In Pursuit of Happiness
by Rabbi Daniel Alder

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, once received a very sad letter from one of his followers which went something like this: “I would like the Rebbe’s help. I wake up each day sad and apprehensive. I can’t concentrate. I find it hard to pray. I keep the commandments but find no spiritual satisfaction. I go to synagogue but feel alone. I begin to wonder what life is about. I need help.”

The Rebbe wrote back a brilliant reply, which didn’t contain a single new word. He merely circled the first word of each sentence from his student’s letter and then sent the letter back. The first word of each sentence was the letter “I.” That was the young man’s problem. It was all about him.

The former Chief Rabbi of England Lord Jonathan Sacks points out that there is only one book in the entire Hebrew Bible that uses the first-person singular “I” and that is Kohelet, King Solomon’s Book of Ecclesiastes: “I built for myself, I planted for myself, I acquired for myself,” said Solomon. No other book in Hebrew scriptures uses “I” so many times, but that was Solomon’s problem: he kept thinking about himself. He was brilliant, rich, and powerful, but he was not happy.

Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam published his landmark book, Bowling Alone, in 1999, which identified a national decline in civic engagement. Drawing on nearly 500,000 interviews, Putnam showed that from the 1970s to the 1990s, people signed fewer petitions, belonged to fewer organizations, and even though more Americans were bowling than ever, fewer were joining teams. More were bowling alone.

The rise of social and political clustering on the Internet has intensified this atomization and made it harder for us to get out of ourselves and become part of a larger supportive team. There are, of course, other factors which produce happiness, like being more grateful and having lower expectations, but existentially if we want to be happy, we need to live as part of a community where individuals care about one another. This is one of the reasons, says Rabbi Mark Wildes, that so many young urbanites living active but somewhat isolated lives in big cities are unhappy. There isn’t that sense what we matter to enough people, that we live among others who care for us, or for whom we care.

We need to volunteer for causes in which we believe, attend religious services so that we can connect with something greater than ourselves, and give to other people. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, former president of Yeshiva University, once said in a sermon: “The more concerned we are with our own happiness, the less likely we are to achieve it. But the Sages in Ethics of our Fathers teach: ‘if I am for myself, who am I?’ True simcha (happiness) is attained only when I lose myself, only when my concern is with making others happy. That’s why the mitzvah of simcha in the Torah is coupled with the mitzvah to provide joy for the poor, for the widow and for the orphan. To be happy we have to stop trying to make ourselves happy and start by taking care of others. That will bring true happiness.”

This helps explain a comment by Maimonides with respect to the upcoming holiday of Purim. To celebrate the day of Purim, one is supposed to hear the Megillah of Esther read in synagogue, give gifts to the poor, send food baskets to one’s friends and neighbors, and enjoy a festive meal. Maimonides writes: “better to increase in gifts to the poor than in increasing in the meal or in sending food baskets for there is no greater joy and glory than gladdening the heart of poor people, orphans, widows and strangers…”

Taking care of other people helps produce long-term happiness precisely because it removes the focus from ourselves and ultimately enables us to live a life of purpose and meaning. The by-product of such a life is a state of happiness.

Synagogue to Host Passover Seder

On the first night of Pesach, Wednesday, April 8th, we will again host our annual Seder at the synagogue, led by Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager. Services will begin at 6:30 pm with the Seder following at 7:00 pm. We will once again be serving our full course Seder dinner buffet style; however, we will offer table service to those who need assistance. The cost is $80 for adult members, $45 for children (ages 5-12), and $95 for adult guests of our members.

