



# Brotherhood Synagogue הבית

28 Gramercy Park South  
New York, NY 10003  
Phone (212) 674-5750 Fax (212) 505-6707  
www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Volume XXXVIII Number II

Cheshvan / Kislev 5779 November 2018

## 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

In the fall of 1938 in Germany, more than 7,000 Jewish homes, businesses, and houses of worship were vandalized. Some 17,000 Polish Jews were deported, and 30,000 German Jews were sent to concentration camps. Most of this violence took place across dozens of cities on Kristallnacht, the violent anti-Jewish pogrom that took place over 48 hours beginning on November 9th, 1938. Kristallnacht, “Crystal Night,” or sometimes, “Night of Broken Glass” was a turning point in the history of the Holocaust.



apartments were too close. Also, on the inside there was only superficial damage. The Gestapo soon found a way to make up for it. When the deportations of Berlin’s Jews into the Eastern extermination

camps began in 1941, my synagogue was turned into a gathering point where Jews were taken and processed for transports East.

It was in 1952 that I saw my synagogue again. It had received a direct hit during the bombardment of Berlin and was in ruins. I climbed over the wall of surrounding rubble and stood again in the now roofless, scarred interior. The bimah was still there and so were the steps that led up to the hollowed-out Ark. And where I had once stood as a Bar Mitzvah boy, there—out of the cracks of the marble floor—an ugly little tree was growing. Destruction, decay, desecration were all around me. Not only a synagogue—my synagogue—a whole world was gone. And then I looked up. And, by some miracle the golden Hebrew letters over the Ark were still there and, standing by the ugly little tree, I could still recognize them. And they read: *Etz Hayyim He*—It is a Tree of Life.

By 1955 what was left of my synagogue had been torn down. In its place there was a plaque—as there are

Rabbi Gunter Hirschberg relates the following memories:

The Nazis had been in power for only four months when I became a Bar Mitzvah. Though the actual terror had not yet been fully unleashed, life for the Jews of Germany had already changed drastically. As I stood on the *bimah* of my synagogue, chanting my Torah portion, a bunch of storm troopers happened to goose-step by in the street outside, singing their songs of hate. I shall never forget that moment. For somehow it seemed to me even then, that there were two kinds of voices pitted against each other—the raucous sounds of violence and the chants the synagogue inspired. It became very important that their voices should not drown out mine. I was completely hoarse by the time I finished my portion.

What was an impression to a child soon became a reality to Germany’s dwindling Jews. In those fateful five years—from 1933 to the Kristallnacht in 1938—the synagogue pulpits were indeed almost the only places where ethical and humane values were preached and pitted against the Nazi message of barbarism. When Jews used their noisemakers at Purim time, everyone knew it was not the name of Haman they sought to drown out...

My synagogue was not put to the flames at Kristallnacht. The adjacent

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 9:30 AM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Lubelsky*  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 5:30 PM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Ofri-Akman*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:30 PM  
*Kristallnacht Remembrance*  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 9:30 AM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Charles Hammack*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 6:30 PM  
*Veterans’ Shabbat*  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 9:30 AM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Neuman*  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 4:00 PM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Grace Bober*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 9:30 AM  
*Bar Mitzvah of Blake Levine*

plaques all over Germany now: “Here once stood a Synagogue...”

I pray for two things. One: that nothing we ever do or fail to do will cause our children to come across new plaques which read “Here once stood a Synagogue.” The other, that through trauma, tears, and terror, we shall always have the courage, faith and the pride to say of our Jewish destiny, “It is a Tree of Life.”

**Rabbi Irving J. Block**  
**Memorial Lecture**  
**Monday, November 5, 2018 7 PM**  
**Israel@70:**  
**Moving Zionism Forward**  
**Speaker: Richard D. Heideman, President,**  
**American Zionist Movement**

Richard D. Heideman, President of the American Zionist Movement, is senior counsel of Heideman Nudelman & Kalik, P.C., the Washington law firm which represents American Victims of Terror. He is past President of B’nai B’rith International and Founding Chairman of The Israel Forever Foundation and author of *The Hague Odyssey: Israel’s Struggle for Security on the Front Lines of Terror and Her Battle for Justice at the United Nations.*



## By the Book

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

Member, **Brahna Yassky**, is the third to answer in our series....

### What books are on your nightstand?

*The Widower’s Notebook* a memoir by Jonathan Santlofer, *Days of Awe* by A.M. Homes and *The Strange Case of Dr. Cohny: How A Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies* by Dawn Raffel.

### What’s your favorite Jewish book of all time?

I wonder what defines a Jewish book. There is the Bible, fiction by Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nicole Krause—all of which I find absorbing. Yet something I refer to over again that is distinctly Jewish, and recommended to me by Rabbi Alder, when my mother passed is: *The Book of Jewish Values: A Day-By Day Guide to Ethical Living* by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin.

