Organ Donation
by Rabbi Daniel Alder

Organ donation, the process of transplanting healthy human organs into sick patients, can be a lifesaving procedure. Therefore, many Jewish authorities from across the denominational spectrum believe it not only to be permitted but also a religious duty. Jewish tradition considers saving human life – pikuach nefesh in Hebrew – to be among the highest ethical obligations. Saving one life, the Mishna (Sanhedrin 4:5) teaches, is equivalent to saving an entire world.

Concerns about organ donation after death have traditionally rested on laws concerning the handling of dead bodies and the mistaken view that bodies have to be buried intact if they are to be resurrected after the Messiah comes. Several traditional requirements – to bury the dead quickly, and avoid any defilement of or benefit from the dead body – would seem to preclude taking organs from cadavers. However, the lifesaving potential of organ donation is regarded as overriding those strictures.

The key issue is the definition of death. Though by no means unanimous, many rabbis hold that death in Jewish law occurs with the irreversible cessation of brain stem function. In brain death, a patient is unable to breathe independently without a mechanical ventilator, but his or her heart may still be beating, which creates a window for the harvest of vital organs like the heart and lungs. Authorities from all three major denominations – Orthodox, Conservative and Reform – maintain that in such cases organs may be taken for the purpose of saving another life.

The Conservative movement has endorsed an even more expansive position. A couple of decades ago, the movement’s religious authorities ruled that in situations where a person is unconscious, dependent on a ventilator and has no hope of recovery – even if he or she may show some limited brain activity – the person can, under certain conditions, be removed from life support and their organs taken for transplant after the heart stops beating. A more restrictive opinion held by some Orthodox rabbis maintains that death occurs only with the cessation of heartbeat, a criterion that makes vital organ donation much more medically difficult.

With live donors, the difficult question of determining death is moot, but other legal issues arise. Judaism prohibits placing oneself in unnecessary danger, and live organ donation is never entirely risk free. Authorities from across the Jewish denominations agree that if a live transplant would place the donor in mortal danger, it should not be undertaken. With kidney donation, the most common organ transplant procedure, the dangers are sufficiently low and the lifesaving potential so great that risk is not generally seen as an obstacle.

There are currently over 113,000 people on the national transplant waiting list. While 36,528 transplants were performed in 2018, some 20 people die each day waiting for a transplant. And though 95 percent of American adults support organ donation, 58 percent are actually signed up as donors. Here in New York State only about 30 percent of adults have enrolled in the NY State Donate Life Registry. Every 10 minutes another person is added to the waiting list, yet only 3 in a thousand people die in a way that allows for organ donation. However, one organ donor can save up to eight lives.
**By the Book**

This year we are featuring members answering “By the Book” questions in order to get to know one another better and to encourage further reading. Please let us know if you’d be willing to answer these questions (you need not be an author/writer). Email to: rabbibrotherhoodsynagogue.org.

Member, Lee Goldberg, is the sixth to answer in our series.....

**What books are on your nightstand?**
My list of books to read next are *The Power* by Naomi Alderman, *Killing Commendatore* by Haruki Murakami, *The Largesse of the Sea Maiden* by Denis Johnson, *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai, and *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts.

What was the last truly great book you read? Probably *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles about a count in 1920s Russia who’s sentenced to house arrest at a grand hotel across from the Kremlin. While some of the most tumultuous decades of Russia accelerate outside of his doors, he remains removed from the action. It completely transports you to another place and time.

What’s your favorite Jewish book of all time? I like Michael Chabon a lot. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, which won him a Pulitzer, is his best. It’s about a young Jewish man who’s adept at the art of Houdini-esque escape and smugness himself out of Nazi-invaded Prague to move to New York City and create a comic book about his own fears and dreams. It’s an original kind of World War II novel where comic books become an escape from the impending terror.

What’s your favorite thing to read? And what do you avoid reading?
I love a good thriller with a plot. Because I write thrillers mostly, I can see twists and turns coming a mile away so if an author is able to really surprise me, I’m hooked. I don’t avoid any genres. I dislike overrated books. Some novels get anointed and they just don’t deserve the attention. Like this book *The Wife Between Us*, which was cheesy, unbelievable, and the twists were so obvious. Skip that one.

