



Brotherhood Synagogue ה"ב

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Shtisel

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

As a relatively late adopter of technology and popular culture, I've just this past month completed watching the two seasons of *Shtisel* streaming on Netflix. The hit Israeli TV series follows the day-to-day dramas of a Haredi—that is, Ultra-Orthodox—family in Jerusalem. It is excellent TV: superbly written, well-acted, with compelling characters and rich story lines. There's also, no doubt, a certain voyeuristic appeal: an opportunity to gaze into a mysterious and cloistered world.

Haredim are the most visibly identifiable yet least understood segment of world Jewry. The word "haredi" means "one who trembles," as in fervent prayer and is the preferred term among those who strictly adhere to Jewish law, shun secular society and in many cases don't recognize the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

This definition applies primarily to Israeli haredim, who are resented by many of their countrymen because the male population generally doesn't serve in the army, and values full-time Torah study over gainful employment. Hasidim are a segment of haredim who have a spiritual leader while the "yeshivish" haredim, like the *Shtisel* family, tend to be more worldly and emphasize scholarship over mysticism.

It's undeniable that haredi Jews in Israel and the majority of American Jews live in different worlds and have a strain of animosity toward each other, resentful of the other's lifestyle as an embarrassment. So why the remarkable popularity of the show here, and such deep empathy for Reb Shulem *Shtisel*, the widowed teacher, and his grown children, especially Kiva, the gentle would-be artist in search of love?

The show deals with issues we all deal with in life, and in doing so, *Shtisel* opens a window, closes a gap and brings us all closer to each other. The show avoids the kind of

social, political and religious conflicts that are quite real and play a significant factor in Israel's national elections. Its charm is in portraying haredi life in a way that softens the community in the eyes of its fellow citizens.

Would the builders of New York's Temple Emanu-El ever have imagined that their congregation's sanctuary would one day be packed to the balconies with thousands of devout followers of a black-hatted Orthodox rabbi and his family? That was the scene last spring when the citadel of high Reform Judaism on the Upper East Side was overtaken by *Shtisel*-mania.

Fans of the series filled the synagogue to see the show's three stars discuss their surprise hit. Demand was so intense that the organizers added a second night when the first quickly sold out. Some 4,600 people attended over the two nights. The actors recounted their more modest initial expectations for the show.

Yet this quiet show about private family dramas in Jerusalem's insular haredi community made a big splash. In Israel, its popularity bridged the secular-religious divide, and TV-less haredi Jews found ways to watch avidly and surreptitiously.

Now there are plans for a third season and also for an American version set in Brooklyn. We non-haredi Jews can appreciate that haredim are connected to us, that they are our *mishpocha* (family). Yet our connection to the haredi world is attenuated by a profound religious chasm. *Shtisel* allows us to bridge that divide from the comfort of our couches.

Our haredi co-religionists are under increasingly anti-Semitic attack in nearby Brooklyn. The more we know and understand each other, the better we will be prepared to stand up for them and see our connection to them. 

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 6:30 PM
Following services: Shabbaton dinner and speaker, Mark Hetfield of HIAS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Buscemi

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 9:30 AM
Baby Naming of Hazel Yager

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Jared Glatzer

Please save the date for the Brotherhood Synagogue Nursery School Benefit. A fun evening of drinking, dining, dancing and schmoozing.

Thursday May 7.
Mark your calendars!



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 January tour of the Jewish Museum's special exhibit was sensational, thank you Sheila Zaslower for arranging such an interesting and informative event. After the tour, our big happy group adjourned for dinner and enjoyed spending time together discussing the events of the day.

On Tuesday, February 25, we're not going anywhere, we're staying home! We're meeting in the 2nd floor reception room of Brotherhood Synagogue for dinner and a movie. Dinner will start at 6pm, and then we will watch *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*, the award winning 1990 film starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. This should be particularly interesting to our book club members who read *Mrs. Bridge* recently. Details regarding a delicious dinner with popcorn and treats for the movie will follow to *Life Goes On* members only. Please notify Brenda Pace (Bapace172@gmail.com) and Paulette Lerner (plerne@aol.com) if you're planning to join us.

