer and the first response you will probably receive is “No school.” For many children in the Northeast US, the second answer will probably be “summer camp.” For me, my first response was always summer camp. For eight years, six as a camper and two as staff, I spent nine weeks ‘nestled neath the shady trees’ at Surprise Lake Camp.

Surprise Lake Camp (SLC) is the oldest Jewish Camp in the US. It was founded in 1902 as a Winter Camp serving Jewish boys from the Lower East Side. This was their opportunity to get out of the city—they received an education, they escaped illness, and yes, there was a reduced burden on their family as there was one less mouth to feed in difficult times. Over the years, SLC has changed, but its roots have always been the same—a Jewish camp serving children from all walks of life.

When I first arrived at camp, I was a 10 year old girl who went to Yeshiva and only knew one way of practicing the religion. My eight years at camp taught me that there are many ways



to not only practice Judaism, but to also identify as Jewish. I made friends, some of whom I still call consider friends today, with other kids who spanned the spectrum from no Jewish experiences at home to those that were somewhat observant. Camp was the one place where we all came together on an even playing field and where we were able to learn from one another.

Friday nights and Shabbat were, and still are, really special at SLC. It is camp tradition that everyone—campers and staff—wear white Friday night. Looking around, there was a sea of white shirts. I am not sure why this became the *minbag*, but looking back at it, this is another way that we were all put on the same level. Often, we held our Shabbat services at our open air theater, the *Eddie Cantor* (yes, he was a camper there), looking at the lake and up at the trees. What better way to speak to God than in the presence of nature? Even better, the Shabbat services were led by campers, under the guidance of the camp Rabbi who would meet with each group when it was their turn to teach us the prayers and the songs so that all of us were prepared. What a great way to learn the songs and prayers than with your friends? No matter what our levels of observance at home, at camp, we all came together as one to say the prayers and welcome Shabbat.

Learning about Judaism was not limited to religious practices, and here is where I really learned something new. With the large number of Israeli counselors and staff, we also learned about what a Jewish identity was and how to define our own, without the specter of religion. Every summer we had Israeli Day—where we played games that were played in Israel and ate Israeli food (who doesn't love a good Falafel?). The interactions with Israeli staff were always interesting as many of the counselors were just coming off their years of mandatory army service. We learned what life was like for them in Israel and in the army. These staff members were not much older than we were, yet their experi-

ences in Israel were so different from ours in Long Island, Westchester and New York City. It was definitely eye-opening to me and all my friends and made us appreciate what we had.

My years at camp not only taught me independence, compromise and problem solving skills—all good things. It taught me how to be a better Jew and a better person. It taught me how to be accepting of others, especially if they are not like me. It taught me that there is no one right way to do any one thing. Don't get me wrong, I learned these things from my family as well. The difference is that, at camp, I learned them from my friends and peers, and as all parents know, our kids often pay better attention to their friends than to us. My experiences at SLC were so meaningful to me, that now my two sons attend.

In many ways things at camp have changed to meet current standards, but certain things have not changed—at every meal, everyone says *Hamotzi* before they eat and *Birkat Hamazon* at the end of each meal and come Friday night, everyone still wears their white shirts for *Kabbalat Shabbat*. Today, a whole new generation of children, including mine, are learning things and experiencing things at camp about Judaism and a Jewish identity that they would otherwise not have an opportunity to learn. ~

My Jewish Sleep Away Camp Experience

by Mindy Bogen

At the age of 5 years young I was fortunate enough to go to sleep away camp for the entire summer. The name of the camp was Kindervelt, located in Highland Mills, New York. It was a coed Jewish Zionist camp. Our day started at the flag pole, reciting the pledge of allegiance, *The Star Spangled Banner*, and then pledging to the Jewish flag and Hatikvah. Then we proceeded to dining room for breakfast. Then after breakfast was bunk clean-up.

After clean-up our activities for the day started which included different sports, music, learning Hebrew and Yiddish songs, and dancing which included American, Hebrew, Latin. There were lectures and debates on anything pertaining to Judaism and Israel.