What book would we be surprised to find on your shelf?
I love great sci-fi as well. I don’t read it too often but when it’s done right and the author really takes the time to build a new world, it’s very satisfying. I’ve never read *Dune*, but it’s been waiting on my shelf for a long time.

Are you a rereader? What kinds of books do you find yourself returning to time and time again?
I reread only my favorite books and usually it’s the classics. *Catcher in the Rye* I read when I was twelve and go back every few years. As you get older, Holden becomes whinier, but it’s still great. *Confederacy of Dunes*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Wuthering Heights*, *A Moveable Feast*, *East of Eden*, *Brave New World*, *The Sheltering Sky*, *The Good Soldier* and 1984 I’ve reread many times.

What’s the last book that made you laugh?
My Year of Rest and Relaxation by Ottessa Moshfegh. It’s about a twenty-something woman who just wants to sleep for a year. Some readers might only take away the depressing parts of it, but the nameless narrator is hilarious in her awfulness. It reminded me of Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*. People assume it’s sad because of the author’s background, but actually it’s satirical.

What’s the last book that made you cry?
The Road by Cormac McCarthy, a post-apocalyptic novel about a father and son walking through a burned America. Besides it being sparse but beautifully written, it captures the need to preserve humanity while watching it be stripped away.

What’s your favorite Jewish book of all time?
I read many times. Many thanks, Sheila, for arranging the event!

**Shabbat Club**
Saturday, April 13, 1:00 pm

Join old and new friends at this meeting, led by our Israeli Shaliach (Emissary) Ophir Tal, who will continue his monthly series on Israel. This will be Part Three on the political system of Israel, after the April 9 elections, so we will discuss “After Israeli Elections, What Next?” All are welcome. Come to the second floor reception room. There will be light refreshments.

What’s the last book that made you furious?
*The Girl on the Train* got so much hype but was pretty average with an annoying narrator and all of its twists were easy to spot. Great cover though. Also, I’m over reading books about unreliable narrators because of their drinking. It gets boring.

What kind of reader were you as a child?
I loved the Choose Your Own Adventure books because I was a writer as a child and I liked the power of having control of the story. I also read a lot of *Encyclopedia Brown* and *Henry and Ribsy* and the *Ramon Quimby* books by Beverly Cleary. I also loved the *Bunnicula* books by James Howe and Deborah Howe.

Who is your favorite fictional hero or heroine? Your favorite antihero or villain?
*Wuthering Heights* is one of my favorite books and I like that Heathcliff is both the hero and the villain. I love a good villain. In my novel *The Mentor*, the main character is a villain. You hate him for what he does but hopefully understand him a little by the end. The villain is always more

**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.

Our March tour of the magnificent main branch of the NY Public Library was very interesting and enjoyable. Lunch together at the beautiful Bryant Park Grill was a special added bonus! Thank you so much Brenda Pace for doing all the work!

On Wednesday, April 17th at 3 pm, we will tour New York City’s beautiful Lincoln Center, including The Metropolitan Opera house, The David Geffen Philharmonic Hall, The Lincoln Center Theatre, and The David Koch Ballet Theatre. The tour will take approximately 75 minutes and there is a minimal amount of walking required. The cost of our private tour is $18 per person. We will meet promptly at 2:45 pm at the David Rubinstein Atrium at 61 West 62nd Street. An early dinner will follow afterward, with details to follow to the attendees. Your RSVP to Sheila Zaslaver (sheilazaslaver@gmail.com) is required ASAP!

Many thanks, Sheila, for arranging the event!

On Tuesday, May 2nd we are all going to Brooklyn to see an amazing exhibit of Frieda Kahlo’s work at the *Brooklyn Museum of Art*. As usual, it will be a private guided tour of the exhibit starting at 4pm. Weather permitting, we may meet an hour earlier and spend a little time in the adjoining Prospect Park (perhaps in the Botanical Garden?). Dinner is planned at the museum’s wonderful Norm restaurant following the tour at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP to Agnes as soon as possible to reserve your place.