### What’s your favorite thing to read? And what do you avoid reading?

My favorite things to read are well written memoirs and literary fiction where I can relate to the characters or time period. I avoid reading anything apocalyptic or science fiction.

### What book would we be surprised to find on your shelf?

All my books fall into the following categories because of the main interests in my life: I have many hardcover art books of artists’ work and lives because I had a consuming career as a painter for over 20 years. I have assorted cook books, poetry, literary fiction, memoirs, books about writing, and feminism because I do and am all those things. I think the anomaly is *Girl on a Train*. I couldn’t get through it and don’t usually like popular fiction.

### Are you a rereader? What kinds of books do you find yourself returning to time and time again?

Anything with descriptive language I want to remember.

### What’s the last book that made you laugh?

A.M. Homes, *Days of Awe*.

### What’s the last book that made you cry?

*House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus III.

### What’s the last book that made you furious?

If a book starts raising my anger level I don’t continue reading it. What’s going on in the world makes me furious enough.

### What kind of reader were you as a child?

I loved ordering paperbacks from scholastic magazine from a list we filled out in our classroom several times a year. The only book I remember ordering was by Willa Cather. I do remember reading all of Nancy Drew, biographies especially of women who blazed the way like Amelia Earhart and Margaret Burke White and also anything I could read about Picasso (my family didn’t know I wanted to be an artist and wouldn’t approve) and whatever I had to read for school.

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

Nick Flynn, Daphne Merkin, Claire Massud.

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

There are many. Who comes to mind right now is Jennifer Egan. I’d like to know how she comes up with successful literary novels consistently.

### Whom would you choose to write your life story?

Mark Matousek.

*Brahna Yassky’s memoir* *Blazing Woman* won honorable mention for the Doherty Prize from the Center of Fiction 2018. She has published a few essays. Her background is painting, having exhibited nationally and received mural and subway commissions from the NYC Department of Health. 🌊

## 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.

Thank you so much to Luise Ross for the enjoyable and informative tour of the Chelsea Art Galleries. Dinner in The Park Restaurant’s beautiful glass atrium afterward gave us a great opportunity to discuss all the interesting new art we saw.

An unique event will take place at 3pm on **Wednesday, November 14**. *Life Goes On* will be going to the Center for Jewish History for a private genealogy workshop (free of charge!) guided by the Center’s specialized librarians. The tour of their facilities and workshop will include hands on practice in doing your own family history research using the Center’s extensive genealogy databases. Space for the workshop is limited due to the use of computer terminals. To register, please contact Arthur Plutzer at [aplutzer@email.com](mailto:aplutzer@email.com) or call or text at 917-783-4495. Dinner together will follow at Le Midi Restaurant at 5:30pm (11 East 13 St, between Fifth Avenue and University Place) with individual checks provided. If you are unable to attend the workshop but want to join us for dinner, please contact Brenda ([bapace172@gmail.com](mailto:bapace172@gmail.com)) or Paulette ([plerne@aol.com](mailto:plerne@aol.com)).

**Please save the date:** our annual Hanukah Party will take place on **Thursday, December 13** at Gramercy Farmer and The Fish restaurant on Park Avenue, between 19 and 20 Streets. They will be seating us in the lovely private dining area of the restaurant and individual checks will be provided. We do plan

to play our usual Hanukah gift giving game, with details to follow.

On **Tuesday, January 8 at 3:30**, we will be going to a special talk on three paintings at the Frick Museum, with dinner together afterward. The cost is \$20 per person which includes the entrance fee; please contact Gaby Kende for further details ([gkende@msu.edu](mailto:gkende@msu.edu)). The February meeting will feature a yoga class and talk on nutrition...and in March there will be a tour of the magnificent main building of the New York Public Library. Details for these events to come.

Our book clubs have been generating fascinating discussions! Our October and November book club dates and books have been selected as follows: **Tuesday, October 30 at 7pm**, *Beautiful Animals* by Laurence Osborne, and **Thursday, November 29 at 7pm**, *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. The meetings will take place in the library at Brotherhood Synagogue and, as always, will be moderated by NYU Professor Margaret Birns with wine and desserts to be served. **Please remember that you must RSVP in advance to Ellen Kenigsberg ([ellensken14@gmail.com](mailto:ellensken14@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend and know that the cost of participation is \$20 per person which is nonrefundable if you cancel within 48 hours.** Thank you, Ellen, for all your work.

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](mailto:Iagnesmarton@gmail.com) or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org). 🌊

## Challah Baking with Millie Fell

Sunday, November 18  
Noon - 3

If you love the taste of freshly baked Challah and have wanted to learn how to make it yourself, this is the class for you!