Our January book club discussion of *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* proved to be more than just a discussion—an analysis of our beliefs regarding the sanctity of life and the definition of sanity—yes, we do get into such important topics! Our next book club will be on Wednesday, February 26 at 7pm. We're reading *The Body In Question* by Jill Ciment, which is described by the *New York Times* as “smart and funny and completely surprising...”. 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 winter-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 Iagnesmarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

Shabbat Club | February 1, 1:00 pm

On February 1, Cantor Isaac Yager will lead us in an exploration of music in Jewish liturgy as we prepare for Shabbat Shirah (The Sabbath of Song), which occurs on February 8. We will discuss such topics as why Conservative and Orthodox Jews do not allow musical instruments to be played in the synagogue on Shabbat and holidays although they were used in the ancient Temple. He will teach some simple call and response songs from the day's Parasha.

“Shabbat Shirah is the Shabbat when we read Parshat Beshalach (Exodus 13:17-17:16), which is the Torah portion that includes the Song at the Sea. Tradition teaches that there are only ten true Songs (Shirot, the plural of Shirah) in the history of the world. These true Songs are

not mere melodies; they are expressions of the harmony of creation and mark monumental transitions in history. Another of these Songs appears in the *haftarah* portion for the week (Judges 4:4-5:31): the Song of Deborah. The Song of Songs is, of course, one of the Ten Songs. Interestingly, the Tenth Song has not yet been sung: it is the Song of the coming of the *Mashiach*, which will be sung at the End of Days (see Isaiah 26:1).”

—from the *Judaism 101* website

The meeting, which is open to all, will be held at 1 pm in the second floor reception room, opposite the sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Deborah Newman or the office.

Brotherhood Film Series

AMERICAN MUSLIM

(2019, 82 minutes)

Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm

In this documentary, filmmaker Adam Zucker chronicles five Muslim Americans, each one an immigrant and now a naturalized citizen, who are forced to contend with a changing world in the Age of Trump.

Firmly committed to the U.S., they find their presence here questioned in ways they never imagined, and each fights back against the Muslim ban while continuing to explore a Muslim identity. Across the year and a half period from the President's inauguration to the Supreme Court's decision on the ban, Shamsi, Kobir, Debbie, Aber and Mohamed navigate the constantly evolving reality of being an American Muslim.

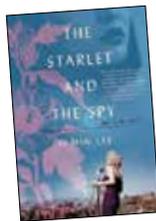
Following the screening we will be joined by Adam Zucker for a Q & A.



Adam Zucker's previous films are *The Return* (2014), about young Jews in Poland today and *Greensboro: Closer to the Truth* (2007), about the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the U.S. He directed episodes of the Emmy-award winning series *Free to Dance* (PBS) and edited dozens of documentaries, including *American Masters* and *American Experience*.



Brotherhood Book Club | February 20, 7:00 pm



Gail Pierris will lead a discussion of *The Starlet and the Spy* by Ji-min Lee. A dazzling work of historical fiction, based on true events, about two women who seem the most unlikely to ever meet: Alice, a Korean war survivor

and translator for the American forces in Seoul, and Marilyn Monroe, who is visiting Korea on a four-day USO tour.

Save the dates for upcoming book club meetings:

March 19: Marilyn Williams will lead a discussion of *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

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

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

SHABBATON@ BROTHERHOOD

Friday–Saturday, February 7-8

An evening with

Mark Hetfield, HIAS President and CEO *Welcoming the Stranger: A Jewish Response to the Refugee Crisis*

Join us for Friday night services on February 7 and a delicious congregational dinner, which will be followed by a talk with Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS. Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 70 million—more than any time in history. Because of our experiences and our values, the Jewish people have a unique connection to these most vulnerable people. Join us to learn more about Jewish displacement in history and the current global refugee crisis, and explore how Jewish values call on us to respond.



HIAS
Welcome the stranger
Protect the refugee.

Mark Hetfield is President and CEO of HIAS, which, founded in 1881 as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is the world's oldest organization dedicated to refugees.

Friday, February 7

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

7:30 pm: Congregational Dinner for members and friends

8:30–9:15 pm: Speaker - Mark Hetfield

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

Saturday, February 8

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

9:30 am: Torah Talk with Phil Rothman: "Go Forward."

Noon: Kiddush Lunch in the Community Room

1:30–2:30 pm: Spiritual Yoga with Rebecca Kryspin. All levels welcome.

Dinner tickets are \$30 for each adult; \$16 for children under 13. To reserve seats, please send this order form and a check payable to Brotherhood Synagogue to the Synagogue office **by February 5**. We encourage you to sign up early, as congregational dinners tend to sell out! Please, no phone reservations.

