



# Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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Kislev / Tevet 5778 December 2017

## The Year 1917

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

As the year 2017 draws to a close, I want to call your attention to an exhibit now at the American Jewish Historical Society that is on view until December 29th entitled, "1917: How One Year Changed the World." The exhibit looks back 100 years to explore how three key events of 1917—America's entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the issuing of the Balfour Declaration—brought about changes that dramatically reshaped the United States' role in the world and provoked its most stringent immigration quotas to date.

Two contrasting images demonstrate the volatility of American attitudes toward immigrants, points out reporter Julia M. Klein. The first, a World War I poster cautioning against food waste, is also a hopeful narrative of arrival and assimilation. A cluster of immigrants gaze from a ship toward the Statue of Liberty, as one man rests his hand on a woman's picnic basket. Beyond the statue lies the golden skyline of New York; above it stretches a rainbow that is colored red, white and blue. The poster's message is: "Food will win the war. You came here seeking Freedom. You must now help to preserve it."

Then, as America took a more xenophobic turn, Congress enacted the 1924 Johnson-Reed Act, instituting discriminatory immigration quotas. The nation's lingering anxieties about newcomers animate Herbert Johnson's 1928 cartoon, "Make This Flood Control Permanent." The cartoon depicts immigrants as a swarm of "alien undesirables" whose onslaught is halted by a dam-like wall of "immigration restriction." A figure identified as "Congress" seems to be extinguishing the lit fuse of a bomb labeled "modification proposals," a reference to measures facilitating family reunification.

"Three options emerged from 1917's sweeping changes—America's promise of freedom, communism's promise of abolishing human differences, and Jewish nationalism's promise of a Jewish homeland," a label in the exhibit reads. "All pledged to transform strangers into natives.

Which offered the best future?" The show leaves the question open for visitors to ponder.

The narrative makes room for individual stories, including that of William Shemin, recipient of a posthumous U.S. Medal of Honor and one of nearly 250,000 American Jews who served during World War I. President Obama awarded the medal, on display along with his uniform and other possessions, to Shemin's family in 2015—a corrective to the anti-Semitism that the exhibition says denied him the award in his lifetime.

Also spotlighted is Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, an ardent Zionist who declared the "Jewish spirit" to be "essentially modern and essentially American." The first Jew named to the high court, he was caricatured by former U.S. president and future Supreme Court Justice William Howard Taft as "utterly unscrupulous" and as "a man of infinite cunning."

The section on the Russian revolution notes that the era initially augured more freedom for Russian Jews. They were able to leave the Pale of Settlement and enter professions from which they had been barred. But that optimism ebbed as Russia was riven by civil war and large-scale pogroms. The harshness of Soviet rule eventually generated a backlash, including a "red scare," in the United States.

Arthur James Balfour, for whom the Balfour declaration is named, was Britain's Foreign Secretary. The final declaration, in the form of a letter dated November 2, 1917, was sent to one of Britain's most distinguished Jewish citizens, Baron Rothschild. Ultimately, it said, in part: "His Majesty's government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object.

The show stops short of detailing the impact of the three events on contemporary policy conflicts. Instead, it simply warns us that "we also face significant decisions"—and leaves us with the famous closing line of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby": "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." 🌊

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:30 PM

*Guest Speaker: Fr. Patrick Ryan*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:30 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4:00 PM

*Bar Mitzvah of Justin Balletta*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6:30 PM

*Remembrances of Val Gadsden<sup>z"l</sup>*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9:30 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4:00 PM

*Bat Mitzvah of Sivan Koen*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30 PM

*Dinner and speaker following services*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 9:30 AM

*Shabbat Hanukkah*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 9:30 AM

## Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed

The 35th season of Brotherhood Synagogue's homeless shelter begins on January 2 and runs through March 27 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. **We will have 8 male guests each night. Donations of new socks, underwear, scarves, hats, gloves and toiletries would be most appreciated.**

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. Thank you.

**Dedication of a seat plaque and remembrances in memory of Val Gadsden<sup>z"l</sup> will take place at Shabbat evening services on Friday, December 8, 6:30 pm in the presence of her family and friends.**

# My Two Cents: Brotherhood's Tikvah Program

by Myra Hushansky

The Tikvah Program, based in our Brotherhood Synagogue, is a Hebrew school program for children with special needs. We began in 1996, with the support of Dr. Steven Benardo, and we had just four children. We now have more than 20 students throughout six classes, providing individualized instruction for students as needed, as well as when they begin their Bar or Bat Mitzvah studies. Altogether, we have had over 60 such students. The key to our program's success, we believe, is that we teach each child according to how he or she learns most successfully.

Through the generosity of donors, the guiding vision of Phil Rothman, and the constant encouragement of our Rabbi, we offer smaller classes so that we can teach our students in ways they learn best. All special education teachers know that in order for any child to learn, you need to find the specific ways in which *they* learn. In larger classrooms, with 15- 20 students to one teacher, it is assumed that all the children will learn in the few ways the teacher presents the material. At Tikvah, we present material in a manner so that the individual student can learn.