Brotherhood member, Millie Fell, will teach you how to make Challah for Shabbat and holidays from scratch. All you need is to bring a large ceramic mixing bowl — we will supply the rest! Class sells out fast and is limited to 20 participants so register now!

\$36 for members, \$46 for non-members (the fee covers cost of supplies and benefits the synagogue).

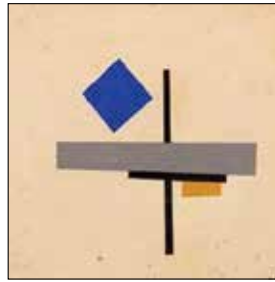
Register online at  
<http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/challah-class.html>  
or email

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



## CHAGALL, LISSITZKY, MALEVICH: THE RUSSIAN AVANT-GARDE IN VITEBSK, 1918-1922

A Docent-led Tour at The Jewish Museum  
Thursday November 29, 4:45 pm



This exhibition of some 160 works presents the artistic output of three iconic figures—Marc Chagall, El Lissitzky, Kazimir Malevich—as well as works by students and teachers of the People's Art School 100 years after its founding following the Russian Revolution of 1917. Discover how Vitebsk—a small city with a significant Jewish population—became an incubator of avant-garde art during a time of radical transformation.

Brotherhood's Special Events Committee has arranged for a docent led tour of this fascinating exhibit at the Jewish Museum (Fifth Avenue & 92 St.). The group will gather @ 4:45pm in the museum lobby after individually going through the security station at the entrance. The tour will be 45 minutes and group size is limited to 20.

Cost of the tour is \$20 and payment must be made in advance and is nonrefundable. If paying by check, please make payable to "Brotherhood Synagogue." Please check the Brotherhood Weekly Mail or our online calendar to register and pay online by credit card.

This price includes admission to all other exhibits at the museum.

Please call the office (212.674.5750) or email [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) to reserve your spot by Monday, November 25 or if you have any questions.

## Social Action

November 1-16

### Bottomless Closet Collection

While you are going through your summer things and switching into autumn/winter mode, there are always HANDBAGS that you may no longer use that still look and feel wonderful.

Please join with the Social Action Committee and bring your gently used handbags to the collection box in the lobby at Brotherhood. We will promptly transport them to the organization, The Bottomless Closet (<http://bottomlessclosetnyc.org>), so that disadvantaged NYC women can be perfectly prepared to enter the work force.



If you have any COSTUME JEWELRY you would also like to donate, we will be happy to collect this as well!

### Hat and Scarf Knitting for Homeless Shelter

Love to knit or crochet? Why not use your talents to help keep the folks in the Shelter Program warm this winter. Please consider donating a handmade hat or scarf!



Friday, November 16, 6:30 pm at services

### Celebrate Veterans' Shabbat

Please join us at services and help us to honor American and Israeli veterans. We will be joined by Marc Wolf, former Naval Intelligence Officer of SEAL Team Two, and Chair of the Jewish War Veterans Iraq and Afghanistan Committee.



All veterans urged to attend to be our honored guests. Special Oneg to follow services.

Sunday, November 18, 10 am - 1 pm

### DOROT Thanksgiving Food Delivery

*Generations Helping Generations...*

Join members of our Social Action Committee for our annual DOROT Thanksgiving Food Delivery and Visit on Sunday, November 18. DOROT is a wonderful organization focused on helping the elderly maintain independent lives in their own homes. The Thanksgiving Food Delivery and Visit is a meaningful way for generations to help generations celebrate Thanksgiving. We will meet at Rodeph Shalom (7 West 83rd Street) at 10:00 am for a brief orientation. After the orientation, we will pick up

a Thanksgiving meal, deliver the meal to a senior, and spend about an hour visiting with the senior. For those of you who have participated before, the visit tends to be the most important part of the day. We will be done before 1:00 pm. DOROT asked for participants 18 years old and older, and space is limited! Please contact Roberta at [rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) if you wish to volunteer.

Sunday, December 2, 10:00 am

### Family Community Service Event at Hebrew Home in Riverdale

Join us for a day of family community service as we visit with residents, sing songs, and tour the facilities at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale.

We will meet at the Hebrew Home at 10:00 am and the event ends at 11:30 am.

*There are only a limited number of volunteer spots available so please e-mail Beth Barry ([blbar1@aol.com](mailto:blbar1@aol.com)) asap if you'd like to join the group!* Ages 8 and up are welcome. Families who volunteer are encouraged to bring small gifts for the residents!

*Drivers are needed,* so when you RSVP, please indicate if you will be able to drive and provide rides for others.

