



# Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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## An Attitude of Gratitude

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

Last month I went out of my comfort zone to teach an adult education class on Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude. Normally I teach a text-based class in Bible or Talmud but I wanted to try something new. And being grateful for the blessings in our lives is something that many of us struggle with.

The Hebrew term for gratitude is *hakarat ha'tov*, which means, literally, "recognizing the good." The good is already there. Practicing gratitude means being fully aware of the good that is already yours.

Alan Morinis, founder of the Mussar Institute, teaches that when you open yourself to experience the trait of gratitude, you discover with clarity how much good there is in your life. Whatever you are lacking will still be missing, of course, and no one is saying you should put on rose-colored glasses to obscure those shortcomings. But it is worth the effort to practice gratitude, especially since the one who benefits most is the one who is suffering.

Even if we are aware of our gifts, we tend to grow callous to those fine things in our lives so that after a while we no longer even see that they are there. We come to take the good for granted. We then need to refresh our vision to make accurate note of the good that surrounds us. This is the ethos behind the Jewish proverb, which asks, "Who is rich?" and then answers, "He who rejoices in his own lot."

Live like that and you will suddenly discover that you want to give thanks for anything and anyone who has benefited you. Whenever Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgenstern, the Kotzker Rebbe, would replace a worn-out pair of shoes, he would neatly wrap up the old ones in newspaper before placing them in the trash, and he would declare, "How can I simply toss away such a fine pair of shoes that have served me so well these past years?"

Now if we can learn to be grateful for shoes, which help us involuntarily, how much more so to human beings who have free will and who help us consciously out of the goodness of their hearts? Or to the Mysterious Source out of which our lives have come?

When Leah, wife of the patriarch Jacob, had her fourth child, she named him "Yehuda," which means "I am grateful." The name Jew derives from "Yehudi," the people of "Yehuda," revealing that gratitude is intrinsic to being Jewish. This idea is confirmed in the prayer book, where so many of the prayers remind us to express gratitude to God for all we have.

In our lives, the Torah asks us to recite blessings (ideally 100 a day) for everything, from the most mundane activities, like eating, to the most extraordinary, like seeing a rainbow, all of which help us focus on and appreciate what we might otherwise take for granted.

When Rabbi Irving Lehrman was a child in the 1920s, he accompanied his mother to get a *bracha*, a blessing, from the Lubavitcher rebbe, who was then visiting the United States. They stood in line for hours, and when they finally reached the rebbe, he asked her, "How are your children?"

"*Baruch Hashem*" (Thank God), Rabbi Lehrman's mother answered.

"And how is your *parnassah* (livelihood)?"


"*Baruch Hashem.*"

"How is your family's health?"

"*Baruch Hashem.*"

"So then what kind of *bracha* do you want me to give you?" the rebbe asked.

She answered: "*Zol nisht farshtert veren*" (It should not be spoiled).

Such is the attitude of the pious, a sense of appreciation for what they have, instead of a focus on what they are missing. 

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 9:30 AM

*Bar Mitzvah of Jack Greene*

## Adult Education Winter 2017 Announcement

Beat the winter chills by warming up to a good Jewish study course filled with conversation and camaraderie.



Several new classes have been added this semester so check out the enclosed brochure or the Adult Ed page on the Brotherhood website <http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/adult-education.html> for descriptions!



Classes begin the week of January 23

## A Jewish Camp? For us?... Yes

by Marianna Vaidman Stone

Last summer's first experience with Jewish camping vastly exceeded our family's expectations, and even our hopes.

To be fair, expectations were low. I never went to camp, and my husband hated his camp experiences. Emily, our 14-year-old, had been to drama camp once, and hated it, too. Rachel, our 11-year old, had never been to camp at all. So when the kids—prompted by two close friends—begged to spend August at a Young Judea camp, my husband and I weren't sure how to react.

We weren't sure how Jewish camping would relate to our Jewish sense of self. We feel a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people—my family fled Jewish persecution in Russia and came here as refugees in 1979, and my husband's family fled the same area for the same reason, although several decades earlier. But while our identities are strong, our observance really isn't. We celebrate the major Jewish holidays, and sometimes go to Junior Congregation, but that's about it.

We worried about how our fairly unobservant kids would fit in at a Jewish, Zionist camp. Would they feel out of place? Would they know enough Jewish stuff? For example, not only had they never heard anyone chant birkat hamazon, the grace after meals, they had never even heard OF grace after meals. Rachel worried she wouldn't know where to go for activities if everything was labeled in Hebrew.