A very animated, interesting discussion of *Washington Black* took place at our March book club. For our upcoming meeting on Monday, April 15th, 7 pm, we are reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. A review of Owens’ first book stated that “Owens memorably depicts the small-town drama and courtroom theatrics, but perhaps best of all is her vivid portrayal of the singular North Carolina setting.” Save the date, the May book club meeting has been set for *Monday, May 20th*.

Please RSVP in advance of every book club meeting to Ellen Kenigsberg (ellensken14@gmail.com) and Ellen will send out reminders about it. Please know that if you have responded that you’re coming but cancel within 3 days of the date or don’t show up, you will still be responsible for the payment of $20. This is to ensure that we are able to pay and keep our wonderful moderator, NYU Professor Margaret Birns. Our meetings take place at 7pm in the library room of Brotherhood Synagogue, with wine and desserts served. Thank you, Ellen, for all your work in managing the group.

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 Agnes.marton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.
Service and Study for the First Born

This service will be held on Friday morning, April 19th at 7:30 am. Those who choose not to observe the fast of the First Born should attend the service and then participate in the completion of a tractate of study. In celebration of that accomplishment, a light breakfast will follow.

Passover Services

First Days
Friday, April 19, 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 20, 9:30 am
Sunday, April 21, 9:30 am

Concluding Days
Thursday, April 25, 6:30 pm
Friday, April 26, 9:30 am and 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am

Yizkor will be recited at services on Saturday, April 27 at around 11:30 am. Passover is one of the four times a year when we recite Yizkor prayers in memory of our loved ones. It is traditional to give gifts of charity in their names. May every gift be blessed and the givers thereof.

Women's Health Packing Event for Syria

Sunday, April 7, 9:30 - 11:30 am OR 12:00 - 2:00 pm
Brotherhood Synagogue is the host site for The Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees multifaith packing event on Sunday, April 7. This event helps launch their Women’s Health Program, through which they will be sending targeted health supplies to Syrian women in need. We are seeking 15-20 volunteers from Brotherhood per 2 hour shift to help pack the supplies into backpacks, which will then be sent abroad.

Photographs and/or video will be taken during this event. For any questions, please contact allyson.zacharoff@multifaithalliance.org. Please register on the sign up form in the weekly mail or Brotherhood website. Children are welcome! Volunteers will be accepted up until capacity has been reached.

Sponsored by The Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

The Israel Committee Presents:

GRASSHOPPERS: Not just for breakfast anymore!
Sunday, April 7, 4:00 pm
A Talk with Hedy Ben Eliyahu about current trends in Israeli Food Tech. Insects are a great source of nutrition, it costs far less to grow them, and causes much less pollution. And... they are KOSHER!!
For thousands of years humans around the world have been eating one protein rich insect more than any other — grasshoppers. With the right biotech and good P.R, grasshoppers may conquer the plates of the western world...come and see how....

KNOWLEDGE FOR COLLEGE

Sunday, April 14
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The second event in our timely series for HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS will include:

• A panel of college students from Columbia and NYU, who will share their experiences confronting anti-semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on campus
• Featured guest speaker Ofir Dayan, Columbia University sophomore, IDF veteran and President of Students Supporting Israel at Columbia
• Return moderator, David Kestin, Senior at Beacon High School and BBYO Reginal VP

Pizza & soft drinks served after discussion. RSVP on the Brotherhood Synagogue website: www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Harriet Tubman, Union Spy
Tuesday, April 23, 5:00pm

Please join us for a conversation with Professor Elizabeth Cobbs about her new book, The Tubman Command. While Harriet Tubman is largely known for her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad and as a fierce advocate for abolitionism, less is known about Tubman’s role during the Civil War where she served as a scout and spy for the Union forces.
Professor Cobbs will be joined in conversation by Susan Ades Stone, the founder of

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: An award-winning novelist, historian, and documentary filmmaker, Elizabeth Cobbs is the author of eight books, including The New York Times bestselling novel, The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers. She holds the Melbern Glasscock Chair at Texas A&M University and is a Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution.

RSVP in the weekly mail or the Brotherhood website.
Happenings in Our Kehilah

Please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Alder with any pertinent happenings in your family.

B’nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:
Marge Ginsburg and Phil Paone on the Bar Mitzvah of their daughter, Charley Paone. Charley, a student at Simon Baruch Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, Jenny.