Each weekend we performed for our parents and friends who came to visit the campers. I continued to go to camp each year until I was 17 at which time I met my future husband, Richard Bogen. Camp was a wonderful experience; I made friends which I am still in touch with and that I still see on occasion. ~

Shabbat Club November 19, 1 pm

At our next Shabbat Club meeting on Saturday, November 19, **Cantor Mike Weis** will speak to us about the historical phenomenon of the “superstar” cantor in America. Please join us! All are welcome to the monthly Shabbat Club meetings. Snacks and beverages are provided. ~

Thursday, November 3, 7 pm
Nitsana Darshan-Leitner:
Shurat HaDin

Please join the Israel Committee in welcoming **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Esq.**, founder and president of the Israel based civil rights organization, **Shurat HaDin - The Israel Law Center.**

Shurat HaDin leads the legal fight against terror financing, anti-Israel boycott campaigns (BDS), and a multitude of law fare tactics utilized against the Jewish State by its enemies. *Shurat HaDin* has represented hundreds of terror victims in legal actions against terror organizations and their financial supporters and has recovered more than one hundred and fifty million dollars in compensation on their behalf. Currently they are pursuing lawsuits and legal actions against Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PLO, The Palestinian Authority, Hezbollah, Iran, Syria, Egypt, North Korea, UBS, Lebanese Canadian Bank and the Bank of China. The cases are being litigated in Israeli, American, Canadian and European courts. A recent judgment and damages ruling against the PLO, yet to be collected, totals \$655.5 million.



Join us to hear about the important work Nitsana Darshan-Leitner and her organization are doing in pursuit of justice for terror victims.

SHABBATON
AT BROTHERHOOD

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

On Friday evening November 18 following our congregational dinner, Adam Shwartz, Director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, will share with us his fascinating insights into this exciting academic startup which is scheduled to be completed and open on Roosevelt Island next spring.



Dr. Shwartz will talk about the re-imagining of technical education for the digital age and the critical role the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute will play. He will discuss the Bridge Building where established companies will have the opportunity to be part of an ecosystem, custom-designed to accelerate the commercialization of new products and technologies. He will also share with us which influences from Israel and Jewish culture have come into play in the design of this project.

For complete details and to RSVP, see the enclosed flyer or our website.

Friday, November 18

- 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-Adam Shwartz, Director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute.
- 9:15-9:45 pm:** Dessert & Coffee

Saturday, November 19

- 9:30-Noon:** Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Weis
- 9:30-10:15 am:** Torah Talk with Phil Rothman, Topic: "Do Angels Eat?" in the 4th floor library
- Noon:** Kiddush Lunch in the Community Room
- 1-2 pm:** Shabbat Club-Speaker: Cantor Mike Weis, Topic: The "Superstar" Cantor in America
- 2:15-3:15 pm:** Spiritual Yoga with Rebecca Kryspin. All levels welcome.

Social Action News

Friday, November 11, 6:30 pm at services

Brotherhood to Honor Veterans

In a program presented by the Social Action Committee, Brotherhood Synagogue will honor all members, men and women, who served in the military in the United States and the Israel Defense Forces at services on Friday, November 11th, the same day as the Federal observance.

All veterans are urged to attend to receive the gratitude of the congregation, and all members and guests are urged to be present, both to show their gratitude to those who served and to be entertained by dramatic readings for Veterans' Day. Friday evening services begin at 6:30 pm.

Sunday, November 20, 10 am - 3:30 pm

The Brotherhood Synagogue's 14th Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood and "Be the Match" Bone Marrow Drive

Chuck Ginsburg was a cool, generous and loving guy. His family and friends remember him with love each and every day. Blood plasma helped give him energy and some feeling of normalcy during his battle with cancer. In the loving spirit

of Chuck's life, the Brotherhood Synagogue, the Social Action Committee and Chuck's family are proud to sponsor the Fourteenth Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood Drive.

"Be the Match" Bone Marrow Drive during the Blood Drive

Want to save a life? Every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer. A patient's doctor will search for an unrelated donor through "Be The Match" (<https://bethematch.org>) when their patient has exhausted all other treatment options. A bone marrow transplant is their last chance at life. You must be between the ages of 18-44 to donate.

Please call the office at 212-674-5750 immediately to schedule an appointment. You can also make an appointment online: go to <http://nybloodcenter.org>, click "Schedule Donation" and search on Group Number 14200 or the Brotherhood Synagogue Drive on November 20. No SS# is required but you must bring a photo or signature id. The NYC Eligibility Line is 1-800-688-0900.

Remember to eat protein rich meals the week before!!!



Sunday, November 20, 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 20. 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 pm.