As it turned out, our fears were groundless. The kids at camp came from a broad range of observance, and my kids were comfortable with the things they didn't know at first. They quickly learned the Hebrew words they needed to get around. When a service included a prayer they didn't know, they just sat with their friends, let the music wash over them, and waited until the service got to a part that they knew.

And both kids loved camp. In New York, our kids are surrounded by and exposed to and become friends with people from all back-

grounds and walks of life. At camp, for the first time in their lives, they were in an entirely Jewish environment, not for a couple of hours, but for three entire weeks. They had enormous amounts of fun in a Jewish setting, and they saw the beauty in the way that our tradition brings our people together.

That matters. Last year, as part of a separate project for the synagogue, I surveyed several dozen Hebrew School families. Every single adult I spoke with identified "connection with Jewish community" as a top reason that they send their kids to Hebrew School. They also mentioned wanting their children to feel comfortable in a Jewish setting and to be proud of their Jewish identity. Jewish camps, we learned, are perfect for meeting all these goals.

Moreover, the effects seem to persist. A recent study found that non-Orthodox Jewish adults who had attended Jewish camp as children were 55% more likely to feel an emotional attachment to Israel, 45% more likely to attend synagogue regularly, and 37% more likely to light Shabbat candles. These markers of Jewish engagement suggest that camp seems to develop a stronger sense of belonging to a larger Jewish community. The study indicated that campers bring home an increased inclination to practice Jewish behaviors in their daily lives, and to value the experience of Jewish community.

That certainly was true for our family. Emily reported that she had fasted for Tisha b'Av—a degree of Jewish observance that she certainly would not have undertaken at home. Both kids talked enthusiastically about Shabbat services, about the beauty of the camp community coming together to sing, to hug, to talk.

Now, both kids are enthusiastic about going back to camp, to rejoin a Jewish community that has so quickly come to mean so much to them. More importantly (at least to me), they are more enthusiastic about Jewish community and tradition at home. That, after all, is what it's all about. 🌿

## Life Goes On

We are delighted to report that our annual Hanukkah party was a tremendously fun evening filled with great food, silly games, and the warmest of friendships!

We have an easy to reach destination for our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 18th at 3:30 pm**: Grand Central Station! Our group will enjoy a private guided tour of the terminal, entitled: *The Secrets of Grand Central*. The tour is described as follows:

"...few New Yorkers rushing through Grand Central ever really get to learn about the hidden history and lesser known lore behind this classic landmark. Here's your chance as we celebrate Grand Central with a discussion of the symbolism behind its decor and the mysteries behind this Beaux Arts gem. Stops include Grand Central's "whispering arch," Vanderbilt Hall; a secret apartment used as a speakeasy during the 1920s; the classic ceiling mural with its mysterious constellations painted in reverse; and Jules Coutan's Roman group god sculpture—a crowning masterpiece to the structure."

The cost of the tour is \$25 per person. Attendance is limited so **please RSVP to Agnes as soon as possible**. Dinner together will follow at one of Grand Central's fabulous restaurants, with details to follow.

For the December book club meeting, we read *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. The novel proved especially poignant for our group and initiated a very lively and important discussion. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 26th at 7 pm**, allowing us additional time to complete our next book, Michael Chabon's *Moonglow*. *Moonglow* has been reviewed as "an emotional tale of love and loss; with fabulous, at times magical writing; and a story rooted in real-world events told from a unique perspective". According to the *Times*, "Whatever else it is—a novel, a memoir, a pack of lies, a mishmash—this book is beautiful." As usual, NYU Professor Margaret Birns will guide our discussion and wine and desserts will be served. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. The cost of participating is \$20 per person.

*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 **Agnes Marton** at 917.519.4427 or e-mail her at [Iagnemarton@gmail.com](mailto:Iagnemarton@gmail.com) or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750. 🌿

### Summer Camp Fair!

Wednesday, January 11, 5:30–7:00 pm

Stop in to the Community Room before or after Hebrew School pickup to get info on some fantastic summer camp options for your child. Whether your child is sporty or arty or outdoorsy or none of the above, there is a Jewish camp for every family (at any level of observance)! Overnight and day camps will be represented. Pizza and other snacks will be provided.



Salon Sanctuary at Brotherhood Synagogue

## Of Meistersingers and Mizmorim:

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

Thursday, January 12, 8:00 pm

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

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

\*Salon/Sanctuary Concerts was founded in 2009 by Artistic Director Jessica Gould in order to present early music in intimate venues which complement both the acoustic and the historical context of the repertoire and to encourage understanding among people of different faiths through the performance of sacred works in sanctuaries appropriate to the repertoire. <http://www.salonsanctuary.org/aboutus.html>



## Volunteer with The Hunger Van Project at Brotherhood!

Sunday, January 22,  
11:00 am- 12:30 pm



The Interfaith Committee and the Social Action Committee invite Brotherhood families and individuals to volunteer to fight against hunger on Sunday, January 22 at 11:00 am when Brotherhood will again host The Hunger Van, a project run by *Muslims Against Hunger*.