You may also visit the Brotherhood website to sign up and pay for the dinner online at www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org.



Save the Date! SHABBATON at BROTHERHOOD Friday March 20

Following services and a delicious (2nd Avenue Deli!) dinner, we will be joined by author, Julie Salamon, who will speak and answer questions about her book, *An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer*.

KNOWLEDGE FOR COLLEGE



Upcoming K4C Event • March 15, 2020

"On The Frontlines of Progressive Anti-Semitism"

George Washington University Sophomore Blake Flayton unpacks his thought-provoking OpEd from the *New York Times*:

On the Front Lines of Progressive Anti-Semitism

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/14/opinion/college-israel-anti-semitism.html>)

Brotherhood Adult Ed Classes Beginning in February & March!

Please register online or contact the office to register.

Beginning in February

Winter Intensive Learning Class:

Biblical Characters Outside the Bible

with **Alex P. Jassen**, Chair of the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and Ethel and Irwin Edelman Associate Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University
8 Wednesdays beginning February 5, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

We'll explore the portrait of biblical characters in the literature of Second Temple Judaism: the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the writings of Philo and Josephus. These later texts craft expanded portraits of biblical characters for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they create backstories or parallel stories in order to respond to glaring challenges or inconsistencies in the Bible. Other times, these texts provide a richer portrait of an otherwise underdeveloped biblical character. At times, the later texts seek to make the biblical characters and their stories more entertaining and relevant for readers. Biblical characters who will be discussed include: Adam and Eve, Enoch, Noah, Joseph and Aseneth, Miriam, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. We'll also explore how the Bible—as we know it today—came to be and why many of the texts we are reading ultimately were excluded from the canon and how we know about them today.

Cost: \$200. Please email Trudi Bartow if you have any questions about this class: trudirae@gmail.com

Beginning in March

Enlivening your Passover Seder with Rabbi Daniel Alder

4 Tuesdays beginning March 3
7:30 – 8:30 pm

We'll discuss how to better engage the seder participants through tales, texts, and activities. 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. There is no charge for this class.



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. We will examine the relevant texts from both Jewish and Christian perspectives. Classes meet alternately at Brotherhood Synagogue and Calvary Church (61 Gramercy Park North). The first meeting will be at Brotherhood. There is no charge for this class.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

George and Beverly Buscemi on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zachary Buscemi. Zachary, a student at 75 Morton, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, Alex.

Howard and Rachel Glatzer on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jared Glatzer. Jared, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, Evan.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Michelle and Larry^{z"l} Abraham on the birth of their daughter, Petra Laurence Margot Abraham.

Condolences to:

Faye and Richard Silberberg on the passing of their son, Eric Silberberg.

Michele Teichner on the passing of her brother, Billy Teichner.

Caryn Pace on the passing of her father, Ronald Kaplansky.

Dov Barnett on the passing of his mother, Donna Barnett.

Janna Stern on the passing of her father, Barry Fishman.

Karen Putterman on the passing of her father, Sheldon Putterman.

Larry Van Blerkom on the passing of his father, Arthur Van Blerkom.

Dianne Rose and Cindy Rose on the passing of their son and brother, Paul Rose.

The family of our member Rita Swedlow on her passing.

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

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 1:00 pm

Join us at our next meeting.

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

JASA (the Jewish Association Serving the Aging) provides opportunities for those aged 55 and older to "Discover Your Next Act," including through learning about interesting public policy issues, meeting peers, and becoming activists so that seniors can have a positive impact in their communities. For more information, call 212-273-5260 or email ifsa@jasa.org.

*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.

President's Post

by Tracie Basch

On a beautiful, sunny but chilly, Sunday in January, over 25,000 Jews, including a large contingent from Brotherhood, came together to march and rally against something ugly—anti-Semitism. I know that I have spoken and written about this a lot in recent months, but the situation is NOT getting any better, and in fact, it is getting worse—and the statistics prove it—New York City saw a 20% increase in hate crimes with most of those being against Jews.

Back to the march.

As I mentioned, it was a beautiful day. And when my family arrived at Foley Square in Lower Manhattan, it was amazing to see so many people gathered in support. Like any typical gathering of Jews, it felt a bit like a reunion. People running into people they knew, but didn't know would be at the rally; Sam was wearing his camp sweatshirt and was stopped several times by people saying "I went

to Surprise Lake! So glad to hear that it is still around!"