Some of us learn more easily by reading, some more easily by listening, while some of us need to *do* it—to use our hands—to figure out a problem. Some of us learn some things quickly but need more repetition to learn other things and some of us need to be re-taught material a few times before it sinks in. At Tikvah, we look to find those paths to learning that are most successful for our students.

For example, one of our students who recently became a Bar Mitzvah, did not learn well through the traditional approach of reading and writing. He learned best through studying stories read to him followed by discussion. Here is an excerpt from his Bar Mitzvah speech: *"My own feeling for God as the Supreme God is one of a fierce loyalty. Ever since I've read my Bible, my interest in these stories was strong. I am Jewish, and these stories are my stories, my history. My relationship to God isn't one of fear, like Pharaoh."*

Another student had difficulty with understanding and executing several directions at once; you would be surprised to hear how many directions teachers give to young children at one time. However, with creative repetition of his studies, that boy is the lead singer of prayers in his neighborhood Synagogue. His father could not be more proud of him.

Our curriculum is thorough and we have fun! We have music and art, with special teachers on alternating weekends. We go on trips and we do projects and tzedakah. We have a massive Passover Seder together - often combining four classes. We sing with joy and we pray with fervor. We laugh at the stories of the people of Chelm, we question why Abraham agreed to sacrifice Isaac, we play games (with Jewish Jeopardy being a favorite), and we read many stories. One of my favorites is about a young orphan boy who was not allowed to go to Shul during Yom Kippur because he had to care for the cows and besides, he didn't know any of the prayers. During that year's ceremonies,

the Rabbi wasn't able to sing the Ne-ilah prayers and end Yom Kippur until he saw a vision of a small melody played on a simple reed pipe being let into the gates of Heaven. The more learned men were perplexed as to why the Rabbi had taken so long to end the service. It was the pure, simple melody that the orphan boy played as a way of expressing his love for G-d and for life around him that allowed G-d to open the gates of Heaven, not the learned men's rote praying while thoughts of monetary profit filled their hearts.

Our students have a powerful sense of belonging to this Synagogue—they know they are part of a greater family of the Jewish people and it strengthens them. Our students know that they are that small melody on that simple reed pipe, like the orphan boy in the story.

Thanks to Tikvah and Brotherhood, they can join our community, indeed, their community, in joy and prayer.

—Myra Hushansky

## Life Goes On

Our November events were amazing—our trip to the Federal Reserve was fascinating and informative and, as always, our book group proved to be stimulating and fun.

This December, we will join others from the Brotherhood community at one of the synagogue's holiday concert events! On **Sunday evening, December 10 at 5:00 pm**, there will be a **Holiday Concert** featuring Yiddish, opera, classical art-song, and traditional cantorial Hazzanut. Performers will include **Cantor Isaac Yager, Meredith Kelly, Cantor Herman Diamond** and the Brotherhood choir, **Harmoni-AH!** And more! A reception will follow the concert. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door. **Kindly RSVP to Brenda Pace [Bapace172@gmail.com](mailto:Bapace172@gmail.com) or call her 212.982.3131** if you would like to join us by **Monday, December 4**—we plan to have sufficient space reserved to be able to seat our group together.

*Life Goes On* is a group for those of us who have lost a spouse or life partner and want to experience the beauty, joy, and opportunity that New York life offers surrounded by supportive friends who understand and share in the loss. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the group, please come to our meetings—we would be happy to see you! If you have any questions please call 212.674.5750 or email Roberta in the Synagogue office.

## A Note from Development

### Brotherhood Annual Fund and Your Year-End Giving

As we are all aware, the year 2017 is swiftly coming to an end, and a new year—2018—will soon be upon us. Traditionally, as we celebrate family togetherness, gift-giving, lighting the Hanukkah candles—along with plenty of latkes!—December is also a time for contemplating our year-end giving to the charitable organizations that mean the most to us. It is our hope that, if you are reading this Newsletter, the Brotherhood Synagogue is one of the most important causes in line for your gift-giving in this calendar year 2017! In particular, our Annual Fund—with a lofty goal of \$650,000 – is in need of your support and it is you—our members—whom we depend upon to help us meet this goal. So much that takes place here—programs like our homeless shelter, Tikvah, our generous scholarship program, as well as the many diverse and lively programs that fill our calendar each month—depend on your support of the Annual Fund. **Please consider making your tax-deductible contribution to the Brotherhood Synagogue's Annual Fund before December 31, 2017 for your donation to be eligible for deduction on your 2017 income tax return!**

### Estate Planning Seminar – Sunday, December 3, 2017

There's still time to register! Come to an Estate Planning Seminar on Sunday, December 3, 2017 from 10 am—12 noon at the Brotherhood Synagogue. Professionals from TIAA will be making the presentation and a light brunch will be served. Learn about various estate and tax planning strategies that will benefit the charities you care about, while making smart tax choices for your family and your estate. Please call me at 212-674-5750 to register.