Volunteers will work together to prepare sandwiches and salads for distribution by *The Hunger Van* to the needy at NYC locations.

Please RSVP to Roberta ([rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)) or call the office to RSVP 212.674.5750 by Tuesday, January 17 since we need a final count of volunteers! In addition, a contribution of **\$20 per individual adult or \$30 per family** is recommended in order to help defray the costs of the food.

## PIERRE CHAREAU: MODERN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

A Guided Tour at the Jewish Museum  
Thursday, January 26, 4:45 pm

Brotherhood's Special Events Committee has arranged for a guided tour of the first U.S. exhibition focused on French designer and architect Pierre Chareau (1883–1950). Showcasing rare furniture, lighting fixtures, and interiors, and designs for the Maison de Verre (Glass House, 1932) in Paris, the exhibit brings together over 180 rarely-seen works from major collections in Europe and the U.S. From modest beginnings in Bordeaux to being one of the most sought-after designers in France, Chareau balanced the opulence of traditional French decorative arts with a modernism that was both elegant and functional. The exhibit takes a fresh look at his work in the Parisian cultural context between the wars, highlighting his circle of influential patrons, including leaders of the Jewish intelligentsia, engagement with the period's foremost



artists, and his designs for the film industry. After leaving Paris during the German occupation, Chareau lived in New York where he designed a house for Robert Motherwell in East Hampton, Long Island in 1947.

The Jewish Museum is located at 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue where the group will meet in the lobby at 4:45 pm SHARP for our 5:00 pm tour.

Group size is limited to 20. Please register online through our weekly email or the website calendar or call the office (212.674.5750). Payment is \$20.00 payable by check to "Brotherhood Synagogue" or online by credit card and must be received no later than January 18.

If you have any further questions, please contact Roberta at [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org).

### BROTHERHOOD FILM SERIES

#### The Return (2014)

Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 pm

Director: Adam Zucker



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

Admission \$10 (free with student ID)

**Save the Date: *Bully*, Sunday, February 12 at 4:30 pm**

Sponsored by the Special Events Committee

#### A Conversation with ZOA's Susan Tuchman, Esq. and Zach Stern on BDS and Anti-Semitism on Campus

Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 pm

Anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing are serious problems at universities across the country, creating a hostile campus environment for many Jewish students and causing some even to fear for their safety. The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is playing a leading role in building knowledgeable and strong pro-Israel student leaders on campus, and in advocating for the civil rights of Jewish students to a learning environment that is safe and welcoming. Come hear from Zach Stern, Managing Director of ZOA Campus, and Susan Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, to learn more about the problems our children are facing and how they can be effectively addressed.

Sponsored by the Israel Committee



## Happenings in Our Kehilah

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

**Peter and Susan Greene** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jack Greene**. Jack, a student at Avenues, will celebrate his simcha with his younger brother, **Dexter**.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Bonnie Franklin** on the birth of her grandson, **Saul Pendleton Pulido** born to **Sarah Kramer** and **Albert Pulido**.

**Brooke Raphael** and **Jeffrey Gewirtz** on the birth of their son, **Eton Sam Gewirtz**.

**Amanda** and **William Rover** on the birth of their daughter, **Roxy Rover**; and to older brother, **Aiden**.

### Condolences to:

**Judith Seidel** on the passing of her father, **Herbert Seidel**.

**Shirley Pollick** on the passing of her brother, **Rodney Pollick**. 🌊

## Shabbat Club

Saturday, January 14, 1 pm

The monthly Shabbat Club will meet on **Saturday January 14, at 1 pm** in the second floor reception room, opposite the sanctuary entrance. Snacks and beverages will be provided. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and other Jewish participants in the civil rights movement, we will discuss *Jews and Civil Rights in America*.

Please watch the weekly email announcements for further information, or contact Deborah Newman if you have any questions. All are welcome to attend Shabbat Club meetings!

### SAVE THE DATES

for these meetings:

**February 25**—led by Cantor Weis and Neshama Carlebach—on music!!

**March 18**—led by Alan Fell, on Conversion 🌊

## A Note from the Development Committee

As we begin the new year, I am pleased to announce that we recently hired our new Director of Development! Marilyn Strozak comes to The Brotherhood Synagogue with a strong background in fundraising, particularly in the Jewish communal world, having worked at The 92nd Street Y, The Mount Sinai Medical Center and the Center for Jewish History. This is a particularly challenging and exciting year for the Synagogue, as we are ramping up our fundraising efforts and we are excited to have Marilyn on board to help us do so.