Please make your reservations early and return your payment at that time. Seating is limited and priority will be given to our members based on order of received registrations. Please note that you can help sponsor a needy person to our Seder by donating the cost of a meal.
BCRIC UPDATE
(Brotherhood Committee on the Immigration & Refugee Crisis)

In February, the location for Brotherhood Synagogue-Seafarers International House dinners for asylees and asylum-seekers moved to Brotherhood Synagogue. Brotherhood members and asylees/asylum seekers worked side-by-side in the Brotherhood kitchen, preparing a delicious meal that was then served at a festive gathering in the second floor reception room. On Wednesday March 11 from 6-8pm we will host another dinner. If you are interested in attending dinners, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

We are continuing to expand the ways in which we support immigrants and asylum-seekers. One of the most serious and immediate needs is legal assistance. Several congregants have attended trainings that will enable them to provide legal assistance to “unaccompanied minors” in immigration hearings. Many organizations are looking for non-immigration lawyers who can be trained to provide pro bono legal assistance. For more information, contact Bob Wolf at rwolf@tarterkrinsky.com.

As we become more aware of the many obstacles facing immigrants, asylees, and asylum-seekers who are trying to get identification cards and working papers, we are providing direct assistance by accompanying people to government offices. We are also using our personal networks to help people get jobs in their fields of expertise. If you are interested in participating in these kinds of support, contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

On March 21, we are proud to join synagogues around the world in observing National Refugee Shabbat. See the announcement in the bulletin for more information.

— In partnership, Barbara Stern and Ellie Wertheim

Shabbat Club and Havdalah & Dinner
Saturday, March 21, 1:00 pm and 6:15 pm
On March 20-21, 2020, hundreds of synagogues and thousands of individuals across the United States will be raising their voices in support of refugees and asylum seekers during the second National Refugee Shabbat organized by HIAS. This special Shabbat has even gone international with communities in Canada, Europe, and around the world taking part.

Shabbat Club
Saturday, March 21, 1:00 pm
On Saturday, March 21, the Shabbat Club will meet at 1pm. As part of National Refugee Shabbat, there will be an interactive discussion and learning session. Participants will be introduced to the global refugee crisis, provided Jewish historical and values-based framing, and offered some initial steps towards taking action on behalf of the world’s refugees. We will use materials prepared by HIAS, and will consider questions such as: What is a refugee? What is the Refugee Resettlement Process? Why does the United States need to welcome refugees? Why should I care about this as a Jew?

Shabbat Club meets in the second floor reception room and is open to all - members, nonmembers, friends. Light refreshments will be served.

Havdalah and Dinner
Saturday, March 21, 6:15 pm
At 6:15 pm, Brotherhood Synagogue will join East End Temple in co-sponsoring a dinner, Havdalah, and speaker from HIAS. Please join us at East End Temple (245 E. 17th Street) to eat, share Havdalah, and hear Melanie Nezer, HIAS Senior Vice President of Public Affairs. In the face of asylum seekers forced to endure terrible conditions on our southwestern border, drastic cuts in the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., and refugees from even more countries banned from the U.S., we will gather to reaffirm our commitment to welcome the stranger. We’ll recognize the work we have already done on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, hear about what else we can do, and sign petitions and write letters on the spot. Ms. Nezer will inform us about the overall situation of refugees and asylum seekers internationally and in the U.S.

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.

On a very cold February evening, our happy group enjoyed a cozy dinner and a great movie together at Brotherhood. Thank you, Brenda Pace and Paulette Lerner, for making it happen!

This is from Sheryl Lerner (who is leading our March event): on Wednesday, March 18 the Life Goes On group will be stepping into spring by attending a citywide celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth with a performance of the Lyon Ballet Opera at the Joyce Dance Theatre in Chelsea. Our plans include a pre-performance dinner at Seameor’s at 5pm, followed by the performance which begins at 7:30pm. Please contact Sheryl at sheryl678@aol.com for further information.

Please note our next book club date: Thursday, March 26 at 7pm. We will be discussing The End of Loneliness by Benedict Wells. A critic states: “it is a stunning meditation on the power of our memories, of what can be lost and what can never be let go.” Thank you, Ellen Kenigsberg, for keeping our group organized so efficiently! Please make sure to notify Ellen (ellensken14@gmail.com) if you plan to join us.

We are seeking suggestions and leaders for spring activities. If you have an idea for an outing and are willing to lead it, please call or email Agnes or Roberta.

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 lagnesmarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.
Purim Festivities

Our annual Children’s Purim carnival will take place on Sunday, March 8th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm beginning with a mini-Megillah reading in the Sanctuary and continuing with games, food, and prizes. Come one, come all, come in costume. Everyone’s a winner!