Then we started to march. It was wonderful to see Jews who practice the religion differently come together in solidarity to march against hate and fear. Several times, the crowd burst into song—David Melech Yisrael, Am Yisroel Chai, and several others from my youth. It was a very warm feeling.

I am under no misconception that this one rally will change things—I know it won't. But, any opportunity we have to come together as a community and take a stand against something that directly impacts each one of us, is something positive. Together, we will be able to support each other and educate others and put an end to hate—not just against Jews, but against all people.

Shalom,

Tracie



BCRIC UPDATE

(Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis)



The Brotherhood Committee

on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis

Brotherhood members have continued to participate in dinners with asylees and asylum-seekers at Seafarers International House, and we are exploring ways to include a broader range of asylees and asylum-seekers. We are also meeting our goal of strengthening personal connections to asylees and asylum-seekers by spending time together for meals and entertainment, and by donating needed items such as laptop computers. If you are interested in attending dinners or making personal connections to asylees and asylum seekers, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

Brotherhood members continue to train for and participate in volunteer programs to support immigrants and asylum-seekers with their legal struggles. If you are interested in joining other volunteers in accompanying people to legal proceedings, please contact Ellie Wertheim at elliewertheim@yahoo.com. If you are interested in helping prepare legal documents (as a lawyer or layperson), please contact Bob Wolf at rwolf@tarterkrinsky.com.

The BCRIC Committee has also spearheaded Brotherhood participation in proj-

ects sponsored by other synagogues and faith-based organizations. As part of HIAS's Metro Card Drive, we collected Metro Cards that will enable asylees and asylum-seekers to travel to job interviews and jobs, court hearings, and other appointments. We also joined other synagogues in donating \$500 toward the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees' shipment of medical equipment and supplies and backpacks to Syria.

Brotherhood Synagogue is also sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of events related to immigrants and refugees. On January 28, we co-sponsored the film *Sallah Shabati* as part of the 14th Street Y's Israeli Film Series on Immigration Stories. Barbara Stern and Debra Aaron joined a panel discussion of the film. On February 12, Brotherhood will be showing the film *American Muslim*, and on February 7 HIAS President and CEO Mark Hetfield will speak about "Welcoming the Stranger: A Jewish Response to the Refugee Crisis" at a congregational dinner following services.

— In partnership,
Barbara Stern and Ellie Wertheim



Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

February 1-7

*Helen Belle Aaronson, ^Dr. Bernat Abraham, Blume Alter, Robert Arias, Beatrice Babitz, Clara S. Benjamin, Joel Bernstein, ^Pauline Birnbach, ^Alice Blumenthal, *Lillian Blye, *Temma H. Bohrer, Claire Klaitz Cohen, Bertha Cooperman, Elliot Domow, Sarah Eisenberg, Carole Epstein, David Fener, ^Soi Fink, ^Cyril Freed, ^Charles Samuel Ginsburg, Sophie Gipsman, Paul Glimcher, ^Hattie Gold, Harold H. Goldberg, Marty Goldstone, Anna Gottlieb, Charlotte Grabisch, ^*Sabina Graetzer, ^Henrietta P. Green, *Fred Greenberg, ^Morris Greene, Kurt Grubler, Norman Halper, ^Yetta Halpern, Esther Ir, ^Philip Kimmel, Clarice Lefkowitz, *Beatrice Levine, ^Barney Levine, Elayne Lieberman, *Sidney Liebowitz, Hyman Lipkis, Mollie Meadow, ^Jeanne C. Moskowitz, ^Solomon Novom, *Renee Pollack, Bessie Potell, ^Lee Avram Rappaport, ^Michael Remba, ^George Schwartz, Ruth Share, *David Milton Solomon, ^Fritz A. Sontag, Daniel Stacher, ^Lena Steinberg, Alice Teviovitz, *Augusta Toby, Seymour Weinstein, ^Solomon Yaker, Rachel Leah Zacks