The Annual Fund, which is the lifeblood of the Synagogue, literally keeps the lights on and keeps our programs running, as it fills in the gap between membership dues and the true costs of operations. We have set a goal of \$750,000 for the Annual Fund, which was kicked off at the 5777 High Holidays and will run until June 30, 2017. We increased our goal this year, as we strive to meet the ever-rising costs associated with running our programs and the general upkeep of the building. An end-of-year appeal

was sent out in early December, as we aim for 100% participation by our members this year. If you have not yet made your contribution to the Annual Fund, we ask that you do so at your earliest convenience. We remain deeply grateful for your ongoing generosity and your commitment to the Brotherhood community. We will keep you updated in the coming months of the progress of the campaign and we will continue to seek your help and participation.

If you have not yet spoken with or met Marilyn, I am sure you will in the near future! Please feel free to contact her directly at 212-674-5750 x203 or at [mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) if you have any questions about your charitable giving or just to say hello!

Also, look for a message from Marilyn in next month's newsletter as she keep you informed on what is happening in Development at Brotherhood!

—Donna Rothchild,

Development Committee Chair

## Social Action News



### Project Cicero During the Month of February

During the entire month of February we will be collecting new and gently used books for under-resourced NYC schools. Stay tuned to weekly emails and announcements for more about Project Cicero.



### Eye Glass Drive During the Month of January

The Social Action Committee is sponsoring an **Eye Glass Drive** during the month of January. Please drop off eyeglasses you no longer need in the synagogue lobby collection box. The glasses will be donated to: New Eyes for the Needy, Vintage Thrift Shop benefiting the United Jewish Council, and Housing Works whose proceeds benefit the homeless and youth living with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks in advance for all donations!



On Sunday, December 11, a group of Brotherhood members, including 7 kids ranging in age from 7-16, volunteered to spend the morning at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale singing and playing music for and spending time with residents.

## The Chesed\* Committee

### WANTS YOU TO KNOW

If you are finding it physically difficult to get to Brotherhood for services or other programs, please let us know because the synagogue may be able to arrange for a car service or other accommodation. Please call the Brotherhood office to inquire at (212) 674-5750.

\*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.

## President's Post

by Trudi Rae Bartow

**H**appy 2017! I recently read an article that listed the most commonly broken New Year's resolutions in order of the number of people who reported breaking them. They include losing weight, quitting smoking, getting out of debt, traveling to new and exotic places, volunteering, and drinking less. I have certainly made (and broken) all of these. But this year will be different! This year I'm going to be able to make and keep one of the resolutions on this list, and you can too. Let's all resolve to volunteer more. The easiest way, **USHERING!**



Ushering at Brotherhood is a critical need and one that makes a difference to every person who walks into our building. An usher is the first official representative of Brotherhood that people see when they arrive and, as such, plays an important role in making people feel welcome and included. We are in desperate need of ushers for our Shabbat services. Why not volunteer and make this a resolution you can check off your list? All it takes is arriving 30 minutes before a service, having a warm smile on your face, and greeting people with a hearty "Shabbat Shalom" when they walk in. You will be seeing me a lot during the year as an usher and I look forward to seeing everyone take a turn at the door. If you want to volunteer please send me an email at [trudirae@gmail.com](mailto:trudirae@gmail.com) and we will get you a date to usher.

PS: If you have a school age child who needs community service credit ushering is a great way to rack up those hours! 🌊

## Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed

The 34th season of Brotherhood Synagogue's homeless shelter runs from January 3 through the end of March on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available and no matter how much time you can devote your help is needed. **Our guests this season are going to be men and we would be grateful for your donations of new scarves, gloves, hats, socks and underwear.** Thank you in advance. If you are able to volunteer, please call our office at 212.674.5750.



## YAHREZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

### January 7-13

^Tessie Adler, ^Harry Blum, Nathan Borkow, \*Ben Farland, Beatrice Feder, \*Rachel Finebaum, Lynn Finkelstein, Lisa Fisher, Irving Flax, ^Louis Philip Foster, \*Anna Frankel, Charles Friedenberg, \*Vicki Germaine, Mimi Gettinger, Solomon Glassman, ^\*H. Mark Goldshlag, ^Jerome Goldstein, ^Roger Gomby, Edward Greenberg, \*Abraham Gross, ^\*Daniel Halpern, \*George Hirschfeld, ^Bernice Hoffeld, Joseph Kalish, David Kitover, ^Israel Klonsky, Isaias Lerner, \*Nachama Rachel Lewinstein, Ruth Lewis, Mace Mason, Dora Mayer, \*Joseph Michael, Leonard Miltenberg, Estelle Moskowitz, Marie Myhrberg-Blomgren, Anne Osofsky, Gertrude Riff, Phillip Rosen, \*Leroy S. Rosenbaum, \*Bertha Scheiner, Fred Schultz, ^Charles D. Seeman, ^Doris Gordon Selkowitz, Edward L. Silverstein, Abraham Simon, Philip Simon, \*Betty Siskind, ^Jack Stark, ^Max Steinberg, ^Esther Stutzel, Tillie Tuft, ^Samuel A. Valentine, \*Samuel Warfman, ^Phyllis Weinstein, ^Edward Weiss, Marguerite Wimer

### January 14-20

Isaac Alhadeff, ^Harold Altman, ^\*Meyer Antell, Edgar Baurer Jessie, Zera Benardete, \*Henry Biegeleisen, Phyllis Block, \*Philip Block, Yosef Chaim Borochov, Lennie Brass, Galina Bronshteyn, Rae Brumberg, Sidney Burack, Belle Cassar, Beatrice Chernick, Nathan Cheshes, \*Beatrice Chizner, Beth Cosnow, \*Benjamin Dymn, \*Meyer Ellenbogen, Milton M. Enzer, ^F. Joyce Feitell, \*Fannie Feldman, Yale Fendel, \*George Fraenkel, \*Faye Frankel, \*Rabbi Moses Fried, Ansel Garfin, \*Nacha Garfin, ^Mark Geller, Rachel Gersbein, ^Liza Gleizer, \*Irving Goodman, \*Clara Gross, Ilse Jacobson Henry, ^Sophie Hoffman, Neil Kaplan, Victor Kramer, Ralph Lusskin, Isidore Marke, ^Fay Nelson, Esther Nirenberg, ^Barbara Okanes, Shirley Pearlstein, \*Murray Pfeffer, Phillip Raffe, ^Howard Topol Roberts, \*Belle Robinove, ^Herbert D. Roistacher, Samuel I. Rosenfeld, ^Natalie Simon Rosenfeld, Ullman Rosenfeld, Yita Chaya Royardo, \*Isabelle P. Schechter, Sandy Seidman, Lily Seregi, ^Theresa Rena Sidran, Julian Silbiger, George Silver, Stanley Simon, Miriam B. Singer, ^Sylvia Wasserstrom Solomon, Barry N. Spilkin, \*Bea Topal, Larry Toporek, Stuart Turner, \*Isaac Versh, ^William Warmbrand, ^Gertrude Weiner, \*Joseph Zalkind, Marc Zeitlin

### January 21-27

^Mary Abbey, \*Herman Alshan, ^Barbara Altman, Myra Appleton, Jossie Barcelona, Fred Bayroff, ^Cylka Berke, Edward H. Breiterman, Morris Brown, \*Herman Cohen, ^May Lipton Cummins, \*Julius Dolitsky, ^Irvin Fisher, Morris Friedman, \*Hanie Friedman, ^Shayni K. Gadsden, Abraham Glasser, George Goldberg, Pearl Goldfinger, Julia Greenbaum, Ben Gross, \*Minnie Gross, \*Sarah Handler, \*Lillian R. Hayt, Fritz Herz, ^\*Yaakov Michele Hirsch, \*Bessie Honig, Goldy Hushansky, \*Aaron Bernard Israel, ^Dora Jaffe, ^David Janow, ^Lawrence Janow, ^Cecelia Josselson, \*Edith R. Karban, \*Charlotte Chernoble Klein, Lee Kohn, \*Bea Kramer, ^Leon Krentzman, Estelle Lasser,

Joel Levitz, Arthur Levitz, Aaron Machlin, Lillian Manischewitz, \*Joseph Meyers, Susan Miller, ^Jean Miller, \*Gilbert Naftalis, Florence Newfield, \*Frieda Pearl, \*Herbert Plaut, \*Eva Posner Post, Hannah Pressman, Lawrence Raizman, Edward Renstrom, ^Lillian Roniss, Schiffy Rosenblum, Irving Rubenstein, Sylvia Rubinstein, Koula Saba, Charlotte Hope Saltzman, \*Harry Satosky, Sophia Savits, \*Monroe I. Schechter, Isidore Schneider, ^Jeannette Mildred Seinfeld, Henry Sellner, ^Abba Settle, Pauline Shapiro, ^Adam Siegal, Hyman Slotnick, ^Rose Strong, ^Evelyn K. Sussman, Leo Teviovitz, Nathan Tucker, ^William Tudor, ^Maurice Volk, ^\*Celia L. Warmbrand, L. Wolfson