—Marilyn Strozak, Director of Development

## Speaker at Services: Father Patrick Ryan "Living in a Multicultural World"

Friday, December 1, 6:30pm

Father Patrick Ryan, Laurence J. McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University, returns to Brotherhood on Friday December 1 to address our congregation on how to stay connected in our multicultural society which has become more and more charged with anger and prejudice.

For about half of his life as a Jesuit priest, Fr. Ryan worked in West Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Ghana holding faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Ghana, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, Hekima College in Kenya and the Gregorian University in Rome.

The focus of his work in the McGinley chair at Fordham he writes, is "to provide a place here in the capital of the world where Jews, Christians and Muslims can engage in intellectual exchange." Father Ryan has authored numerous articles, scholarly and popular, and he has published three books. Sponsored by the Interfaith Committee.



Tuesday, December 5, 2017 • 7 pm

## RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK MEMORIAL LECTURE

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik  
Executive Vice-President of  
The New York Board of Rabbis  
will speak about  
"The Greatest Challenge We Face  
as a Jewish People"  
Reception to follow

## SHABBATON AT BROTHERHOOD

Friday-Saturday, December 15-16

**Hidden Gems in Israeli Culture:**  
A presentation and discussion on the rising trends of the  
artistic landscape throughout Israel and into the world

### David Homan, Executive Director of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation

Following services and a congregational dinner on Friday evening, December 15, join us for a talk and discussion with David Homan. For the past eight years as Executive Director, he has worked to increase awareness of AICF and its contributions to the creative arts in Israel and in the nurturing of Israel's future artistic leaders. Since 1939, AICF has played a leading role in helping develop and fund many of Israel's largest cultural institutions. Most of Israel's finest artists in every discipline have received assistance from AICF. Among those supported: Itzhak Perlman, Menashe Kadishman, Pinchas Zukerman, Gil Shaham, Yefim Bronfman, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Museum, and the Batsheva Dance Company.



### Friday, December 15

6:30-7:30 pm: Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager

7:30 pm: Congregational Dinner for members and friends

8:30-9:15 pm: Speaker -David Homan

9:15-9:45 pm: Oneg Shabbat - Stay for dessert, coffee, and after-dinner conversation.

### Saturday, December 16

9:30-Noon: Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager

9:30-10:15 am: Torah Talk with Phil Rothman, Topic: *What's in a Dream?* in the 4th floor library

Noon: Kiddush Lunch in the Community Room

1:00-2:00 pm: Spiritual Yoga with Rebecca Kryspin. All levels welcome.

4:00 - 5:00 pm: Terrific Toddler Time with Daphna Mor

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

## A Community Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Gramercy Park

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 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!



## OPERATION FINALE THE CAPTURE & TRIAL OF ADOLF EICHMANN

A private tour at the Museum of Jewish Heritage —  
A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Wednesday, December 20, 5:00 pm

The Nazi responsible for the murder of millions of innocent people may well have lived out his days in Argentina as "Ricardo Klement"—until fate, a Holocaust survivor, and Israel's foreign intelligence service intervened. One of the greatest spy thrillers of the 20th century, the exhibition details how Israel's Mossad tracked down and captured the Nazi mastermind, and features recently declassified materials that reveal the secret history behind the capture, extradition, and trial of one of the world's most notorious war criminals. Operation Finale examines the enormity of the crimes committed during the Nazi regime and calls on us to consider the meaning of justice and accountability.

Please RSVP to Roberta ([rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org))

Cost per person: \$14 payable by check to "Brotherhood Synagogue" or see our Weekly Mail or the Brotherhood website to register and pay online.

The Museum is located at Edmond J. Safra Plaza | 36 Battery Place



## Happenings in Our Kehilah

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

Dominick and Irene Balletta on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Justin Balletta**. Justin, a student at Pleasantville High, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, **Ethan**.

**Viktor Koen** and **Ninette Cohen** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Sivan Koen**. Sivan, a student at Clinton, will celebrate her simcha with her younger brother, **Elio**.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Stephanie** and **Dan Gluck** on the birth of their son, **Theodore Herman Gluck**; and to older brothers, **James** and **Jonas**.

**Amanda** and **Randy Merkelson** on the birth of their son, **Wes Matan Merkelson**; and to older sister, **Gwen**; and to grandparents, **Nancy** and **Wayne Merkelson**.

**Karen Sumberg** and **Arvind Gopal** on the birth of their son, **Elias Amir Gopal**; and to older brother, **Sachin**.

### Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

**Janet** and **Allan Mantel** on the marriage of their son, **Bernard Mantel** to **Melissa Rossman**.

### Condolences to:

**Arthur Plutzer** on the passing of his wife, and our member, **Ann Plutzer**.

**Lynn Abraham** on the passing of her mother, **Fay Newman Rubinstein**.

**Larry Van Blerkom** on the passing of his sister, **Rhonda Van Blerkom**.

### Welcome New Members:

**Robert Kresberg** and **Dana Seshens** live in Chelsea. Robert is the head tennis pro at Century Country Club and Dana is a partner with Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

Welcome to **Dan Gluck** and **Stephanie Stein** of Battery Park City. Dan is the CEO at the Museum of Sex.