February 8-14

Sasson Abada, ^Ruth Appelbaum, *Lilian Bachrach, Nathan Barry, Harriet Bernstein, Lorraine Cohen, Harold Dessler, Emanuel Evans, Robert Feuer, Judith Friedjung, Maitin Gelber, ^Sylvia Glassman, Ethel Gostin, ^Helen Green, Solomon Greenberg, ^Felicia Greene, ^*Daniel Franklin Greenhouse, *Rose Gross, ^*Louis Gross, Felicia Grubler, ^Irving Handler, *Jane Deborah Hansen, Beatrice Harper, Mimi Herbst, Fritz Herz, ^Benjamin Janow, ^Sandra Jelin Plouffe, *Moshe Josephson, *Rose Katz, Ephriam Komar, ^Joan Koven, Phyllis Kurland, *Betty Lampert, ^Flora Landsman, Thelma Levine, Rose Levine, *Morris Levine, ^Anna Levine, Martin Licht, Alice Lichter, Sarah Liebowitz, *Florence Liebowitz, ^Melvin Lipp, Frieda Belkowitz Maloff, Lawrence Maloff, ^Ruth Weichman Mantel, Max Miller, David Miller, Edzia Esther Oblegorski, Isidore Olsfanger, Belle Plutzer, Dov Rahav, Irene Raphael, ^Carole Reiff, ^Rose Schindel Rich, Aaron Rosenbloom, ^Bertha Russ, ^Philip Satonoff, Selma Schecter, Jack Schor, ^Dinah Simila Chaya Schumer, ^Ann Silberberg, Brenda Silver, ^Jack Silverman, ^Evelyn Singer, Tessie Sklar, Judge Sidney Squire, ^Rose Teitelbaum, ^Sylvia Tint, Helene Vassil, ^*Jonas Weintraub, ^Michael Weiss, David Weissman, ^Ida Robinove Weller, Murray Zenkel

February 15-21

Morris Adelsberg, Gustave Altman, *Celia Berkowitz, *Steven Mark Berkowitz, Mary Blum, Leon Blumenthal, *Herbert Blye, Sara Borochov, Benjamin Braff, Bertha Brenner, *Lillian Cantor, ^Eve Cassell, Stanley Chusid, ^Yetta Dienstag, Rosalind Donziger, *Aaron Fassler, Howard Feinstein, Charles Fell, *Rose M. Finneman, Eva Glimcher, Sid Grossman, Nelly Guggenheim, Klara Halpern, *Max Hamburger, ^Marl Hendel, ^Lillian Hoffman, ^David Janow, Bernard Jerski, Judith Kaleko, Hyman Kampel, Arthur Kantor, J. Lawrence Katz, ^Hannah Kirshbaum, Brenda Klotz, Ilene Korach, ^Mollie Kronenberg, ^Victor Kuhne, ^A. Harry Kupersmith, ^Marc Lashley, ^Harold Levine, ^Dr. Paul Pincus Lippman, ^Herbert Magram, Gail AnnLowe Maidman, ^David Manischewitz, Adolf Markovitz, Morton Maxwell, ^Sara Miller, *Louis Nudelman, Miriam Olken, *Tillie

Rosenbaum, *Benjamin Rosenberg, ^*Elizabeth Rossman, Mabel Sarner, Louis Schiffman, Sam Shapiro, Ben Sherman, ^Lillian Turtletaub, *William Werner, ^Blanche Wind, ^Margo Wolff

February 22-28

Ardelle Allenson, Altargacia Alvarez, Stan Berger, ^Natalie Brickman, Fredrick Bryan, Lillian Burack, Linda Chernick, Tillie Cohen, ^Harry L. Cohen, ^Selim Eliahu Cohen, Stanley Esratz, *Burton Farland, Myrtle Feinsilber, ^Sarah Lerner Feldman, Meyer Glazer, ^Sally F. Gold, ^Anne Goldsmith, ^Morris Goldstein, *Sadie Goldwasser, *Harry Gross, Dora Haber, Jenniel Harrison, Shirley Helfant, ^Selma Hochhauser, Donald Michael Iskowitz, ^Jack Janal, Bernard Kitover, Milton Klein, ^Fred Krupnik, *Michael Lasser, Cary Leeds, ^Judith Levenstein, ^Anna Jelosnik Levine, ^Rose Levine, ^Samuel Lubell, Herbert Mindlin, ^Rachel Novom, Ilse Nussbaum, ^Rose Perlstein, ^George W. Rabinoff, ^Lee Avram Rapaport, Theresa Rogoff, ^Sam Rothstein, ^Rebecca Rubinoff, ^Ina Safra, ^Frieda Schindel, ^Rose Wade Settle, Marilyn Shapiro, ^Albert Shear, Ruth Sherman, Sheila Siderow, ^Irving Silberstang, ^Florence Solomon, ^Emma Stahl, Esther Toback, ^Louis Warmbrand, *Rifke Weingast, ^Fannie Weisman, *Hyman Werner, *Pauline Werner, Esther Wolf, ^Morris Zelmanowicz