DOROT asked for participants 18 years old and older, and space is limited, so please contact Roberta at rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org if you wish to volunteer.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Elan Cole and **Sarah Litt Cole** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Elsie Cole**. Elsie, a student at Clinton, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, **Violet**.

Spencer Siskind and **Meredith Siskind** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Abby Siskind**. Abby is a student at Churchill.

Steven Weissberg and **Cameron Weissberg** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Alana Weissberg**. Alana, a student at Leman, will celebrate her simcha with her older brother, **Logan**.

Eric Schatz and **Jessica Schatz** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Naomi Schatz**. Naomi, a student at Ethical Culture Fieldston, will celebrate her simcha with her older sister, **Dana**.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

Millie and **Alan Fell** on the marriage of their son, **Jonathan Fell** to **Jacklyn Esterman**.

Francine and **Nadav Silberstein** on the marriage of their daughter, **Ariela Silberstein** to **Simon Goldrick**.

Condolences to:

Eylene King on the passing of her mother, **Doris Rattner**.

Vivienne Rottman on the passing of her mother, **Enid Lyn Cook**.

Harriet Porto on the passing of her half-sister, **Mary Edelson**.

The family of our member **Lucie Benedikt** on her passing.

Welcome New Members:

Welcome to **Steven** and **Michelle Goldstein**, who recently moved to Gramercy Park. Steven is a Periodontist and Michelle is an Actuary. They have two children. Their daughter, **Sammi**, is a NYC teacher and their son, **Danny**, works in Finance. The Goldstein's are excited to be a part of the Brotherhood community.

Welcome to **Jeffrey** and **Randi Levine** of the West Village. Jeffrey is the Chairman of Douglaston Development and Randi is a freelance journalist. They have three grown children. **Benjamin** and **Jessica** who work at Douglaston Development and **Dara** who works at the Educational Alliance. The Levines look forward to meeting many new friends and becoming active members.

Welcome to **David** and **Kimberly Zaga** of Madison Square. David is the President of Real Estate at Falcon Properties and Kimberly is a salesperson with The Corcoran Group. They just moved to the neighborhood and are excited to join the Brotherhood community.

Welcome to **Itai** and **Michal Yanai** of Gramercy Park. Itai is a Professor and Institute Director at NYU Langone Medical Center. For the past two years, Michal was a program director at MIT's entrepreneurship center. She will soon be joining NYU's medical school in a similar role. They have three children—**Adam** who attends the Salk School of Science, **Daniel** who attends P.S. 40, and **Ben** who attends Brotherhood Synagogue Nursery School.

Welcome to **Benjamin** and **Daniela Tisch** of Gramercy Park. Ben works at Loews Corporation and Daniela is a lawyer. They have a son, **Max**, who currently attends Beginnings Nursery School and will be joining the Brotherhood Nursery School in January. They are also expecting their second baby at the end of September.

Welcome to **Scott** and **Alexis Litman** of Gramercy Park. Scott is a Managing Director with Oaktree Capital and Alexis is an interior designer/partner with Flatiron 27. They have three children—a daughter, **Addison**, who attends Village Community School, a son, **Owen**, who attends Beginnings Nursery School and an infant son, **Maxwell**. Addison is also enrolled in Brotherhood's Hebrew School.

Welcome to **Hartley Nisenbaum** and **Kara Goldman**, originally Chicagoans now living in the Flatiron neighborhood. Hartley is the interim CFO and General Counsel for Ubiquiti Networks, Inc. and Kara is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYU hospital, specializing in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. They have a two-year-old daughter **Aviva** who attends Preschool of the Arts, and a 1-year-old daughter **Hazel**.

Welcome to **Marnie Potash**, new to both Brotherhood and Gramercy Park. Marnie is a psychologist specializing in family and entrepreneurial business, and an author. Her

daughter **Laura** lives in the Village and is an international brand manager at Unilever. Daughter **Hilary**, an appellate lawyer, and son-in-law **Gene**, a congressional fellow, live in DC. Marnie extends her gratitude for all, who have made her feel at home already.

Welcome to **Carol S. Turner** of Chelsea. Carol is happily retired from law firm management. She keeps busy with theater, movies, and volunteer work with different local organizations.

Welcome to **Jeffrey Gewirtz** and **Brooke Raphael** of Flatiron. Jeffrey, an avid tennis player and fan, is the Executive VP of Business Affairs and Chief Legal Officer for the Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center. Brooke works at Celgene Corporation, and loves to bake in her spare time. They are expecting their first child in November and are excited to join the Brotherhood family.