On Monday, March 9th, at 5:00 pm, there will be the classic Purim story puppet show in the Community Room for pre-school age children and their parents.

Beginning at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 9th, an abbreviated Megillah reading and Purim shpiel will be held in the Community Room geared to school-age children and their families. The traditional Purim evening service and reading of the Megillah will be held in the Sanctuary on Monday, March 9th, also beginning at 6:30 pm.

Services for the morning of Purim will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30 am with a reading of the Megillah.

This year we will be holding our inaugural Purim Costume Parade on Tuesday, March 10th at 4:15 pm in the Community Room. There will be prizes in every category!

Hamentaschen and refreshments follow all these events.

ALL ARE WELCOME to all our Purim festivities! Bring friends!

Brotherhood Film Series

MA’ABAROT: THE ISRAELI TRANSIT CAMPS
(Director: Dina Zvi Riklis; 2019 Hebrew with English subtitles; 84 minutes)

Sunday, March 1, 4:00 pm

The transit camps of 1948–1952 were a temporary housing solution to accommodate Israel’s surge of immigrants following World War II. Over 300,000 immigrants lived in tents and tin huts in this controversial initiative, contributing to the divide between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews in Israel. The impact of the camps on the lives of immigrants resonates in contemporary Israeli culture, but has largely been forgotten in the public consciousness. Ma’abarot takes a close look at life inside the camps through interviews with former residents, research, and archival footage, shattering misconceptions and offering stark insights into the racial divides that still permeate Israeli society.

Join us for the special screening and a discussion following with Ophir Tal, DJL (Downtown Jewish Life) Shaliach.

Tickets: $10

Salon Sanctuary at Brotherhood Synagogue*

Thursday, March 5, 8:00 pm

ESTER, LIBERATRICE DEL POPOLO Ebreo
by Alessandro Stradella

The Old Testament story of a blustering genocidal despot and the canny queen who resists and brings him down finds voice in one of the most innovative works of the violent, volatile, and tragically short-lived genius Alessandro Stradella.

Please join us for this groundbreaking masterwork by “the Caravaggio of Music” in a return of last year’s critically praised production celebrating the story of a minority’s triumph over religious persecution.

Read the program notes here https://madmimi.com/l/ac160e.

Complimentary tickets for Brotherhood members at: https://www.showclix.com/event/marcellaise. Use code 1865.

*Salon/Sanctuary Concerts presents innovative projects of historical performance in intimate venues matched to the repertoire. Founded in 2009, Salon/Sanctuary concerts continues to garner critical praise and attract loyal audiences for projects that view history through the prism of music.

Knowledge for College

Sunday, March 15 | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

How do we empower our college-bound teens to navigate anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on campus?

How do we give them the tools to support Israel while maintaining a fair and critical perspective?

We are thrilled to welcome Blake Flayton in conversation with Doria Kahn for our second Knowledge for College event of 2020.


Doria is a junior at NYU Gallatin studying social sciences with a business minor at NYU Stern. She speaks and writes frequently about issues facing Jewish young adults, with articles in publications such as The Jewish Week, The Jewish Press and the Bronfman Center blog. Her Jewish activism was cited in Bari Weiss’s recent book, How To Fight Antisemitism.

This event is especially relevant for high school and college students and their parents but all are welcome!

Pizza and soft drinks will be served after the discussion!

RSVP on the Brotherhood website: www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Upcoming K4C Event: April 26, 2020:
Details to Follow

Shabbaton@Brotherhood

Friday–Saturday, March 20–21

Friday, March 20, an evening with

Julie Salamon, author of

An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer

After services and a delicious (2nd Avenue Deli) dinner, we will be joined by author Julie Salamon who will speak and answer questions about An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer—a riveting examination of what could be called the first war on terrorism.

For complete details and to RSVP for the dinner, please see the enclosed flyer.

Adar / Nisan 5780  March 2020  Brotherhood Synagogue
B’ni Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

David Neuman and Erika Salzman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Liza Neuman. Liza, a student at Simon Baruch Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her sisters, Mae and Beatrice.