February 29-March 6

^Fannie Abraham, ^Charles Barron, Anna Baslow, ^*Chaim Berglas, Mel Berk, Lauretta Berkman, Elliott Berman, Claire Bernstein, Solomon Bersoff, Marjorie Bobker, *Mae Caplan, Rita Cohen, *Hannah Cohen, Jenia Distenfeld, ^Anna Eidelberg, Ernestine Feinland, Nora Fenton, ^Isidore Flame, ^David Fox, David Frommer, Eleanor Gimman, Morton Globus, Richard Globus, ^Mary J. Goldstein, ^Paul Goldstein, ^Henry Greenbaum, ^Ethel Haber, Mordechai Horton, Gloria Jaoel, ^Karen Jeffreys, Sydelle Karasyk, ^Betty Kimbel, ^George Lester, Anna Levins, *Abraham Lewinstein, Morris Lichter, Herman Lutwak, Anni Lutwak, ^Frances Mann, ^Hazzan David Mann, Gerard Marx, Pearl Memling, ^Joseph Meresman, Miriam Miller, *Katie Naftalis, *Hyman Nemsler, ^Harry Pollak, Minnie Pollick, Sadie Primack, Gerald Charles Randolph, ^M.E. Reckson, ^Claire G. Rich, ^Howard I. Rich, Murray Rockower, David Ross, ^Catharine Roth, Dorothy Rubin, *Irving Schaffel, Cynthia Scheffris, Dr. Louis Scheib, ^Jacob Schindel, Simon Schurberg, Rae Shulman, *David Siepser, Dorothy Silverman, ^Jean Silverman, *Louis H. Solomon, Jeanette Spira, David Sussman, Susan Tabor, ^Clara Tucker, ^Martin Warmbrand, Shirley Warren, Abraham Weinman, Louis Weprin, Florence Yarkow, ^Bessie Zacks, ^Paula Zweibach

Homeless Shelter Donations

Our homeless shelter runs through the end of March. We will be providing shelter and food for 8 men each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night. Donations of unused scarves, hats, gloves and underwear will be much appreciated. Please bring them to Leah in the Synagogue office.

Social Action News



During the month of February we are collecting new and gently used books *appropriate for kindergarten-high school age children* for Project Cicero (www.projectcicero.org), a non-profit organization which provides books to under-resourced NYC schools. Project Cicero's mission is to enable children to build a love for reading by ensuring that each classroom has a viable library.

Kindly bring your new or gently used hardcover or paperback books suitable for children and young adults to the collection box in the lobby. Picture books, early readers, reference books, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies are welcome. NO textbooks, library discards, or reference books more than five years old.

High school aged students may fulfill school community service requirements by volunteering to help with this project.

For more information, contact Abby Goldstein through the synagogue office.

Coming in March: Project Ezra Kosher for Passover Food Collection

We will again be collecting KOSHER FOR PASSOVER (only!) foods for Project Ezra from March 1-26 and the Passover package delivery to the elderly on the LES will be held on Sunday, April 5. More details to come in our March bulletin.

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

The Brotherhood Synagogue

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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²¹ 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

Hebrew School News: Tu B'Shevat Heegiyah! Tu B'Shevat is Arriving!!!

A week before Presidents' Day, on February 10, we celebrate the Birthday of the Trees (*Rosh Hashana L'Ilanot* – The New Year of the Trees), more commonly known as Tu B'Shevat ט"ו בשבט (15th Day of the Hebrew month of Shevat). Tu B'Shevat, although not mentioned in the Torah, is first mentioned in the *Mishnah*, the code of Jewish law that dates back to around 200 C.E. There, in *Rosh Hashanah* 1:1, the text speaks of four new years, all of which are connected to an ancient cycle of tithes, including the new year of the trees.

Trees have always had an important place in Jewish life. The Torah (*Parashat Ki Tavo*, describes the ritual of *bikkurim*, first fruits (Deut. 26:2) and instructs us that for the first three years after a tree has been planted, we may not eat of its fruit. The fourth year (which is the first good year) we are instructed to offer the first fruits to G-d as a way of



thanking G-d for the good harvest. On the fifth year and after that we are permitted to eat their fruits. One of the three pilgrimage holidays—*Shavuot*—is also known as The Festival of First Fruits (*Chag ha Bikkurim*).