Welcome to **Jacob** and **Ritsuko Chriqui** of Gramercy Park. Jacob is a diplomat currently serving at the U.S. Mission to the UN, and Ritsuko is a full-time mother. They have two children, **Levi**, who attends P.S. 40 and Brotherhood's Hebrew School, and **Max**, who attends Preschool of the Arts.

Welcome to **David** and **Susannah Bailin** who reside in Woodbridge, CT. David is the Global Head of Investments at Citi Private Bank and Susannah is the founder and CEO of AdviceCoach. They have three daughters—**Alexandra**, **Juliet** and **Isabel**—who live and work in New York.

**Michele Yokell**, a teacher at P.S.116, learned about Brotherhood Synagogue from its history as stop on the Underground Railroad. After many visits with her classes and enjoying many of her students in our Hebrew School musicals, she decided to join and become a part of this community.

**Ariel** and **Netalie Shlezinger** of Peter Cooper Village have one daughter, **Ayden**, who attends Brotherhood Nursery school. Ariel is the owner of Vantage Point Security Solutions and Netalie is a consultant in the apparel industry. 🌸

## Social Action

December 1-15

**Men's Coat Drive for New York Cares**



Ensure that fewer New Yorkers go without a coat this winter. The Social Action Committee is partnering with New York Cares to participate in the **29th Annual New York Cares Coat Drive**.

Please donate your **new and gently used men's coats**, so New Yorkers can stay warm during the coming months. We ask that you **do NOT donate soiled or damaged coats** because they cannot be distributed.

We are collecting coats for two weeks only: December 1–15.

### The Chesed\* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

The Jewish Board recently started three new monthly support groups: for family members who are caregivers; for those who have lost a sibling or cousin to addiction/substance abuse; and for Jews diagnosed with bipolar disorder. If you are interested in these free support groups, contact the Jewish Board at 212-582-9100.

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

## Shabbat Club

The Shabbat Club will be on vacation for the month of December. See you in January!

If you have any suggestions for topics or discussion leaders, please contact Deborah Newman [newmanddale@aol.com](mailto:newmanddale@aol.com) or the office.

## Hadassah Meeting

**Sunday, December 3, 10:00 am**

Join us for our December meeting at Brotherhood when our speaker will be Rabbi Helaine Ettinger, daughter of our President, Ella Ettinger. Rabbi Ettinger's topic is: "Chanukah- Not What You Think."

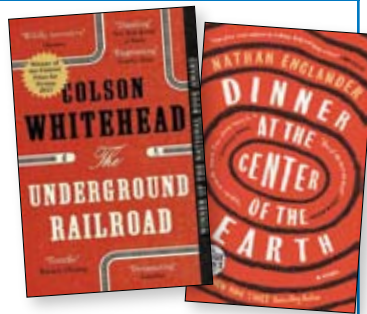
## Brotherhood Book Club

**Thursday, December 21, 7:00 pm**

Wendy Linderman will lead a discussion of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*.

On **Thursday, January 18**, Susan Franklin will lead a discussion of *Dinner at the Center of the Earth* by Nathan Englander.

Please contact Margie Katz [margie.katz@icloud.com](mailto:margie.katz@icloud.com) if you would like further information about the Brotherhood Book Club. All are welcome!



## BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE

and



**Invite you to  
An Estate Planning Seminar  
December 3, 2017  
10 am – 12 noon**

**Come and learn  
about estate and tax planning strategies  
that will benefit you,  
the people you care about,  
and the charities  
that mean the most to you.  
A light brunch will be served.**

**Please RSVP to  
Marilyn Strozak at:  
[mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)  
or 212-674-5750**

## President's Post

by Trudi Rae Bartow

December is here and in the past, that has meant adding a ton of items to my to do list. I added events I had to attend, presents to buy, meetings to manage, foods to avoid, books to read, groceries to shop for, movies to see, and venues to visit. My list is so long that looking at it makes my head spin and instead of progressing to start checking off items, I sit paralyzed and stressed with the mountain before me. Recently, I was reading a very interesting article on Forbes.com about the five best to do list tips by Vanessa Loder. It stressed the power of a purposeful to do list. I realized that I have not been creating a to do list but instead was spitting out a disorganized data dump guaranteed to waste energy and drain my spirits. The article stressed quality over quantity and making sure you separate between a to do list of accomplishable tasks and a wish list of things to read, visit, or see. If you are stressing over your to do list the below are some fantastic techniques that can help get you back on track and release all the anxiety.