Loren and Moran Brown on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elle Brown. Elle, a student at Windward School, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, Jemma.

Charles and Lainie Asch on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Gillian Asch. Gillian, a student at Simon Baruch Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her older sister, Lexi.

Corey Eber and Melissa Rutkin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Arielle Eber. Arielle, a student at NEST+m, will celebrate her simcha with her siblings, Jeremy and Alexis.

Steven Harris on the Bar Mitzvah of his son, Benjamin Harris. Ben is a student at Leman Manhattan.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Rebecca and Morgan Alcay on the birth of their daughter, Lily Leah Alcay.

Joette and Mitch Mindlin on the birth of their grandson, Haiden Ari Bernstein, son of Marielle and Matthew Bernstein; and to aunt and uncle, Cara and Gregory Weiss, and their children, Ella and Theo.

Amy and Shane Rahmani on the birth of their son, Miles River Brent Rahmani; and to older sister, Rowan.

Barbara and Stanley Feingold on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Brooke Feingold, born to parents, Halli and Andrew Feingold.

Maya Memling and Alan Friedman on the birth of their grandson, Asher Penn Friedman, born to parents, Allie Schmidt and Charlie Friedman.

Tina and Stephen Lichter on the birth of their granddaughter, Vivienne Noa Lichter, born to Blair and Brian Lichter.

Hannah Cohen on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Ann Robertshaw.

Condolences to:

Larry Seigelstein on the passing of his father, Leonard Seigelstein.

Richard Goldberg on the passing of his mother, Charlotte Goldberg.

Florie Huppert on the passing of her mother, Carol Sommers.

Susan Barr on the passing of her husband, and our member, Michael Barr.

The family of our member, Robert Iskowitz on his passing.

The Irving J. Block Legacy Society

Have you ever considered making a planned gift to The Brotherhood Synagogue? While we depend upon our Annual Fund as the “bread and butter” that keeps the Synagogue running from year to year, and we have established an endowed Rothman Educational Fund specifically to benefit the Hebrew School, planned gifts help ensure the Synagogue’s overall long-term financial health for generations to come.

Two years ago, we initiated the Synagogue’s Planned Giving Program—The Irving J. Block Legacy Society—and a number of Synagogue members chose to become Charter Members of the Society at that time. They came forth indicating that they have named Brotherhood in their will or as a beneficiary of their Life Insurance Policies, IRA’s, checking or brokerage accounts. Planned giving donors may choose to leave a bequest for the Synagogue’s general charitable purposes or you may designate a fund that has special meaning for you—be it The Rothman Fund, Tikvah, Interfaith Outreach, The Chessed Fund or whatever program is most meaningful for you. Often, a planned gift offers the donor the opportunity to make a substantial gift that they might not be able to give in their lifetime.

Most of all, including the Brotherhood in your estate plans establishes your legacy as a visionary donor and a member of a group of like-minded individuals who are helping the Synagogue plan for our long-term stability. And we plan to honor the members of The Irving J. Block Legacy Society in the Spring at an intimate wine and cheese reception. Stay tuned for further details!

The procedure for including the Brotherhood in your estate plans is relatively simple, though we strongly suggest that an attorney be involved in the preparation of your will. If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving to the Brotherhood Synagogue, please feel free to contact me directly at 212-674-5750 or at mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org. I look forward to hearing from you and to greeting you at our upcoming reception, with details to follow.

In the meantime, we wish all a chag Purim sameach and a happy Spring!

—Marilyn Strozak, Director of Development

Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, March 19, 7 pm

Marilyn Williams will lead a discussion of A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell, the never-before-told story of Virginia Hall, the American spy who changed the course of World War II.

Upcoming Book Club:

April 16: Judith Oringer will lead a discussion of Flight Portfolio by Julie Oringer

If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Margie Katz at margie.katz@me.com. All are welcome!

Hadassah

Please note: There will be no March meeting. Chag Purim Sameach! See you in April!