Welcome to **Rachel** and **Avi Drori**. Avi is an investor and Rachel is the Founder of Daily Harvest. They have one child, **Elon** who is about to turn two and another on the way. The Drori's look forward becoming part of the Brotherhood community.

Welcome to **Philip Harper** of the Bronx. Philip is a retired engineer with the FAA. His pastimes are Argentine tango dancing, paddleball, bicycling, and kayaking.

Welcome to **Guy Shapira** and **Melanie Rosenzweig** of Midtown. They have a daughter **Jaidyn** who is in 3rd grade at Success Academy Union Square and is also in Kitah Gimmel at Brotherhood's Hebrew School.

Welcome to **Oran** and **Samantha Ebel** of Kips Bay. Oran is a Senior Vice President with The Blackstone Group and Samantha is a Contracts Manager with NYU School of Medicine. They have two sons. **Gideon** who attends Acorn School and **Guy**. 🐾

Brotherhood Book Club Thursday, November 17, 7 pm

Michelle Spieza will lead a discussion of *Walking the Dog* by Elizabeth Swados.

Former child prodigy and rich-girl kleptomaniac, Ester—renamed into the genteel Carleen for her own protection—now released from a long incarceration, finds a job as a dog walker in NYC's elite neighborhoods where she relates better to the dogs' brutish instincts than to their human owners. Determined to prove herself a real person, she tries to reconnect with her estranged, Orthodox daughter.

Future Brotherhood Book Club dates and facilitators are below.

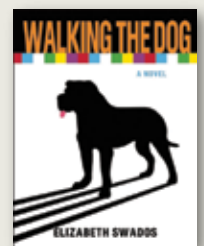
Thursday, Dec. 15 Naomi Weinstein *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman

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 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 Bartow

Shabbat Dinner? Yes Please!



I recently read an interesting book about how to maintain a work/life balance in an age of the “ever-connected.” The book stressed the importance of barriers—this is my work time, this is my private time. During your private time, you have to work hard to not work. The whole idea of being disconnected struck me as preposterous. I’m one of those who has a Pavlovian response to my phone’s buzz, my hand itches to pick it up. But the idea of barriers makes sense to me, after all, the Jewish people are lucky enough to have the best time barrier of all...Shabbat.

I have found that celebrating Shabbat is the best way to really manage my work/life balance. During the week, I’m go go go, but when I enter Shabbat, my focus changes as I connect to a more meaningful experience. Judith Shulevitz, in her book, *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*, describes it this way: *Shabbat creates social solidarity by coordinating our non-work time. It makes people stop working not only for 25 hours a week but for the same 25 hours a week. When people share their non-work time, when they look up from their chores or computers or smart phones and start to look at one another, what they see is family members and neighbors and co-religionists. It is the connections with these groups of people that we forge the bonds of a loving, cohesive society.*

So I would like to propose that we, at Brotherhood, do more Shabbat connections. I think the best way to do this is through community Shabbat dinners. Let’s open our homes to our friends and neighbors and celebrate Shabbat together. If you are interested in hosting your own community building Brotherhood Shabbat dinner (or a havdallah), please contact me at trudinrae@gmail.com and we will plan an amazing Shabbat experience together. 🌊

The Chesed* Committee

WANTS YOU TO KNOW

The Jewish Board offers help for adults, children and teens coping with intellectual or developmental disabilities, dealing with emotional crisis, facing family violence, and living with mental illness. Help is available at 1.844.ONE.CALL.

*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.



Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

November 5-11

^Esther Abeles, Libbie Bezief, Florence Blumenthal, Richard Bogen, ^Harry Burrell, *Louis A. Capaldo, *Lizzie Cassell, Joseph Chetrit, Lewis Cohen, *Abraham Cohen, *William B. Cooper, ^Lillian Denny, Sylvia Dolitsky, Paula Fields, Rose Friedman, Jerome Gillman, ^Lisa Goldstein, ^Louis Green, ^Harry Gross, Dr. David D. Hain, ^Dr. Morton J. Hellman, Esther Henzel, Yisaschar Hirsch Meier Shelley, ^Abraham M. Hoffman, ^Herman Jacobs, ^Samuel Kaplow, Hyman Kaufman, ^Anna Kitover, Betty Kristle, ^Isabel Lahana, Judi Leff, Stanley Lefkowitz, Betty Levy, ^Brenda Alice Levy, Fred Lipman, Harold Lipman, ^Jack Low, Peter Loy, ^Bernard Mantel, Harold Margolis, Abraham Miller, *Harry Padva, ^Fred Phillips, ^Sylvia L. Press, *Jules H. Press, Eva Rabinovich, ^Adele Raskin, ^*Anna Reisner, ^Robert M. Richman, Gerald Rockower, ^Gerald Sager, ^Regina Schindel, *Lea Schlager, ^Gertrude Schwartz, ^Diane Silberling, ^Henry A. Silver, ^Shiprah Silver, Rose Singer, *Mary Spiegel, Daniel Stein, Rose Stern, Leonard Tuft, *Sophie Versh, Eric Wagman, *Paul Warshauer, *Selma Wechsler, Miriam Wosk, ^*Abraham Zacks