1. Keep it simple. Your To Do list should have NO MORE THAN THREE THINGS on it for a given day. Remember to differentiate your To Do list from a bucket list, or wish list. They are two different things with two goals.
2. Write your To Do list the night before. This helps you start your day with clarity. You know exactly which item you need to complete by 10am the next morning. I now write my To Do list every evening before I leave work so I know the first thing to tackle after my first coffee.
3. Tackle the first item on your list first thing in the morning when you are fresh. That means before you start going through your messages, emails and other requests. Set boundaries on your time so you can accomplish your goals.
4. Sometimes small is big. Be strategic about your energy. Occasionally, a small and menial task that isn't highly strategic will start to take up an incredible amount of mind space.
5. Leave space for yourself. Make sure YOU are incorporated in your To Do list appropriately. Yoga on Thursday, afternoon walk at 2, ice cream Thursday night—give yourself an indulgence. If you can't do that while maintaining the three item rule, give yourself a treat each time you cross off all your items in a day. 🌊



## YAHREZITS

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

### December 2 - 8

Dorothy Adelsberg, Matthew Arnoff, Ann Bledstein, David Bober, ^Freya Bodkins, Murray Borden, Betty Casper, Ann Chain, Sidney Cohen, Theresa Consumano, ^Edith N. Conway, ^Isidore Dursh, RebeccaEllenzweig, Helen Firstenberg, ^OreneMoskowitz, ^Benjamin Friedman, Louis Gartenbaum, Anny H. Gelber, Bila Raisel Goldklang, Dorothy Goldstein, ^Lenore Goldstein, \*Leon Graham, Harry Aaron Gross, ^Fritz Hahn, ^Anne Hay, Abraham Kasman, Leonard Kaufman, \*Benjamin Klein, Sylvia Kriegel, Hanna Lederer, Florence Levine, \*Gussie Levine, ^Gloria Love, ^Sylvia Mayo, Pearl Miller, ^Sidney Palew, ^Sidney Paley, ^Joseph Pessar, Charles Poole, \*Anna Poswolsky, Mark Raffel, Louis Richkin, Richard Ripps, ^Morris Rosenberg, ^Arthur Rosenblum, ^Joseph Rothenberg, Sol Russon, Emanuel Saxe, \*Anna Schlager, ^William Seinfeld, ^Marc Sloane, \*Matthew Solomon, Irving Statsinger, Morris Sussman, ^Paul Tuchfeld, Herbert Vogel, ^Alexandra Weiler

### December 9 - 15

RonaldAbitbol, ^\*Rose Antell, Gabriel Ascher, Hermine Bauer, -\*Rachel Leah Berglas, Harry Bernstein, ^Philip Blinder, ^Evelyn Borden, \*Irving A. Browner, ^Irwin Cassell, ^Molly D. Cummings, Martin Davis, Rita Domow, Elsa Friedman, Isaiah Gellman, ^Flora Goldin, Gilda L. Goldstein, \*Abraham Goldstein, \*Willard Gourse, Lou Hacker, Rosalind Halper, ^\*Kenneth Halpern, Benjamin Hayeem, Lillian Hurowitz, Billy Jacobson, Bernard Jurysta, Michael Kaplan, ^Alice Kenner, Evelyn Kreloff, ^Betty Landino, \*Dr. Isidore J. Landsman, Eugenia Lauterpacht, ^Donald Learner, \*Frances Lebon, ^Sophie Leifschutz, ^\*Sadie Maisel, Ruth Mandell, Eric Morse, ^Sheldon Moskowitz, ^Edward Perlstein, Renee Goode Rigby, ^Linda Ripinsky, \*David Schlanger, Celia Schneier, David Schumann, Bill Seregi, \*Allan Shafer, Milton Shiller, Neil Siderow, David Silver Jr., ^James Slater, Sol Sloan, Louis Slotnick, Edward Stempel, ^Louis Stutzel, Miriam Sussman, ^Joseph Teperman^, Ben-Zion Toback, \*Hannah Toby, \*Rose Fogelhood Unterweiser, \*Rose Cooperman Wallach, Murray Weinstein, ^Lillian Weiss, ^Richard Zeitlin

### December 16 - 22

Phyllis Adelsberg, ^Daniel Altman, ^Frieda Rinder Antler, Max Balaber, Rita Balsam, Dorothy Bergman, Martin Berkowitz, \*Joseph Berlowitz, ^Esther Brickman, \*Frances Greengras Carton, ^Helen Seinfeld Chodos, Abner Cohen, \*Ethel Edelstein, ^Lazar Ente, ^Ethel Epstein, Rose Epstein, \*Leo Farland, ^Rae Feld, Marion Flash, ^Alan J. Freedman, Alden Getz, ^I. Edward Ginsburg, Docia Glusband, ^Samuel Goldstein, ^\*Blanche Greenhouse, William Greenleaf, Harry Haberman, Hayeem Benjamin Hayeem, David Hochbaum, Isadore Kasman, Gertrude Kaufman, Barry Kaufman, Louis Kletzkin, Miriam Kramer, ^Herman E. Kurland, ^\*Marvin Levy, Patricia Manly, ^Anna Meisler, Marjorie Nadler, Leonard Pressman, \*Sylvia Ringler, \*Rev. Saul Roselle, Norman Rottenbach, Ruth Saxe, \*Sarah Schlanger, Daniel Schwartz, Rebecca Segal, Lena Shargel, Dr. Stephen Silverman, Everett Singer, \*Fred Sirkin, ^Leila Sloane, Eliezer Slotnick, \*Mildred