President’s Post

by Tracie Basch

February was a busy month at Brotherhood. But then again, isn’t every month busy? In this month alone, we hosted guests in our Homeless Shelter, held two sessions about Bar/Bat Mitzvah for our sixth graders, had a Shabbaton Program with the head of the HIAS, hosted a dinner for asylees, held a summer camp fair, hosted a few Family Shabbats, and celebrated the birth of Hazel Yager—all this in addition to the religious services we have and the numerous programs and classes that we run. Next month, isn’t much different—with a slew of programs and classes (check the calendar for more information).

The purpose of a synagogue, at least in my opinion, is not just for religion and education—it’s for building Community. It’s a place where we turn to celebrate life’s joyous occasions as well life’s more somber and devastating ones. Through it all, we turn to community. We turn to Brotherhood. You have heard it a thousand times, if not more—the only way we can keep offering our programs, and being there, is due to your generosity. As I mentioned above—we offer A LOT of programs. Think of a cause that is important to you—homelessness, education, feeding the hungry, anti-semitism, interfaith—and odds are that we have a program for it (and if we don’t, let’s talk about starting something) and donate to Brotherhood so that we can continue to be there—not just for our current Community, but for anyone who wants to join our Community.

Next month, you won’t be hearing from me as I am dedicating my column to our seventh graders and their mitzvah project.

Stay warm,

Tracie
Project Ezra: Serving the Jewish Elderly on the Lower East Side - Collecting March 1 - 26

Brotherhood’s Social Action Committee will be collecting donations of Passover foods from March 1 to 26 to be distributed to the frail elderly on the Lower East Side by Project Ezra. Please bring your donations to the lobby collection box.

During the Month of April: Pill Bottle Recycling Drive

We will be collecting clean, UNLABELED, pill bottles, with or without the caps to ship to developing countries. Start saving your empty pill bottles now and bring them to the collection box during the month of April!

Social Action

In lieu of food donations, we are also happy to accept checks made payable to “Project Ezra.” If you have access to a car and would like to help us pass out food to needy elders, the details are below. It’s a great opportunity for family chessed!

Sunday, April 5 at 11:00 am
387 Grand Street, Ground Floor
It should take a minimum of 1 hour, or you can stay until we are done!
Reserve your spot with Carina Sacks of Project Ezra (carina@projectezra.org)

YAHZEITS

*Garden of Remembrance  *Book of Remembrance

March 7-13

March 14-20

March 28-April 3

The Brotherhood Synagogue

28 Gramercy Park South
New York, N.Y. 10003
Phone: (212) 674-5750
Fax: (212) 503-6707
www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org
RABBI DANIEL ALDER
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER
RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK: D.D. : Founding Rabbi
HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus
TRACIE BASCH: President
PHILLIP ROTHMAN: Executive and Education Director
Congregation founded in 1954
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859
It is said that one who enters the Hebrew month of Adar (evening of February 25— evening of March 25) increases in joy! Be happy it’s Adar! Purim, which is celebrated on the 14th day the Hebrew month of Adar, is a time of joy and celebration!!

Our Hebrew School children are learning that Purim has four main Mitzvot:

1. The Reading of the Megillah (Mikra Megillah)
2. The Festive Purim Meal (Seudat Purim)
3. Sending Gifts (Mishloach Manot)
4. Gifts to the poor (Matanot l’Evyonim)

In anticipation of fulfilling the mitzvah of reading Megillat Esther (the Scroll of Esther) on Purim, our children are preparing a Purim spiel to complement the reading of Megillat Esther at our Purim Family Service on Monday evening March 9 at 6:30 pm. An abbreviated Mikra Megillah will be chanted by Rebecca Kryspin. This year’s original spiel is The Gantze Megillah!—with lyrics by Kitah Vav (6th Grade) students and music by Jewish-American song writers. This spiel is being performed by our Kitah Dalet (4th Grade) and Kitah Hey (5th Grade) students, under the direction and inspiration of our music teacher Daniel Meron.

2. The Festive Purim Meal (Seudat Purim)
The mitzvah of the Festive Purim Meal (Seudat Purim), filled with food and drink, is traditionally done on Purim day, this year Tuesday March 10!