### January 28-February 3

^Rose Alster, Molly Baron, Clara S. Benjamin, Lee Blaymore, Abraham Block, Siegfried Blum, Barbara Brooks, \*Abraham Chizner, Ira Ciker, ^Louis Diamond, ^Mary Diamond, \*Helen Elkin, ^Jennie Fox, Paula Franklin, ^Cyril Freed, ^Charles Samuel Ginsburg, Sophie Gipsman, ^Rose Schlamowitz Glass, ^Gertrude Goldschmidt, Anna Gottlieb, Charlotte Grabisch, ^\*Sabina Graetzer, \*Fred Greenberg, Sally Grossman, Kurt Grubler, ^Yetta Halpern, Joseph Hardenburgh, Jean Iskowitz, ^Joseph Israel, Jack Kasman, Dara Kaufman, Charlotte Beldegreen Kaufman, ^\*Jennie Klein, \*Beatrice Levine, Sam Lichtenstein, \*Sidney Liebowitz, Gail Lowe Maidman, Lillian Manischewitz, Mollie Meadow, William Pukatch, Frieda Rauch, ^Michael Remba, Rabbi Andrew J. Robins, Dr. Thomas Robitscher, ^Henry Rosenblum, ^Stanley Rosenthal, Milton Schupak, ^George Schwartz, Robert Silverman, ^Fritz A. Sontag, Irma Louise Spitzer, ^Lena Steinberg, ^Sari Orovan Steiner, ^Rose Stopler, Alice Teviovitz, ^Honor Hess Ward, \*Alice E. Warfman, ^\*Leo E. Williams, ^Solomon Yaker, Jimmie Yee, Rachel Leah Zacks

## The Brotherhood Synagogue



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

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,  
CANTOR MIKE WEIS,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK<sup>21</sup> D.D.: Founding Rabbi

HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus

SHIYA RIBOWSKY: Cantor Emeritus

TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859




**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**  
**BASYA SCHECHTER** returns to Brotherhood to lead

# havdalah\*\* in Pajamas

for children ages 4 and up! (PAJAMAS OPTIONAL)  
**Saturday, January 28, 5:00 - 6:00 pm**  
**on the 4th floor**

Let's say goodbye to Shabbat and share the warmth of the Havdalah ritual and start off the new week together with a fun hour of song and crafts and **PIZZA!!**

**\*\*Havdalah** (Hebrew) means "separation." It is a Jewish religious ceremony that marks the symbolic end of Shabbat and holidays and ushers in the new week. The five minute ritual includes the use of spices, fire (Havdalah candle), and wine/grape juice.



## Hebrew School News

by Barbara Simon

This month Rabbi Alder will visit our Hebrew School classes. In preparation for his visit, students in Gan (Kindergarten) through Kitah Zayin (7th Grade) are in the process of thinking of the questions they will ask Rabbi Alder. Over the years, Rabbi Alder has been asked many questions such as:

**About Being A Rabbi:**

What does a rabbi do?; What is it like being a rabbi?; How does one become a rabbi?; Is it fun to be a rabbi?; What did you do before you became a rabbi?; Did you always want to be a rabbi?; Were your parents supportive of your decision to be a rabbi?; What do you like best about being a rabbi?; What is the least best thing about being a rabbi? Who teaches the rabbi?; Who was the first rabbi? Can anyone become a rabbi? Who inspires you in your work as a rabbi?

**About G-d:**

Why can't you see G-d?; How come you can't hear G-d?; What does G-d look like?; How do we know that G-d exists?; Who made G-d?; How did G-d make the world?

**About The Torah:**

Why are there so many Torahs in the Brotherhood Synagogue Aron HaKodesh (the Holy Ark)?; Since there are so many Torahs in the Aron HaKodesh, how do you decide which Torah to read from?; Who wrote the Torah?; How long does it take to write a Torah?; How many letters are there in the Torah? [304,805]; How many words are there in the Torah? [79,847]; How many words are

*"Much I have learned from my teachers, more from my peers, but most of all from my students."*  
 (Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 7a)

there in the Book of Genesis?; Did Cain have children?; How many words are there in the Book of Exodus?; In the Book of Exodus, why did Pharaoh want to kill only the Jewish boy babies? (and not the Jewish girl babies)?; How does it feel marching around the synagogue holding a Torah?; What is the Hebrew word for the profession of writing Torahs?; Why do we read the Torah over and over and over again (every year)?