Steckler, Martha Stokes, ^Richard Turkheimer, Michael Weintraub, Arthur Ziff

### December 23 - 29

Tess Abramowitz, Ruth Ackerman, Nathan Borkow, ^Esther Brickman, \*Yetta Chizner, ^Leon Dankberg, ^Isidor Diamond, ^Morris Esrig, Evelyn Fisher, ^\*Chester B. Franklin, Charles Friedenberg, \*Jack Friedman, Mimi Gettinger, ^Paula Glass, Sarah Glickstein, \*Morris Goldstein, ^\*Blanche Greenhouse, \*Lewis Gross, ^Anne Soloway Hayt, Robert Hikida, Negin Jay, Joseph Kalish, ^Clara Kaufman, Abraham Kitt, ^Israel Klonsky, Edna Larkin, Anne Osofsky, \*Lena Presser, ^Ismar Cohn Reisner, Eric Renstrom, Ruth Rooney, Phillip Rosen, Estelle Rosenthal, Dianne Rubinfeld, ^Murray J. Schneider, ^Doris Gordon Selkowitz, Laura Sonneberg, ^Esther Stutzel, Doris Watty, Ruth Weiss, Moische Wigdor, Marguerite Wimer, Anna Wisgordinski, Jack Wishnie

### December 30 - January 5

^\*Meyer Antell, Edgar Baurer, Selma Berman, ^Harry Blum, Yosef Chaim Borochof, Lennie Brass, Beatrice Chernick, Henry Daniel, ^Jack Davis, \*Benjamin Dymn, \*Florence Eichner, Isaac Epstein, Irving Flax, ^Louis Philip Foster, \*Anna Frankel, \*Libby Fried, Nacha Garfin, Rachel Gersbein, Solomon Glassman, Edward Greenberg, \*Abraham Gross, \*Clara Gross, ^Bernice Hoffeld, David Kitover, ^Samuel Kleinhaut, ^Isreal Klonsky, Victor Kramer, ^Ilsa Karger Levy, Nachama Rachel Lewinstein, \*Claude Markel, Mace Mason, Dora Mayer, \*Anna Meyers, \*Joseph Michael, Leonard Miltenberg, \*Estelle Moskowitz, ^Resi Hamburger Nachman, ^Fay Nelson, Joseph Nobel, ^Barbara Okanes, ^Herbert D. Roistacher, ^Esther Rosenberg, Samuel I. Rosenfeld, Philip Rutkin, \*Bertha Scheiner, Nathan Scher, Fred Schultz, Edward Schwartz, \*Joseph M. Sepersky, \*Betty Siskind, \*Rose K. Solomon, ^Sylvia Wasserstrom Solomon, ^Jack Stark, ^Max Steinberg, Tillie Tuft, Arlyne Warmbrand, ^Hannah Weiner, \*Abraham Weiss, ^Edward Weiss, Annie Weprin, Mildred Wishnie

## The Brotherhood Synagogue



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

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,  
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK<sup>21</sup> D.D.: Founding Rabbi  
HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus  
TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President  
PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

## Hebrew School News

This month of December/Kislev-Tevet—is filled with many exciting Hebrew School and synagogue activities! Our **Chanukah Store** opens on Monday December 4! Be sure to stock up on Chanukah Candles, Dreidels, and Chanukah gifts for your family and friends!

On the evenings of Monday (12/4), Tuesday (12/5) and Wednesday (12/6)—from 6:10-8:00 pm, our Hebrew School **Parent/Teacher Conferences** will take place.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on Tuesday evening December 12—the 25th Day of Kislev. On Wednesday December 13 @ 5:30 pm—as we light our 2nd Chanukah Candle—our Hebrew School will be joining with the entire Brotherhood community in the **Lighting of the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah) in Gramercy Park**. The community-wide candle-lighting will be followed by the singing of Chanukah songs and a return to our Community Room to continue our Chanukah Celebration!

On Sunday morning December 17 we will be holding the **Brotherhood Synagogue Family Chanukah Party and Concert** from 11:30-1:00 pm. To our great delight, the Korman-Rivera Family and Friends Band will—once again—be performing! In addition to our Chanukah Concert there will be the World Series of Dreidel, arts and crafts booths, and plenty of Chanukah treats—*suffganiot* (jelly filled donuts) and *livivot* (latkes/potato pancakes). Please join us for this wonderful celebration!!

As our thoughts turn to the miracle of Chanukah, we give thought to the Maccabees and their valiant struggle to reclaim Jerusalem and rededicate the Holy Temple. It is the second Chanukah blessing that brings to mind the miracle of Chanukah and request/need for G-d to make miracles in our days as well. The second bracha for Lighting the Chanukah lights is as follows: *Praised are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe who made miracles for our ancestors in ancient days, and in our time.*

May we all enjoy a miraculous Chanukah!