3. Sending Gifts (Mishloach Manot)
The mitzvah of Sending Gifts (Mishloach Manot) is being multiplied by our Kitah Zayin (7th Grade) students! They are preparing Mishloach Manot baskets and will be selling them at our Purim Carnival on Sunday March 8th, to raise funds for their Mitzvah Project, which is supporting the Lustgarten Foundation, whose mission is to cure pancreatic cancer through research. Stay tuned for additional Kitah Zayin (7th Grade) fundraisers for the benefit of the Lustgarten Foundation! (Also, there is still time to volunteer to create and/or run a booth at our Purim Carnival on Sunday March 8 (10:30 am to 1:00 pm). Some examples of Purim Carnival booths: Haman Toss; Cupcake Decorating; Purim Jeopardy; Reading Booths: Mask Making; and games of skill and games of chance! Please consider developing a Purim Carnival Booth! We look forward to your participation in this wonderful Purim celebration!)

4. Gifts to the poor (Matanot l’Evyonim)
Hebrew School children and their families will participate in the mitzvah of gifts to the poor (Matanot l’Evyonim) when they join in at our Family Purim Service on Monday evening March 9 at 6:30 pm. There will be a basket to collect funds to provide gifts to the poor—enabling us all to fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot l’Evyonim.

PURIM COSTUME PARADE Tuesday March 10 at 4:15 pm
Additionally, this year, we will be holding our inaugural Purim Costume Parade during Hebrew School on Tuesday March 10 at 4:15 pm in the Community Room. There will be prizes in every category! Please join us!!!

In sum, one of the most important messages that Megillat Esther teaches us how important it is for Jews to support one another and that whatever our differences, we all belong to klal Yisrael. We are one people—and we need to be able to count on one another—especially in perilous times! We look forward to celebrating our time of joy together! We look forward to celebrating our time of joy together! Happy Purim! Purim Sameach!

—Barbara Simon, Hebrew School Principal

Sunday, March 8, 11 am – 1 pm
Purim Carnival

Everyone’s a winner!
A mini-Megillah reading in the Sanctuary begins at 11 am and will be followed by Brotherhood’s Purim Carnival in the Community Room with games, food & prizes! Come one, come all, come in costume.

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday, May 13
Thursday, May 14
@ 7:00 pm
The Brotherhood Hebrew School Adaptation

March 2020
Brotherhood Synagogue  Adar / Nisan 5780  March 2020

Hebrew School News

משנכנס אשר מרבינ שבשמחה
“Mishenichnas Adar Marbin B’Simcha”

6th & 7th Grade Weekly Youth Group!!
Eat dinner with your friends — and make new friends, too! Plan activities, including field trips to museums, exhibitions, plays, and concerts! Participate in Social Action programs…and so much more! And, have fun and learn about Judaism and being Jewish, of course!
The 7th Grade Group meets on Tuesdays from 6:00- 7:00 pm.
The 6th Grade Group meets on Wednesdays, from 6:00-7:00 pm.
No need to enroll. Just come when you can. We look forward to seeing you! (The Youth Group does not meet when Hebrew School is on vacation). If you have any questions about the Teen Groups, please email Youthgroup@BrotherhoodSynagogue.org.

Teen Groups

Downtown BBYO at Brotherhood for teens grades 8-12!

Chapter Meeting: March 5, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
BBYO, the world’s leading pluralistic youth movement for Jewish teens in grades 8-12, has a co-ed chapter that meets every other Thursday at Brotherhood and offers a full array of activities — social, community service, and leadership development — all with Jewish teens in charge! BBYO fosters leadership and friendship and is an international movement of more than 80,000 teens. Just come to any of our meetings and see what it’s all about! Brotherhood Synagogue will cover the cost of 50% of membership! Contact Emmy Goodman with any questions (egoodman@bbyo.org).