November 12-18

Clara Aaron, Ariella Arthur, ^Jack Bardack, ^George Birnbach, Lillian Borkow, Murray Bossowich, Louis (Lipa) Brill, Leon Brumberg, Saul Cantor, Irving Cohen, Max Cooper, William Cypel, ^Herman Douglass, Julius C. Edelstein, Abraham Ellenzweig, Prof. Taamrat, ^Emmanuel Lily Ente, Stanley K. Fass, ^Belle Feuerstein, ^Malcolm Flash, ^Samuel Friedman, Yoram Fuchs Ruth, Kempner Fuss, *Bertha Goldstein, Louis Green, ^Harry Greenfield, Harry Greenfield, ^*Dora Grossman, Abraham Henzel, *Philip Heyman, Harry Jacobs, *Minnie Katz, Irving Korman, ^Caleb Lahana, ^Arnold Lesser, Sol Lichenstein, *Helene Lind, ^Louis Magram, *Abraham Mald, John Malino, Sylvia Margolis, Harry Mayers, ^*Emanuel Morgenstern, ^Alice Novom, Sol Pearlstein, ^Samuel Perlman, ^Myer Press, ^Betty Ress, Jessie Rosen-Axell, ^Lee S. Topolski, *Pauline Schnapp, *Jeannette D. Solomon, ^Dr. Julian Stern, ^Lee Strauss Topolski, Belle Weiswasser

November 19-25

^Freida Abraham, Lillian Blumberg, Sarah Brown, *Julius Duberstein, Rose Entus, *Samuel Fassler, *Matilda Fedelman, *Fred H. Feldman, ^Samuel A. Fineman, ^Jack Fink, ^Malcolm H. Flash, ^Gerald J. Friedman, Jacob Goldberg, Sadie Goldberg, ^*Betty Goldin, Edith Goldman, Ethel Block

Gordon, Sadie Grobow, ^Robert Victor Hoffman, *Henry L. Hudes, ^Minnie Jedwick, Andrea Katz-Andrade, ^*Harry Katzman, ^Geza Kesternbaum, Jack Kleinman, David Krelloff, ^Sylvia Krentzman, Benjamin Levine, *Samuel Levine, ^George Levy, *Issay Lourie, Anna Marie Ross Maikish, Michael Nappi, Louis Newman, ^*Freida Novom Posner, Theodore Rauch, Joseph Rogoff, Dr. Meyer Rosenblum, Walter Rosenthal, *Samuel Rossman, Rose Rottenbach, Sophia Sainer, Philip Salant, Samuel Schechter, ^Abraham Schonhaut, ^Pearl Sekular, Becha Shiller, ^Joseph Simon, ^Herman Steinberg, *Emma Stertzter, ^*Rev. Jesse W. Stitt, Kay R. Strauss, Milton Warren, Ellen Wechsler, Florence Yeats