*Chag Sameach!*

—Barbara Simon, Hebrew School Principal



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

**Friday, December 1**

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3 with Saskia Lane & Daphna Mor\*

*\*Special Pasta Shabbat!!*

Please arrive PROMPTLY for service at 5:30 pm followed by a quick pasta dinner ending by 7 pm.

**Friday, December 8**

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

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

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

**Saturday, December 16 • Terrific Toddler Time**  
(a part of Shabbaton Programming)

4:00 pm - Children up to age 3 with Saskia Lane

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Calling all Brotherhood kids, families and LEGO-loving adults!

## LEGO® – JERUSALEM !!

Sunday, January 21, 10 am SHARP !! – 12 noon

Join us as we build the Old City of Jerusalem LEGO by LEGO, using 70,000 lego blocks (!!) at this family fun day at Brotherhood with the Building Blocks Workshop!



Cost: \$15/family \$10/individual • Bagels, juice will be served.

Rsvp to [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)

More details are available on the website calendar, in your weekly mail, and coming email blasts!

## CHANUKAH STORE AT BROTHERHOOD!!!

December 4 through December 14!!

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!**



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 17**  
**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 Judy Batalion

I was terrifically excited to return to the Brotherhood Nursery after a year hiatus between my two daughters. I'd missed so much! The morning community of friendly faces discussing everything from flu shots to excruciating insomnia. The warm teachers eager to share insights and heed kvetches (about the excruciating insomnia). The Shabbat jingles. The cornucopia of glitter-based Judaica. The hot-desking (—I'm the freelancer banging on her laptop in the community room). And, of course, the challah program.

A second timer, I'd been through the wringer and could enjoy nursery, right? I'd already witnessed a child flourish through the colored rooms to become a well-adjusted elementary schooler who so loved education, we used "withholding school" as a threat of punishment. Back when number 1 transitioned to "prescholar," I too changed, becoming a "school mom," figuring out how to separate, how low to hover. Then, it was emotional; now, the stresses were practical—i.e. managing one kid uptown, one downtown, different spring breaks. No small

feat, but still, no major transformations. I could be the smiling, relaxed backdrop against which my little girl could grow and thrive.

I, however, possess special talent for finding things to worry about. My second daughter was so different, as was her experience. My younger one knew Brotherhood well—she'd hung out at pick-up, was familiar with her peers, cheered "yellow room" months before starting, and had a model for her summer book. Would her expectations complicate her enjoyment and influence her growth? Would the school be a good fit? Number 2 was physical, visceral, passionate, about people and blankies. On her first day, she insisted on bringing a plastic ketchup bottle instead of a sippy cup, drinking from it as she bounded down the stairs, refusing to hold the railing. What if she wasn't a good student? Would I give her the space to not-be her sister?

Their difference was center-stage as we prepared for the nursery Shabbat dinner. Both insisted on 15 outfit changes—for one, due to socks' hems, for the other, a penchant for swimwear.

One begged for my help, the other freaked if I glanced her way. Fights over the stroller, snacks, My Little Pony. Would they ever get along?

But as soon as we arrived at Brotherhood, a transformation. Both girls threw off their coats and ran to the sanctuary's front row seats. They held each other for Hinay Matovoo, and whispered in speculation about whether Katie would lead Shabbat Pony. In the community room, they clutched hands as they scoured for a table with two adjacent seats.

I watched them, one eating meatballs, the other, string beans. Sure, they were different, but also similar, their lives intertwined. Then, while still side-by-side, they each began talking to their own friends. At Brotherhood, we offer our friendship and energy to the wider community; simultaneously, the communal context changes our family dynamic, influencing our private shalom bayit.

That's when one sister darted outside to bury her feet in the gravel. I knew, we'd each do Brotherhood our own way. 🌊

## ♪ Cantor's Notes ♪ by Cantor Isaac Yager

Meredeth and I are very excited for our upcoming concert on Sunday December 10, at 5:00 pm. The concert will feature several different performers including Cantor Emeritus Herman Diamond and our congregational choir, Harmoni-AH! Additionally, a wide variety of musical styles will be presented including opera, Yiddish songs, and traditional cantorial chazzanut. Chazzanut can be defined as liturgical prayers that are chanted in Hebrew and that adhere to traditional Jewish melodies and musical modes. Often, chazzanut simultaneously channels the most grandiose and musically intricate facets of the cantor's voice. Historically, chazzanut has always been a part of the music of the synagogue. Today, however, we hear chazzanut more in concert settings as its performative nature is not conducive to congregational singing and participation. That's not to say that there are not opportunities for this type of prolific music in a contemporary shul. Indeed there are. Yet, in today's modern musical climate, it is the objective of the cantor to strike a balance between the grandiose and accessible melodies. What I find most interesting about chazzanut is the process by which it needs to be learned. Yes, sheet music exists for elaborate cantorial musical settings, but in my experience, the only way one can truly learn and disseminate chazzanut is aurally. I learned how to sing chazzanut not simply by reading music off of the page, but by working closely one on one with my many cantorial coaches over the years. When I lived in Jerusalem, I remember the hours I spent in Hazzan Naftali Herstik's apartment trying (sometimes successfully) to emulate his vocal sound and musical precision. This process could never have been replicated on my own. I needed a master like Hazzan Herstik to teach me. Interestingly, before I met Hazzan Herstik, people had only referred to him as "Naftali" when speaking of him. When I met him, I asked how he would like to be addressed. "Naftali," he said, "and I'll tell you why: because all the greats go by their first name." "Call me Isaac," I replied. I think he knew I was kidding. 🌊