6th & 7th Grade Weekly Youth Group!!
Eat dinner with your friends — and make new friends, too! Plan activities, including field trips to museums, exhibitions, plays, and concerts! Participate in Social Action programs…and so much more! And, have fun and learn about Judaism and being Jewish, of course!
The 7th Grade Group meets on Tuesdays from 6:00- 7:00 pm.
The 6th Grade Group meets on Wednesdays, from 6:00-7:00 pm.
No need to enroll. Just come when you can. We look forward to seeing you! (The Youth Group does not meet when Hebrew School is on vacation). If you have any questions about the Teen Groups, please email Youthgroup@BrotherhoodSynagogue.org.
Nursery School Thoughts
by Jason Crelinsten

My kids attended a Catholic baptism a couple of weeks ago. As we walked into the church in New Jersey, it dawned on me that this was the first explicit non-Jewish religious ritual my sons had ever seen. We walked up the stone steps, and I was suddenly madly trying to figure out the right approach to interfaith understanding with a Brotherhood Nursery alum and a Blue Roomer. How does one explain the existence of different religions to children?

The church was newly renovated, with huge stained glass windows that told stories even a child could understand. And while my attention was mostly focused on making sure my kids were polite and using inside voices, my eyes worked their way up the wall to the giant three-dimensional crucifix (with Jesus). Now how do I explain that one?

I was overly solicitous with Lucas, the 7-year-old, randomly pointing to things and providing explanations in the complete absence of questions from him. Maybe I was trying to manage the fragile parts of my Jewish identity by conducting an impromptu Religious Studies class. My Blue Roomer Max mostly colored, since our indispensable bag of please-don’t-break-that activities had quietly accompanied us into the pew.

There were only about 20 people there, and my sons were the only children other than the baby in question. The priest elected to focus his service on children and the role of baptism in the Catholic faith. He seemed genuinely excited when he misheard my sons’ names as Luke and Matthew. While I was listening to him, I was intently focused on whether he’d presume my kids were Catholic (he didn’t), and what they might say if he did.

In the end, the service unfolded in its own interfaith way, as half of the family was Greek Orthodox. The priest explained the nuances of difference and commonality between the two branches of Christianity, and my son was invited up to help dry the baby’s hair. It was beautiful, and eventually and my son was invited up to help dry the baby’s hair. It was beautiful, and eventually.

Brotherhood Adult Ed Classes Beginning in March

Enlivening your Passover Seder with Rabbi Daniel Alder
4 Tuesdays beginning March 3 | 7:30 – 8:30 pm 
By encouraging fresh perspectives and lively dialogue, we hope to make the ritual less rote and help you feel as if you personally had gone out of Egypt. No charge.

Interfaith Bible Study with Rabbi Daniel Alder & Rev. Jacob Smith of Calvary St. George’s
4 Wednesdays beginning March 4 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm 
Join in a study of the Passover and Easter holidays from their origins in the Bible to their practice today. Classes meet alternately at Brotherhood Synagogue and Calvary Church. No charge.

Please join us on the following Friday evenings to welcome Shabbat together with stories and song!

March 13
5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Saskia Lane 
5:30 pm - Children ages 3-6 years old with Katie Shea 
6:30 pm - Grades 2-7 with Phil Rothman
March 27
5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Daphna Mor or Saskia Lane 
5:30 pm - Children ages 3-6 years old with Katie Shea