November 26-December 2

Maurice Abraham, Myer Agin, *Goldie Appel, Nellie Beck, Ann Bledstein, ^Harry Blumenthal, ^*Ida Cohen, Theresa Consumano, *Martin S. Drucker, Henry Entus, *Barnett Finebaum, Gary Fisher, ^Doris C. Freedman, Shirley Friedes, Arthur Frommer, Lina Frommer, *Sylvia Gewirtz, Abraham Glazer, Leo Glazer, Rabbi William Goldberg, ^Hilda Harris, Emma Hayeem, *Morris Herbst, *Naomi Holcomb, Florence Jacobs, *Dr. Herman Jacobs, ^Rose Kaminsky, Ida Kaplan, ^Hannah Kaplan, Aaron Kars, Fannie Karten, Dorothy Klein, ^Ruth Rose Klonsky, Ann Rechtschaeffer Levy, Bernard Levy, Rose Lewis, Elias Lieberman, ^Gussie Low, ^Anna Meyer, *Harry Meyer, *Louis T. Meyer, Robert N. Strauss, Caroline Nachman, ^Morton Raskin, ^Joseph Rothenberg, ^Louis Schneier, Rabbi Jeshai Schnitzer, ^Kate Schonhaut, *Molly Seidman, ^Anne Silberling, Mollie Silverstein, ^Jean Gordon Sperling, Sarah Spiegel, *Jonas Spiegel, Ned Sussman, Matilde (Schmidt) Tuchfeld, Semyon Vaidman, ^Max Joseph Wasserman, *Flora Weinstein, ^Edward Weisman, Esther Wertzer, ^Dr. Maurice Yarkow

The Brotherhood Synagogue



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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,
CANTOR MIKE WEIS,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK^{2L}: D.D.: Founding Rabbi

HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus

SHIYA RIBOWSKY: Cantor Emeritus

TRUDI BARTOW: President

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

Hebrew School News

Although our tradition refers to the Hebrew month of Cheshvan (this year November 2nd through November 30th) as *Mar Cheshvan* (“Bitter” Cheshvan), except for the absence of the wonderful festivals of Tishri, there is nothing bitter about Hebrew School learning during the month of Cheshvan! Our November (Cheshvan) focus is the sweetness of family education and learning together in our Jewish community!

Mordecai Kaplan and Mishpacha

The Hebrew word *Mishpacha*, means family, which is the building block of Jewish life. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, whose ideas paved the way for 21st century American Jewish life, articulated the importance of family involvement in a child’s Jewish education. He said:

To educate the child without educating and involving the parents and the entire family can be compared to heating the house while leaving the window open.

Consistent with the wisdom of Rabbi Kaplan, our on-going Mishpacha programming, brings the entire family into the learning process. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and siblings are all invited to participate!

The Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School’s Mishpacha Program

Our Mishpacha program began several years ago when Brotherhood Synagogue member Annette Rosner made a generous contribution to fund this important initiative. The idea behind the program is that family learning and family participation in synagogue life builds strong families and a strong Jewish community. So, each year, we invite families



to learn alongside their children. Each grade has its own topic. The 6th grade—Kitah Vav—and their families will be learning about the Havdalah ceremony, which marks the conclusion of Shabbat and the beginning of the regular week, the 5th Grade—Kitah Hey and their families will be learning about Tzedakah According to Maimonides (11/2), and the 4th grade—Kitah Dalet and their families will be learning about the laws of Kashrut (11/9). The 3rd grade—Kitah Gimmel—will be studying about the Ten Commandments (11/16). The 2nd Grade—Kitah Bet—will be studying about Shabbat—in depth (11/22) and the 1st Grade—Kitah Aleph—will be studying about “What Makes Up the Sanctuary” (11/29).

How Does the Hebrew School Mishpacha Program Work?

We begin with a brief discussion of the topic or a story which illustrates the central issues to be explored. That discussion often leads to questions that our researchers (all of the Mishpacha participants) will explore. The children and their families are divided into three or four groups and are assigned a question to research. They are provided with study materials to aid in the research of their topics.

For example, during the Tzedakah mishpacha, a group (or groups) may be provided with Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) hierarchy of tzedakah—without knowing how Maimonides ranked the levels of tzedakah. The task of that group would be to analyze the eight levels of giving and decide for itself—based upon discussion and debate—to figure out the “correct order” (according to Maimonides) of the types of tzedakah—from best to worst—although it can be argued that even the worst level of tzedakah is better than no tzedakah at all. After lively discussion, debate and analysis each group reports its conclusions to everyone assembled. In this way parents learn with and from their children and children learn with and from their parents.

What Happens After The Mishpacha Program Concludes?

Mishpacha participants often are assigned “follow-up” activities. For example: participants in the havdalah session are given travel havdalah kits and asked to perform the havdalah ceremony over the coming weeks—and then to write about their experiences.

Participants in the Ten Commandments Mishpacha are asked to live by the Ten Commandments that are found in the Torah and also to live by their newly-created Ten Commandments for the 21st Century!

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Annette Rosner, the Mishpacha program is alive and well. The Mishpacha program is truly an intergenerational gift. Thank you Mrs. Rosner!