Paula Kieffer and Gil Quiniones on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sela Quiniones. Sela is a student at the Clinton School.

Alan and Marion Gampel on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Leo Ethan Gampel. Leo will celebrate his simcha with his siblings, Daphne and Elliot.

Condolences to:
Ted Kaminer on the passing of his mother, Mildred Kaminer.
Michele Rosenberg on the passing of her mother, Shirley Barkan.
Paul Hill and Debra Saltzman Hill on the passing of their son, Aaron Joseph Hill.
Evelyn Warmbrand on the passing of her husband, and our member, Martin Warmbrand.
Irene, Samuel and Isabel Shnayder on the passing of their husband and father, and our member, Rolan Shnayder.

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

The Chesed* Committee
WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

We recognize it can be difficult to find a full selection of Kosher-for-Passover items in the local grocery stores. If you find it challenging to acquire your Pesach provisions, please contact the synagogue office by Friday, April 5. We may be able to pick up missing items for you at a store outside Manhattan with a larger selection.

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 1:00 pm
Please join us on Tuesday, April 9 at 1pm in the Reception Room on the 2nd floor for a talk with guest speaker Sora Vernikoff. Sora will speak about making peace with food. For more information, please contact Joan at 212.685-7434.

All are welcome!

President’s Post
by Tracie Basch

A lesson for all of us. It was also very fitting that he passed away on Passover – his favorite holiday. But, as the Haggadah mandates, it is up to us to teach our children. So each year, through laughter and tears, I clean the apartment, make the gefilte fish from scratch just like my grandmother did, make the chicken soup and matzah balls, bake the cakes that my grandmother made and add some new ones and tell my sons about their great-grandparents and what the holiday was like for me as a child. Each year, Mark and I incorporate traditions from our childhood and create new ones, and new memories, for our kids with the hope that one day, they will do the same. L’dor vador. From my family to yours, we wish you a zissen Pesach.

Wishing everyone a zissen Pesach and a joy-filled Spring!

— Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development

As we are currently approaching the end of the third quarter of our fiscal year 2018/19 (which officially ends on June 30, 2019), we are appealing to you for your support of The Annual Fund. Knowing that the Brotherhood Synagogue is many things to many people, we know that each of our members finds unique value in belonging to this special community. You may regularly attend Shabbat services or volunteer at our Homeless Shelter. Many of you have children in our Hebrew School, Nursery School, or our Early Childhood Program, where you become part of a larger family of like families as you share holiday celebrations, Shabbatot and Shabbat dinners together. Others take stimulating Adult Education Classes, sing in our chorus, learn to speak Hebrew or chant Torah and Haftorah. Many families have been Brotherhood members for generations; some became new members this year. Whether you have shared your joyous occasions or times of sorrow and loss, you know that Rabbi Dan, Phil, and the entire community embraces and supports you. Given the meaning that Brotherhood membership injects into your life, you know that the benefits are intangible, yet the financial reality is that membership dues alone do not pay the cost of running the wide array of programs and services we offer.

We have set a lofty Annual Fund goal this year, and we are falling short of meeting it. We are deeply grateful to every member who has made a gift to the Annual Fund, and we ask those who have not yet done so to please do so at your earliest convenience. Call the office to make your gift by credit card, mail your check or visit our website at www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org to make a secure online gift. Feel free to contact me at mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or at 212-674-5750 and I am always happy to speak with you. May the Brotherhood Synagogue and its membership continue to go from strength to strength!

A Note from Development
Interesting than the hero anyway.

You're hosting a literary dinner party. Which three writers are invited?

I mentioned Cormac McCarthy before so he'd definitely be invited. Maybe I'd add Jay McInerney and Donna Tartt, since they came of age around the same time in the 1980s and were some of the first adult books I read as a teenager like Slow Down and The Mentor. Lee's novel, The Mentor, has more substance than me.

Hmmm, that's a good one. Maybe I'd do it myself when I'm eighty. No one knows it better than me.

The Great Gatsby would it be? What would you want to know?

If you could meet any writer, dead or alive, who would it be? What would you want to know?

If you could meet any writer, dead or alive, who would it be? What would you want to know?