**About Bar/Bat Mitzvah:**

How far in advance should one start his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations? How do you feel when you officiate at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

**About Hebrew:**

Where did the Hebrew language come from? Why does Hebrew have five "final letters" and no capital letters?

**About Israel:**

Who invented the flag of Israel?; How old do you have to be to go on a Birthright trip to Israel?; Why is there so much controversy about Israel?

**About Mitzvot:**

Were you always kosher when you were younger?; How did you feel about yourself after you decided to become kosher?; To be a good Jew, which is the most important commandment to follow?

**About Being Jewish:**

Can you still be Jewish if you are an agnostic?; Is it okay to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah if you are not sure you believe in G-d? How do you feel about the state of world Jewry today?

**About Ritual**


Why do you boys/men wear a kippah?; Why do parents bless their children on Shabbat?; Why does the Eternal Light burn forever?; Why do some Jewish congregations separate men & women during prayer services?

**Personal Favorites:**

What's your favorite holiday?; What is your favorite food?; Which teams are your favorite teams? (baseball, basketball, football, etc)

This is just a sampling of the types of questions our Hebrew School children will be asking Rabbi Alder. We are all very proud of our Hebrew School children and their teachers—who, along with their parents—teach and inspire them.

And that brings us back to the Babylonian Talmud—Ta'anit 7a "Much I have learned from my teachers, more from my peers, but most of all from my students."

Our children continue to inspire and teach us all. 



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

.....  
**Friday, January 6**

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

.....  
**Friday, January 20**

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

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

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


## Nursery School Thoughts

by Caroline Tell Gasman

When I think of last summer, the word “relaxing” doesn’t come to mind. While our friends spent weekends camping under the stars, I was camped out at my obstetrician’s office. Instead of wading in the calm Atlantic water, I was waddling down Second Avenue waiting for my own water to break. I was highly, heavily pregnant. My son Leo understood that mommy had a baby in her belly, which is why I couldn’t hoist him on the monkey bars or play horsey around the apartment. But for as many books as my husband and I read him, for as many ways that we introduced him to the idea of having a sibling, we knew nothing could prepare him for welcoming a new family member.

I went into labor the morning of July 4. As luck would have it, my husband, who hadn’t left my side all weekend, was putting in a few hours at his office since we were landlocked anyway. We didn’t assume I’d be a full week early. The pangs started as Leo and I were watching Sesame Street. It was a ritual of ours, except on that morning it was all about to change. As Elmo sang his signature song, I shed a tear and hugged my son tightly. I inhaled and acknowledged that life as we knew it was ending, and another was

about to begin. The moment was big and I took it in. Then I wiped my tears, beckoned my husband home and called my father-in-law to come get the boy.

Leo met his sister Margot the next day. I’ll never forget thinking how big (and dirty!) he looked barreling into the hospital room. Back at home he weathered the change well. He was so in love with her that, at first, he hardly noticed us. To everyone in our building, to everyone he met, he introduced Margot as HIS sister. He was so proud. But on sad days, when an incorrectly cut sandwich resulted in tears, when he would cry louder to drown out Margot’s cat-like whimpers, I knew we just had to make it to the first day of school and it would be OK. I knew that once he returned to his safe space, inside the walls and down the stairs of Brotherhood, he’d once again be Leo—not Leo, the big brother or Leo with a new sister. Just Leo. The teachers at Brotherhood have a way of making each child feel unique and important, and that’s exactly what Leo needed and continues to need during this time of transition—a place where he can be himself, where he can shine and where he can leave his little sister at home, even just for a little while. 

## ♪ Broadway on My Mind ♪

by Cantor Mike Weis

Scholars and historians have tried for many years to unlock the mystery of how it came to be that Jews have played such an outsized role on the ongoing development of Broadway theatre. We’re all familiar with household names like Rodgers and Hammerstein, George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, the Shuberts, Harold Prince, Neil Simon... the list goes on ad infinitum.

Tending to gravitate to down-to-earth theories. I remember, upon first reading Jared Diamond’s groundbreaking book “Guns, Germs & Steel,” how it just seemed to make sense why the modern world seemed to be largely dominated by WASPs. In a long overdue effort, and out to debunk racist ideas of white superiority once and for all, Diamond brought plentiful evidence to prove that not only are whites NOT better than people with other skin colors, but that everything to do with white success on the world stage had been dictated by accidents of geography, microbiology and technology.