—Barbara Simon
Hebrew School Principal

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.

October in Central Park was awe inspiring! Once again, we are grateful to our tour guide extraordinaire, Steve Cohen, for his tremendous knowledge and great enthusiasm in showing us a different area of this incomparable New York City landmark.

On Wednesday, November 30th, at 3:30pm, the *LGO* group will have its first visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for a private tour of fantastic new exhibit: *Jerusalem 1000-1400, Every People Under Heaven*.

This exhibition is the first to unravel the

various cultural traditions and aesthetic strands that enriched and enlivened Jerusalem between 1000 and 1400, one of the most creative periods in this storied city’s history. Featuring some 200 works of art from 60 lenders worldwide, some of which have never before shared their treasures, this landmark exhibition demonstrates the key and inspiring role that the Holy City occupied in times of peace as well as war, resulting in art of great beauty and fascinating complexity.

The cost of the private tour is \$24 per person, and we have a maximum of 25 attendees only—so, please RSVP ASAP to Agnes! Please know that in replying that you plan to attend, you are making a firm commitment to pay for your spot even if you don’t join us. Dinner will follow the tour with details to come.

The *LGO* Book club will next meet on Wednesday, November 9 at 7 pm. Our book is *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore. If you wish to attend the meeting you MUST CONTACT AGNES IN ADVANCE! Priority will be given to *LGO* members. NYU Professor Margaret Birns will guide our discussion as usual. Wine and desserts will be served. 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 Iagnesmarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750.

Nursery School Thoughts

by Robin Freimann

She calls me Doey. She knows I'm grandma because she smiles slyly when someone points it out, or that my name is Robin. But it's been Doey since she started to speak and now she's almost two and a half and a member of the Yellow Room. A school girl!

I am a once a week full day babysitter/Grandma/Doey. Wednesday is my day and I look forward to it all week. So does she. As a first time grandma I am thrown back to strollers, diapers and assorted snacks and a myriad of toys and books I haven't thought about in years. Like discovering old friends.

It's a cool fall Wednesday and the Yellow Room beckons. I push Reese's stroller through the gate, greeted by the staff. Young moms, dads and nannies park strollers in the courtyard and eagerly shepherd their preschoolers across the threshold. Lots of happy chatter and sound. Down the carpeted stairs with Reese in tow, to await the opening of the doors of the Yellow Room.

Rivki, Melissa and Jonathan warmly greet the children. So far so good. We find Reese's cubby, hang her jacket and start to say our good byes. But then little arms fling around my leg

and I hear the plaintive call, "Doey." "Stay with me." I'm a grown up, I've done this before, it's old hat. I leave the room, but hearing her cries of Doey getting louder I turn back to the classroom. Melissa firmly tells me it's time to go and takes charge of Reese.

I retreat to the bench upstairs and hear cries of "Doey" waft up the stairs. My eyes fill with tears. Suddenly a person eases into the seat beside me. Merrill, the school's director, comforts me and promises that the separation is harder on me than it is on Reese. I laugh, we laugh and we both get it. Being a grandma creates this newest vulnerability, along with the joy. I love this little person so much.

Reese was named at Brotherhood in a beautiful ceremony on her first birthday. The congregation, which my daughter and son-in-law had just joined, greeted all of us and made us feel welcome. Reese participated in the toddler program last year, learned the songs and enjoyed the challah and juice. And now she is a school girl in the Yellow Room, so lucky to have smart and caring educators surrounding her, and her family as well. ~



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

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Friday, November 4

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

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

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

.....
Friday, November 18

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

♪ Cantor's Notes: The Rest Is Commentary. Go Forth and Vote ♪

by Cantor Mike Weis

When the cantor of the synagogue feels the need to write about the current election cycle, you know something must be desperately wrong. The cantor's job typically is to sing music, to teach music, to write about music, and in general, to be the community's expert on Jewish music. But there is more to being a cantor than music. The modern cantor is also an educator, a pastor, and a preacher.

And as a pastor, this morning in particular, I simply can't muster up the energy to think about anything other than last night's presidential debate. What, you may ask, does being a pastor have to do with the presidential debate?

Before answering that question, we must first understand what a pastor is. Living in a predominantly Christian country, it would be easy to fall into the trap of thinking that a pastor is simply the minister or priest in charge of a church. And indeed, that is the most common definition. But the word pastor originates from the Latin *pāstor*, meaning shepherd or feeder. When applied in a religious context, that means that a pastor is someone who cares for a congregation's spiritual needs.