In ancient Israel, it was the custom to plant a tree when a child was born—a cedar for a boy and a cypress for a girl. When the baby grew up and was ready to wed, branches from the couple's trees were woven together to create the marriage canopy (*chuppah*).

One of my favorite TuB'Shevat stories is that of Honi, an old man who was planting a carob tree in his garden as the king rode by. The king asked Honi how long it will be before the carob tree bears fruit? Honi replied "70 years" The king asked, "Do you think that you will be alive 70 years from now to eat of its fruit? Honi replied, "I have often eaten carob from trees planted long before I was born. Years from now, after I am long gone, my grandchildren will be able to eat the fruit of this tree."

In our times, many celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a TuB'Shevat Seder—filled with

fruits and nuts native to the Land of Israel—barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and wheat. Additionally, four kinds of wine (or grape juice) are served at the Tu B'Shevat Seder. They are a white, pink, a light red and a dark red (representing the seasons of the year) and three kinds of fruit are eaten: fruits with pits such as dates, peaches and olives, fruits with shells, such as nuts, oranges and pomegranates; and fruits that can be eaten completely—both inside and out—such as raisins and figs. We recite blessings and sing songs thanking G-d for the many gifts of nature, and we remember our responsibility to be caretakers of the world.

Trees are also a metaphor for our children's Jewish education. We invest in our children now—planting, nurturing, watering, and loving... with the hope that in years to come, our children will grow tall and flourish, engaging in *maasim tovim* (good deeds), as they mature into adult life in our Jewish community.

Chag Tu B'Shevat Sameach!

—Barbara Simon,
Hebrew School Principal

Teen Groups

Downtown BBYO at Brotherhood for teens grades 8-12!

Chapter Meeting: February 20, 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. **Come get involved!**



Missed any of our previous meetings? No worries! 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 Jon ZefTEL with any questions (jzefTEL@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 contact Michael Mantell at Youthgroup@BrotherhoodSynagogue.org.

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



February 14

**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**

February 28

**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**

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

A Note from Development:

Update on the Rothman Educational Fund for the Benefit of the Hebrew School

As we have welcomed so many new families—and new Hebrew School students—to the Brotherhood as members over the past 3+ years, many of you may not have been here when we launched the “year of Phil” in September



Photo by Katie Shea

of 2016. At that time, in honor of Phil Rothman’s 36 years of service as Executive and Educational Director at The Brotherhood Synagogue, an endowed fund was established in his name—The Rothman Educational Fund for the Benefit of the Hebrew School.

The purpose of the fund is to secure the future of the Hebrew School for generations to come by providing funds for innovative programming, student scholarships and teachers’ salaries. The fund is a most fitting tribute to Phil as it honors his lifelong commitment to Jewish education and secures his legacy as a champion of Jewish learning. We have been blessed by the love and support of so many members who have donated to the fund and, while the official “year of Phil” has concluded, the endowed fund established in his name remains an active giving opportunity.

We are thrilled to announce that our total Rothman Fund balance currently stands just short of \$900,000, as we get closer and closer to the \$1million mark! We thank all those who have contributed to the fund as we continue to strive toward our \$1 million goal.

Please contact me at 212-674-5750 or at mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org for more information on the Rothman Fund or if you wish to make a significant investment in our current and future Hebrew School students’ lives. We welcome and appreciate your participation in this effort and no gift is too large or too small!

—Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development

Nursery School Thoughts: BAM! Don’t Forget the Salt

by Jared Averbuch

In the midst of taping his 14th show in two days, chef Emeril Lagasse noticed his camera crew was getting sleepy. It made sense. Repeatedly cutting, spicing and slowly stirring was routine and sleep-inducing. Then, spontaneously, instincts overcame him. BAM! BAM! BAM! He shouted for joy and threw down the salt, infusing his food and his show with life. The food didn’t create his excitement; his excitement created the food.

In the Netflix documentary, *Salt Fat Acid Heat*, the narrator starts the show by saying “salt brings food to life.” Our Talmud goes even further. “Remove the salt from a piece of meat, and you may then toss the meat to a dog, as it has become worthless.” (Niddah 31a) In other words, without the salt, or without the passion, the meat, which is normally a luxury, is void of value.