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE

### BROTHERHOOD FILM SERIES

ERIC GOLDMAN'S 3-PART SERIES:

#### A LENS ON ISRAEL: A SOCIETY THROUGH ITS CINEMA

Israeli movies provide insight into Israel's birth, growth and development as a country. In this "mini-course," Dr. Eric Goldman will examine the changing nature of Israeli society as reflected through its cinema. We will view and discuss multiple clips in January and March and screen the full length film, *Late Summer Blues* (1987) in February.

Thursday, January 25:

#### BUILDING A STATE

Sunday, February 11:

#### THE MIDDLE YEARS

Thursday, March 8:

#### COMING OF AGE

Cost: \$10 per session payable at the door

*Eric Goldman is adjunct professor of cinema at Yeshiva University and was a fellow at Brandeis University's Schusterman Institute for Israel Studies. He has been a host, with Robert Osborne, on Turner Classic Movies, for the series "The Projected Image: The Jewish Experience on Film."*



# Brotherhood Synagogue



Kislev / Tevet 5778  
December 2017

☆ Saturday Mornings

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:30 am: Tikvah	27 9 am: Torah Study 1 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	28 10 am: English in Action 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Learning to Read Midrash	29 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: The Art of Shaliach Tzibur on Erev Shabbat	30 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 Section 2 6 pm: BBYO	1 4:11 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat Services (up to age 3) & PASTA Shabbat Dinner 6:30 pm: Services Special Speaker: Father Patrick Ryan <i>Living in a Multicultural World</i>	2☆ 9:30 am: Services 4 pm: Bar Mitzvah of Justin Balletta  <b>VAYISHLACH</b>
3 9:30 am: Tikvah 10 am: Family Community Service at Hebrew Home 10 am: Estate Planning Seminar	4 9 am: Torah Study 1 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events 	5 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7 pm: Rabbi Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture	6 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: The Art of Shaliach Tzibur on Erev Shabbat	7 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 Section 2	8 4:10 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat ages 3-6 6:30 pm: Family Shabbat Grades 2-7 6:30 pm: Services	9☆ 9:30 am: Services 1 pm: Shabbat Club 4 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Sivan Koen  <b>VAYESHEV</b>
<b>CHANUKAH STORE</b>						
10 9:30 am: Tikvah 5 pm: Special Concert with Cantor Isaac Yager & Friends	11 9 am: Torah Study 1 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Learn to Read Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	12 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Learning to Read Midrash	13 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:30 pm: Community Menorah Lighting in Gramercy Park 6:30 pm: The Art of Shaliach Tzibur on Erev Shabbat	14 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 Section 2 	15 4:11 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services Shabbaton Speaker: David Homan <i>Hidden Gems in Israeli Culture</i>	16☆ 9:30 am: Services 7:30 pm: Eyal Vilner's Big Band and Lotsa Vodka & Latkes
<b>CHANUKAH STORE</b>						
		<b>EREV CHANUKAH</b>	<b>CHANUKAH</b>	<b>CHANUKAH</b>	<b>CHANUKAH</b>	<b>MIKETZ CHANUKAH</b>
17 11:30 am: Chanukah Concert & Party  <b>CHANUKAH</b>	18  <b>ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH</b>	19 10 am: English in Action 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!  <b>CHANUKAH</b>	20 5 pm: Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichman Exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Heritage  <b>CHANUKAH</b>	21 Last Day of Nursery School Classes before Winter Break 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner Section 2	22 4:14 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	23☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>VAYIGASH</b>
24  <b>CHANUKAH</b>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 5:40 pm: Minyan	27	28 Noon: Lunch and Learn	29 4:19 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	30☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>VAYECHI</b>
31						



Our holiday concert will feature a wide variety of musical styles including Yiddish, opera, classical art-song, and traditional cantorial Hazanot. The Brotherhood Synagogue congregational choir, "Harmoni-AH!," will also perform both contemporary and traditional Hanukkah themed music. Performers will include **Cantor Isaac Yager, Meredith Kelly, Cantor Herman Diamond, Sara Rothman** and more! This is surely a concert not to be missed!

Please join us on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm.

Reception to follow. Suggested donation: \$10

**BIG BAND**  
**EYAL VILNER'S 16-PIECE SWING BAND!**  
**BIG LATKES**  
**LOTS'A VODKAS**  
**ADMISSION: \$10**  
**DECEMBER 16**  
**7:30 PM**