Lee Matthew Goldberg grew up attending Brotherhood Synagogue and is the son of Stan and Sue Goldberg. Lee's novel, The Mentor, has been released by Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, and his debut novel, Slow Down (New Pulp Press) is a neo-noir thriller.

April 13-19


continued from page 2

he'd be as popular as he became. And also, how to construct such amazing sentences.

Whom would you choose to write your life story?

Hmm, that's a good one. Maybe I'd do it myself when I'm eighty. No one knows it better than me.

Lee Matthew Goldberg grew up attending Brotherhood Synagogue and is the son of Stan and Sue Goldberg. Lee's novel, The Mentor, has been released by Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, and his debut novel, Slow Down (New Pulp Press) is a neo-noir thriller.

April 20-26


April 27-May 3

Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Naomi Weinstein will lead a discussion of The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish

Save the Dates: May 16, when Carol Noymer will lead a discussion of Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love by Dani Shapiro, and June 20 when Susan Halper will lead our discussion, book TBA. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Margie Katz at margie.katz@me.com. All are welcome!

Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School News

The Hebrew calendar month of Nisan (Equating of April 5 – May 5) is the first month of the Hebrew calendar year, even though we change our Hebrew calendar year date on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri) at Rosh Hashanah, Pesach (Passover) begins on the 15th day of Nisan (this year the evening of April 19). Pesach has many names: The Spring Festival (Chag HaAviv); the Festival of Matzah (Chag HaMatzot); the Season of our Freedom (Z’man Cheyrutaynu), and of course, Passover (Pesach).

On Wednesday April 17 (from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm) our students in Kitot Gimel through Vav (3rd through 6th graders) will be participating in a Model Seder conducted by Rabbi Alder and music teacher Daniel Meron. All of our students have been studying sections of the Haggadah, which they will be leading at our Model Seder.

On Tuesday April 16, the Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Aleph (1st grade), and Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) students will be inviting their families to our annual “Sing-Along Haggadah” from 5:30-6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. That same day our Kitah Zayin students (7th Graders) will be participating in a “Teach-In” with Phil Rothman titled “Everything You’ve Wanted to Know About Pesach, But Were Too Shy to Ask!”

We teach our students about the symbols of Pesach and their significance. We eat matzah to remember how our ancestors left Egypt before their bread had a chance to rise. We dip a green vegetable into salt water to combine the hope of spring (greens) with the sadness of slavery (salt water symbolizing the tears of slavery.) We spill ten drops of wine (grape juice) to express regret that the Egyptians suffered in the process of our being set free. We place a cup of wine for Elijah to express our hope for a time of peace. And we ask the Four Questions as a way to begin recalling the story of the Exodus and the lessons we learn from it.

Almost all of our children have been practicing the Four Questions - Ma Nishtana? (Why is this night different from all other nights of the year?) Whenever the subject of Ma Nishtana arises, I think not only of the Passover Haggadah, but also of one of my father’s favorite stories. Here it is: An English Jew, a prominent novelist and intellectual, is informed that he will be knighted. The queen’s protocol officials prepare him and the other knights-to-be for the ceremony. He is informed that, when he stands before the queen, he is to recite, “Philosophum non facit barba. Non in solo pane vivit homo,” just before being knighted. On the day of the ceremony, the man is very nervous and, sure enough, when he approaches the queen, he forgets the Latin expression. As precious seconds tick by, the only non-English words he can think of pour out of him: “Ma nishtana halaila hazeh mishol haileilot?” The queen, confused, turns to her protocol officer and asks, “Why is this knight different from all other knights?”

Wishing you a zissen (sweet) Pesach! Chag Pesach Sameach! Happy Passover!!

—Barbara Simon,
Hebrew School Principal

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, May 15
Thursday, May 16 @ 7:00 pm

The Brotherhood Hebrew School Adaptation of The Sound of Music

All proceeds will benefit the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School. Please visit the Brotherhood website to purchase your tickets.