Similarly, looking back at the creation of Broadway, as an institution, a number of unique historical factors came together to cre-

ate opportunities that Jews were able to take advantage of. I will share but a few of these.

First is the massive influx of Jews to NYC between the years 1880 and 1924: over 2 million Jews from Eastern Europe came to the United States. The overwhelming majority of those settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. By the end of this period of time, one in four inhabitants of New York City was Jewish.

Next, not surprisingly, the Yiddish theater, stoked by sheer concentration of its audience, grew to maturity on the Lower East Side with venues that dwarfed in size even the largest Broadway theatres of today. With plentiful audiences and stories to tell, Yiddish theatre was a touchstone for so many who were trying to adjust to life in the Goldene Medina and served as a model for what was to come uptown.


Add to that the explosive growth of the subway system, which began in 1900, which gave all New Yorkers, including these immigrants, newfound mobility in the form of cheap, fast and easy passage almost anywhere in the city that they wished

to go, including and especially, the newly developing theatre district centered around Times Square.

Without question, many of the earliest Broadway and popular performers and composers came from musical backgrounds and were children or grandchildren of cantors or Yiddish theatre stars. You could say that music was in their blood.

But perhaps the most significant factor that led so many Jews to explore the newly developing medium was—as it always seems to be—anti-Semitism. Theatre in those days was looked upon with distaste by the “polite” (read: white) society, because many shows served as mere distractions for the “real” business of prostitution that was taking place up in the balconies. And so, with virtually no barriers to entry, creative Jewish minds flocked to this newly developing art form in droves.

And so they created, and created, and created...

At the end of the month, we will go on a journey to meet some of these pioneers in my course, “The Jewish Giants of Broadway.” Hope to see you there! 

# Brotherhood Synagogue



Tevet / Shevat 5777  
January 2017

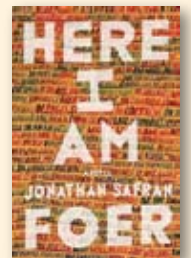
☆ Saturday Mornings: Shabbat Corner 9:45 am • Junior Congregation 10:30 am • Alef-Bet Club 11 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> 10 am: English-in-Action 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	<b>4</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>5</b> Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English-in-Action 6:30 pm: BBYO	<b>6</b> 4:26 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services	<b>7</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>VAYIGASH</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am: Tikvah	<b>9</b> 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>10</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	<b>11</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:30 pm: Summer Camp Fair	<b>12</b> 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 8 pm: Of Meistersingers and Mizmorim Concert	<b>13</b> 4:33 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	<b>14</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>VAYECHI</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED	<b>17</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English-in-Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Board Meeting	<b>18</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 3:30 pm: Life Goes On 4 pm: Hebrew School	<b>19</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	<b>20</b> 4:41 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Family Shabbat grades 2-7 6:30 pm: Services	<b>21</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>SHEMOT</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am: Tikvah 11 am: Volunteer with the Hunger Van	<b>23</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>24</b> 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: Judaism and Islam	<b>25</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know 7 pm: Brotherhood Film Series - <i>The Return</i> 7:30 pm: Jewish Giants of Broadway	<b>26</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner 4:45 pm: Pierre Chareau at the Jewish Museum 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club	<b>27</b> 4:50 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	<b>28</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Jack Greene  <b>VAYERA</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am: Tikvah	<b>30</b> 9 am: Torah Study 1 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 2 7 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew 8 pm: Jewish Current Events	<b>31</b> 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: Judaism and Islam	<b>1</b> 10 am: Baby Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study at Brotherhood 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Top 40 Songs Every Jew Should Know 7 pm: Susan Tuchman, Esq. 7:30 pm: Jewish Giants of Broadway	<b>2</b> 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English-in-Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner	<b>3</b> 4:58 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	<b>4</b> ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Jack Schulman  <b>BO</b>



Another amazing night at Brotherhood—On December 17, in an early celebration of Chanukah, over one hundred folks came to hear Eyal Vilner's Big Band and partied afterwards at our Vodkas & Latkes party. Sponsored by the Israel Committee.

## Brotherhood Book Club Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm



Susan Franklin will lead a discussion of Jonathan Safran Foer's new book, *Here I Am*, which depicts a series of events that impact members of a Jewish family living in Washington, D.C.

Future Brotherhood Book Club dates and facilitators are below.

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

Thursday, Mar. 16 Marnie Potash TBD

Thursday, Apr. 20 Susan Halper *Dark Room* by Susan Faludi

All are welcome to participate in the Book Club. Please contact Margie Katz [margie.katz@me.com](mailto:margie.katz@me.com) to join us!