In Leviticus, it is written three times in a single verse that salt is required for a sacrifice. “...You shall not omit the salt.” (Leviticus 2:13) Salt brings out the inherent flavor of food; without it, the essence is hidden. The same for our actions. The Torah tells us that we must infuse every deed with intent, excitement and joy. Otherwise, the action is meaningless. If I read a book to my Red Roomer Millie without excitement and wonder, is it worth reading at all? Can it even be considered reading? But what if I become the characters and play out their lines in our theatre of two? *That* is reading with salt.

Thankfully, Jews have an opportunity to reinforce this message every week. Since the destruction of the Second Temple, we’ve considered the dining table as an alternative to the altar, and that is why we dip the challah in salt. So, this week, try this: let your sons and daughters throw the salt down on the plate (BAM! BAM! BAM!), raise the challah as high as they can above their little heads, and finish with “hamotzi lechem min HAARETZ!” The salt turns the action into a blessing and unleashes the boundless joy held within our beautiful kids.

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

♪ Cantor’s Notes ♪ by Cantor Isaac Yager

The cantorial internship program we initiated this year with our cantorial student intern Mira Davis has demonstrated to be a wonderful addition to both our Shabbat services and synagogue programming. Having a reliable and skilled person to help lead services and our congregational choir Harmoni-AH! during the time of my daughter’s arrival was also fortuitously positive timing to say the least. I am grateful to Cantor Mira and feel fortunate that we will be able to continue our cantorial internship program for years to come under its new title, The Larry Abraham Cantorial Internship Program, named for our dearly missed friend

Larry Abraham^{z”l}. Larry was a great admirer of synagogue music who also possessed a solid set of vocal pipes. I can recall several instances of Larry’s distinct tenor singing with the congregation as he stood in the wings of the sanctuary (his preferred spot for *musaf*) and feeling secure enough in my surroundings to catch a breath in the middle of a song since Larry was at the helm with me. I benefited immensely from my experience as a cantorial intern while I was a student at the seminary. It afforded me real-world experience, a forum to grow and make mistakes, and the opportunity to develop and hone my skills as



a cantor. During her time at Brotherhood Cantor Mira has lead Shabbat services, conducted our congregational choir in our Gramercy Park Hanukkah concert, helped lead sanctuary time with our Nursery School, and will continue to develop and integrate her role in the coming months. It seems fitting that Larry’s legacy be attached to this important opportunity in which aspiring cantors can cultivate this ancient and holy craft in a warm and supportive environment. If you are interested in supporting the Larry Abraham Cantorial Internship Program please reach out to me directly at cantor@brotherhoodsynagogue.org to learn more.

Brotherhood Synagogue



Shevat / Adar 5780
February 2020

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 1 pm: Shabbat Club BO
2 9 am: Tikvah	3 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew	4 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	5 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:30 pm: Summer Camp Fair 7 pm: Biblical Characters	6 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	7 5:02 pm: Candles 3:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Dinner 8:30 pm: Speaker-Mark Hetfield	8 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Buscemi 9:30 am: Torah Talk 1:30 pm: Yoga SHABBATON BESHALACH
9 9 am: Tikvah	10 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 6 pm: BCRIC/Seafarers Dinner 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew TU B'SHEVAT	11 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah Meeting 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan	12 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Biblical Characters 7 pm: Brotherhood Film Series - <i>American Muslim</i>	13 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	14 5:11 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6)	15 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Baby naming of Hazel Yager 1 pm: Shabbat Club YITRO
16	17 PRESIDENTS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	18 10 am: English in Action 5:40 pm: Minyan	19	20 Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 6:30 pm: BBYO 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	21 5:19 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	22 ☆ 9:30 am: Services MISHPATIM
23	24 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Jewish Current Events 8 pm: Prayerbook Hebrew	25 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Life Goes On ROSH CHODESH	26 7:30 am: Minyan 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club 7 pm: Security Training ROSH CHODESH	27 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class Noon: Lunch and Learn 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II	28 5:27 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (Ages 3 to 6) 6:30 pm: (Grades 2-7) 6:30 pm: Services	29 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Jared Glatzer TERUMAH

Brotherhood Synagogue Security Training Meeting

Wednesday, February 26,
7:00-8:00 pm

We invite all members of our community to join us on Wednesday evening, February 26, for a security information and training session with Amit Bigelman, Brotherhood Synagogue's Security Advisor. We will discuss recent hate crimes and the current rise in anti-Semitism and how Brotherhood has prepared to prevent and mitigate similar incidents. Learn how to use our lock down system and other security/emergency measures we have in place.