Tickets: $36.00 each
You may choose to be a FRIEND at $54.00 Or a PATRON at $72.00

Once again, we will be publishing our outstanding PLAYBILL! PLAYBILL Advertisement Information:
Advertising Rates: Full Page 8 1/2” x 5 1/2”; $64.00; Half Page; $36.00; Business Card size; $18.00. Please note that all artwork must be in high resolution (300 dpi) PDF or JPEG format only. Please email your ad copy, artwork or logos and payment no later than May 1, 2019 to jude410@gmail.com or contact her with questions.

All contributors will receive a copy of the playbill!
**Nursery School Thoughts**

by Aaron Glazer

Recently, while dropping my son off at Brotherhood, another Red Room parent and I ended up chatting with a potential “recruit” who was struggling with where to send their two-year-old to pre-school. We both broke into an outpouring of praise for Brotherhood Nursery (only slightly inspired by Merrill standing behind us).

I remember having similar questions two years ago—questions we probably all faced when thinking through what we wanted our children to get out of the preschool experience. Will they be prepared for Kindergarten? Will they develop their fine motor skills? Will the teachers forgive the occasional overenthusiastic “painting session” all over their floors?

Once my son Archer started the Yellow Room, I remember checking off the boxes to all of these criteria one-by-one, just like we would have done at many of the great pre-schools in the city. But there was an extra element at Brotherhood that I hadn’t made a box for—a special sense of belonging both in a physical space and in a community.

Last spring, I was walking home one evening with Archer on my shoulders. Halfway down 20th street, he spontaneously broke into song. And it wasn’t from *Winnie the Pooh,* *Hamilton* or the *White Stripes* (all of which he’d been asking Alexa to play ad nauseam for months, sometimes in his sleep).

It was the Passover song *Dayenu.* Sung at the top of his lungs, presented to all of downtown, without a care in the world, repeating it over and over and over... just as Alexa had been repeating *We’re Going To Be Friends* at home.

Growing up in suburban Florida, I was lucky enough to go to a great private pre-school. I have fond memories of my teachers, fellow students, the playground, the art room, and even the *My Little Pony* craze, when my Pre-K class was overrun with sparkly little horse dolls. What I don’t remember is feeling part of a community.

The Brotherhood community has given Archer that sense of place and belonging. It comes from the immense love and happiness that emanates from the teachers, staff, and fellow students. From the culture and traditions that extend far beyond basic education. From volunteering to prepare sandwiches for people who need them on a Sunday afternoon, attending Friday night services with his grandparents, struggling to sit quietly during Havdalah, and getting excited every Friday morning about eating pizza with his classmates.

I hope that, in addition to all the fantastic requests we have checked off, it is this feeling of being rooted socially and physically that Archer remembers from his own pre-school adventures. *Dayenu!* ♬

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**Cantor’s Notes**

by Cantor Isaac Yager

I was working in a law office in Boston when I first decided to apply to cantorial school. It was the first job I took after graduating from Boston University with my masters in music. The office specialized in locating unclaimed property (financial assets that have not been used for a length of time or have known ownership) for large companies like Gillette and Procter & Gamble and distributing those funds to them. The company would then receive a commission from the unclaimed property that was identified. Essentially, I was a small cog in the capitalist machine that found money for huge companies that didn’t actually need it while our company feasted on the leftovers. The level of team spirit in the office was also challenging. At our weekly meetings, the head of the company would ask her employees to rehearse their “elevator pitches,” concise monologues that would accurately and proudly describe the work of our office to strangers should we have the crunched-for-time opportunity to verbally accost them in an elevator. There were even after-work pizza parties with board games that were meant to draw us closer as financial bottom feeders, but sadly, I was never available. There is one particular image burned in my brain from my time in the office. In order to accommodate the chill in the office air, the CEO bought “snuggies” (fleece body suits) for those who required that extra degree of warmth while still being fashionable. Sitting at my desk, retrieving money for those who didn’t need it as “snuggies” brushed by me, I knew eight weeks into my new position that it was time to make a change. Of course there were other signs like the formal disciplinary review that I received where I was reprimanded for sighing too heavily when I was given assignments. I also got in trouble for looking out the window while daydreaming and also for suggesting the idea that I could use a sick day as a personal day (I thought I was being honest). All in all, I had developed quite a reputation for myself and the idea of cantorial school never looked so good. I began plotting my escape on my lunch breaks, calling my childhood cantor, discussing the cantorial school application process, and investigating ways I could study Hebrew in preparation for the entrance exams. I suppose it took a job like the one I had in Boston (for a harrowing three months) for me to almost immediately figure out the career I didn’t want to have. Even though I was singing professionally at the time with the Boston Lyric Opera chorus, I was certainly not earning enough to support myself, and I needed a way to make a living, hopefully doing something I enjoyed. This need was the driving force behind behind my decision to enter the cantorate. While, at the time, I didn’t exactly comprehend the work involved with becoming a cantor, I also knew the profession could potentially be a great fit for me, so I took a chance. I’m glad I did. Plus, who needs a “snuggie” when you have a tallis? ♬