Cantor’s Notes
by Cantor Isaac Yager

Thank you all for attending my daughter’s naming this past month. My daughter, Hazel Henia Yager, was given the Hebrew name Hadassah Mariam on February 15. She is named for my grandmother, Henia (Hadassah) and our dear family friend, Marika (Mariam), who passed away this past summer. My wife, Meredeth, spoke of Marika at the naming ceremony and I spoke of my grandmother: I have so many sweet memories of my grandmother Henia (my nanny) for whom Hazel Henia, Hadassah, is named. My grandmother never stopped demonstrating her love and always gave me an unrestricted license to do whatever I pleased from a young age, including but not limited to eating coffee ice cream out of the container in bed and playing with every fragile chochka in her otherwise off-limits china cabinet. My grandmother spoke seven languages, worked for the United Nations, and demonstrated a strength of survival few of us are ever forced to test. Though it never felt as though my grandmother’s survival of the holocaust defined her, it was still very much a part of who she was. Her passion for Zionism and Judaism were equally strong, as was her culinary skills. Her chicken soup recipe still thrives as does her noodle pudding (my personal favorite). My grandmother was a formative presence when I was young. She would come to my school during Hanukkah and make potato latkes and in later years would share her story of survival with my class. I take great comfort in knowing that one day I will share this history with Hazel, her namesake, ensuring the safe passage and inheritance of my grandmother’s story. Plus, my nanny would love the special red ribbon Hazel’s great Aunt Freda attached to her dress in order to keep the evil spirit away, poi poi poi.
The Dead Sea and its surroundings are rich in history, symbols, and complexity. The Dead Sea is a unique place that has been at the cradle of the Jewish people. Join Hedy Ben Eliahu for a fascinating talk about the Dead Sea and its importance.

**Project Ezra Begins**
- **9 am**: Tikvah
- **4 pm**: Hebrew School
- **5 pm**: Torah Study
- **7 pm**: Jewish Current Events
- **8 pm**: Prayerbook Hebrew

**Erev Purim**
- **9 am**: Tikvah
- **10 am**: Purim Services
- **11 am**: Purim Megillah Reading
- **10:45 am**: Toddler Class
- **10:45 pm**: (Ages 3 to 6)
- **5:40 pm**: (Grades 2-7)
- **6:30 pm**: Services

**Project Ezra Ends**
- **9:30 am**: Toddler Class
- **10 am**: Pre-Toddler Class
- **11 am**: Baby Class
- **Noon**: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood)
- **4 pm**: Hebrew School
- **5:40 pm**: Minyan
- **6 pm**: Harmony-4H
- **7:30 pm**: Enlivening Your Passover Seder

**What Have You Lost?**
Join Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LCSW, Rabbinic Director of the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, in exploring how to find Jewish paths out of depression and disappointment.

**SUNDAY**
- **9 am**: Tikvah
- **10 am**: Torah Study
- **11 am**: Children’s Purim Carnival
- **1 pm**: Pre-Toddler Class
- **2 pm**: Toddler Class
- **3 pm**: Purim Puppet Show

**Family Shabbat**
- **5:30 pm**: (up to age 3)
- **5:30 pm**: (Ages 3 to 6)
- **6:30 pm**: Services

**9 am**: Tikvah
- **10 am**: Torah Study
- **11 am**: Baby Class
- **12 pm**: Interfaith Bible Study (at Brotherhood)
- **1 pm**: Hebrew School
- **2 pm**: Friday Night Services
- **3 pm**: Sabbath Service

**Tetzaveh**
- **9:30 am**: Services
- **10 am**: Torah Talk
- **11 am**: Baby Class
- **12 pm**: Interfaith Bible Study (at Cavalry)
- **1 pm**: Hebrew School
- **2 pm**: Friday Night Services
- **3 pm**: Sabbath Service

**Ki Tissa**
- **9:30 am**: Services
- **10:30 am**: Torah Talk
- **11 am**: Baby Class
- **12 pm**: Interfaith Bible Study (at Cavalry)
- **1 pm**: Hebrew School
- **2 pm**: Friday Night Services
- **3 pm**: Sabbath Service

**Adar / Nisan 5780**
**March 2020**

**Saturday Mornings**
- **9:45 am**: Junior Congregation
- **10:30 am**: Alef-Bet Club

**SAVE THE DATE - MAY 3, 12:00 PM**
**IS THE DEAD SEA Dying?**
Join Hedy Ben Eliahu for a fascinating talk about one of Israel’s most iconic and mysterious natural symbols—the Dead Sea. Rich in history, the Dead Sea and surrounding area are at the cradle of the Jewish people. Is it a unique natural phenomenon worth preserving or is it a treasure trove of natural resources just waiting to be harvested to help push the Israeli economy forward in the future? Explore the history, mysteries, richness, and all the complexities of the Dead Sea and the impact the environment has had on its size and future viability.

*Sponsored by the Israel Committee*