So, putting on my pastor's hat, let's talk about the spiritual side of last night's debate through the lens of Jewish tradition. While no self-respecting spiritual leader would dare tell a

congregant how to vote—pastors have no more insight into political matters than anyone else, and Republicans and Democrats alike have spiritual lives equally worthy of care despite the prevailing political rhetoric—one need not look far to know that Jewish tradition has something to teach us on this subject.

Most Americans know it as the Golden Rule from the Gospel of Matthew: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." When stated in the Talmud by Hillel the Elder more than 200 years earlier, however, it reads in the negative: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole of the Torah. The rest is commentary. Go forth and study."

If Hillel is to be believed, the whole of Torah—our entire tradition—is about not doing things to others that we don't want them to do to us. That sounds pretty straightforward on the surface, and yet it stands diametrically opposed to our normal ways of thinking about Jewish tradition, i.e. that it is about doing...about keeping Kosher, observing Shabbat, praying three times a day, etc. What can we learn from Hillel's negative formulation?

As I continually struggle with my responses to things that happen in my own life, for me the answer is that, for all the difficulty I often have trying to solve the mysteries of my own heart,

how much more difficult is it to know what is in someone else's heart?

I imagine that most of us can easily point to challenging times in our lives when those close to us failed to provide the support we needed. Perhaps they tried to solve our problems when what we really needed was a friendly ear or a shoulder to cry on. Maybe they offered us advice when what we really needed was money or a hand to hold. The list is endless.

But where Hillel's formulation truly differs from Matthew's Golden Rule is in Hillel's use of the word "hateful." Where I come from, "hate" is a four-letter word, to be avoided as much as any other such words. Hillel isn't simply appealing to our desires or preferences...things that may change over time and are personal to us. This is a lesson about basic human decency, a way of treating those around us that emanates from deep within us, from an innate knowledge that there are simply things you do not say or do to another person, and especially to the person you call your "neighbor."

There is no punch line to this article in which I tell you how to vote. However, as Jews, I believe that while we must always vote our conscience, our conscience must always be informed by our sacred tradition.

And so, to paraphrase Hillel: Go forth and vote! ~

Brotherhood Synagogue



Tishri / Cheshvan 5777
November 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 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: Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture</p>	<p>2 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah 7 pm: The American Jewish Story through Cinema 7:30 pm: Unleash the Pray-er in You</p>	<p>3 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: Nitsana Darshan-Leitner: Shurat HaDin</p>	<p>4 5:30 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</p>	<p>5 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Elsie Litt Cole 5:30 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Abby Siskind</p> <p>NOACH</p>
<p>6 9 am: Tikvah</p>	<p>7 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>8 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan</p>	<p>9 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Calvary) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club 7 pm: The American Jewish Story through Cinema 7:30 pm: Unleash the Pray-er in You</p>	<p>10 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>11 4:23 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services Veterans' Day Shabbat</p>	<p>12 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Alana Weissberg</p> <p>LECH LECHA</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 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>15 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan</p>	<p>16 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Harmonia-Ah 7 pm: The American Jewish Story through Cinema 7:30 pm: Unleash the Pray-er in You</p>	<p>17 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>18 4:17 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Shabbaton dinner and speaker Adam Shwartz</p> <p>SHABBATON</p>	<p>19 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Schatz 9:30 am: Torah Talk 1 pm: Shabbat Club 2:15 am: Spiritual Yoga</p> <p>VAYERA</p>
<p>20 9 am: Tikvah 10 am - 1 pm: DOROT Thanksgiving Delivery 10 am - 3 pm: Fourteenth Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood Drive</p>	<p>21 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>22 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm: Unleash the Pray-er in You</p>	<p>24</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25 5:48 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>26 9:30 am: Services</p> <p>CHAYE SARAH</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 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>29 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</p>	<p>30 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 7:30 pm: Unleash the Pray-er in You</p>	<p>1 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>2 5:30 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services</p>	<p>3 9:30 am: Services</p> <p>TOLEDOT</p>

BOARD ONEG
December 2

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

SHABBATON 5777

Friday & Saturday, December 16-17

Please save the date and join us for another great Shabbaton program!

Dinner Speaker
on **December 16:**
Author and Filmmaker,
Sadia Shepard



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