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**Save the Date:**

**Sunday, May 5, 2:00 pm**

**Brotherhood Spring Concert**

featuring

classical works of hazzanut and opera

with

Cantor Isaac Yager

Cantor Rachel Brook

Cantor Emeritus Herman Diamond

Meredeth Kelly & the Brotherhood Choir

Harmoni-AH

$10 suggested donation
### Brotherhood Synagogue

**Adar II / Nissan 5779**

**April 2019**

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<td>9 am: Tekvah</td>
<td>4 pm: Screening - Keep the Change</td>
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<td>11:30 am: Baby Class</td>
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<td>4 pm: Hebrew School</td>
<td>5:40 pm: Minyan</td>
<td>6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11:30 am: Baby Class</td>
<td>4 pm: Hebrew School</td>
<td>10 am: Pre-Toddler Class</td>
<td>11 am: Baby Class</td>
<td>4 pm: Hebrew School</td>
<td>6:30 pm: Intro to Trope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:30 am: Toddler Class</td>
<td>11 am: Pre-Toddler Class</td>
<td>Noon: Lunch and Learn</td>
<td>2 pm: English in Action</td>
<td>3 pm: Thursday Corner</td>
<td>4:15 pm: Thursday Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 am: Pre-Toddler Class</td>
<td>11 am: Baby Class</td>
<td>4 pm: Hebrew School</td>
<td>7 pm: Or Yom HaShoah Commemoration</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7:07 pm: Candles</td>
<td>Family Shabbat</td>
<td>Noon: Lunch and Learn</td>
<td>2 pm: English in Action</td>
<td>3 pm: Thursday Corner</td>
<td>4:15 pm: Thursday Corner</td>
</tr>
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<td>6:30 pm: Intro to Trope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9:30 am: Services</td>
<td>Bat Mitzvah of Charley Paone</td>
<td>ROSH CHODESH TAZRIYA</td>
<td>1 pm: Shabbat Club</td>
<td>METZORA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Ezra Passover Food Collection

**Collecting through Friday, April 5**

We are collecting Passover foods to be distributed to the frail elderly on the LES by Project Ezra through April 5. All contributions must be marked Kosher for PASSOVER!

Foods most needed are: *Tuna, Salmon or Sardine Cans; Canned Fruits and Canned Vegetables; Mazo Farfel; Grape Juice (bottle); Vegetable Oil; Instant Coffee or Tea; Small Jars of Honey; Nuts or Dried Fruit; Matzo; Borscht; Gefilte Fish; Dessert Items (cake, cookies, macaroons, etc.)*

If you have a car and would like to help out with the food deliveries on Sunday, April 14 at 11 am, please email Carina Sacks of Project Ezra at carina@projectezra.org

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### Celebrating Rabbi Alder

**Friday, May 3, 6:30 pm**

As we prepare to celebrate Rabbi Daniel Alder’s 25th Anniversary as The Brotherhood Synagogue Senior Rabbi at Friday night services on May 3, we ask if you feel inspired to express your thoughts in writing about one of Dan’s sermons or a memory of a personal or family supportive situation in a difficult time or a joyful moment, to please forward us these expressions which we will compile in a book to be presented to him that same evening. **Please send your letters on or before April 15, 2019 to synagogue@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.**

May we go from strength to strength, Debra M. Aaron and Susan L. Halper, Special Events Committee

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### Social Action

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Friday, May 3 at Shabbat Services**

Celebrating Rabbi Daniel Alder’s 25th year as Senior Rabbi of Brotherhood Synagogue