## Happenings in Our Kehilah

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

**Mark and Jennifer Lubelsky** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Samuel Lubelsky**. Sam, a student at NEST+m, will celebrate his simcha with his older sister, **Aeryn**.

**Benjamin Akman and Danielle Ofri** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Ariel Ofri-Akman**. Ariel, a student at Simon Baruch Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her older siblings, **Naava and Noah**.

**Peter and Beth Hammack** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Charles Hammack**. Charlie, a student at Speyer Legacy School, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, **Ben**.

**Jeffrey and Patricia Neuman** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Sophie Neuman**. Sophie is a student at Friends Seminary.

**Simon and Sylvia Bober** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Grace Bober**. Grace, a student at Salk School of Science, will celebrate her simcha with her younger brother, **Ryder**.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Sari and Matt Imberman** on the birth of their daughter, **Fiona Leigh Imberman**; and to older brother, **Toby**; and to grandparents, **Lynn and Seth Abraham**.

**Jordana and Adam Grunfeld** on the birth of their daughter, **Rory Grunfeld**; and to older siblings, **Charlotte and Jonah**.

### Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

**Beth and Roger Kruvant** on the marriage of their daughter **Dara Kruvant** to **Jacob Sucoff**.

### Condolences to:

The family of our member **Sidi Tuchfeld** on her passing.

**Neal Katz** on the passing of his mother, **Violet Katz**.

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

## President's Post

by Tracie Basch

A few weeks ago, my younger son, Zach, came home with a homework assignment called "Living Stories." He was tasked with learning about an event in his family's history, writing about it and discussing how it related to the current events of the time. The story he chose to write about was one he learned about during our family trip to Israel this summer—my grandparent's journey from Poland to Germany, over the Alps into Italy, then finally to Israel, after a side trip to Cyprus, after World War II. He learned a good portion of the story when we visited the Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum in Haifa and the Atlit Detention Center, but now, he wanted to learn more—not about the trip per se, but about the reasons why his great-grandparents felt the need to leave Europe after the war.

Explaining their motivation—fleeing the anti-Semitism of the time, wanting to rebuild their family after the war, wanting a better life for themselves and for the family they hoped to have—drew a lot of parallels to the discussions we as a nation are having today and not surprisingly, our conversation turned to the current situation. As a parent, watching your child connect the dots between the past and the present is a wonderful thing—you can actually see the wheels turning in their brains and the lightbulb that goes on over their heads when they make the connections. The conversations we had about the parallels between the 1940's and today were surprisingly insightful for a 10-year-old.

As you may know, Brotherhood has joined the Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis—a coalition of 18 NYC synagogues and 4 non-profit organizations working together on this issue. To learn more about the Coalition, and to help, please check our weekly email and monthly bulletin for upcoming events.

Shalom,

—Tracie



## A Note from Development:

### 5779 Annual Fund

Our October 4th **Night at the Races** was a resounding success! A group of nearly 65 members, friends and family joined in the celebration honoring Phil at one of his favorite venues—Yonkers Raceway. In addition to cocktails and a buffet dinner, guests made the most out of the excitement of watching (and betting on!) the live races. As the guest of honor, Phil was treated to a ride around the track in the starting car, while the Brotherhood crowd wildly cheered him on. We also had our own race, named "Phil's Kids" and, even though our horse had the distinction of coming in last, it was a great race! Throughout the fun and festivity of the evening, the love and admiration for Phil was palpable, and more than \$40,000 was raised for the cause. If you've not yet made a gift to the Rothman Fund and would like to honor Phil, please contact me at 212-674-5750. Our special Year(s) of Phil goes on until a **Family Havdalah Ceremony, scheduled for Saturday evening, February 2, 2019**, when we will hopefully be able to announce that we have reached our goal of \$1 million!



### 5779 Annual Fund

Our Annual Fund kicked off at the beginning of the New Year, with heartfelt appeals at various High Holiday services by President Tracie Basch; Trustees Eddie Bergman and Seth Hulkower and member Evan Stein. Each speaker was passionate about the important role Brotherhood has played in his or her family's life as well as in the lives of all its members and the community at large. The Annual Fund is critical at this time of year, as we depend upon it to support our programs throughout the year ahead. The scope of these programs ranges from sheltering the homeless during the winter months, offering scholarships to Hebrew School students, opening our doors to the community at large for High Holidays, providing no-cost Jewish education to children with special needs, and offering transportation to seniors, just to name a few. We simply can't do all this without you, so please consider making your best Annual Gift now. Write a check, make a secure gift online at <http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/make-a-donation.html> or call the office at 212-674-5750 to make your credit card gift by phone. No gift is too large or too small and we are deeply grateful to each and every one for your support!

—Marilyn Strozak, Director of Development 🌸

## Shabbat Club

**Saturday, November 10, 2018, 1:00 pm**

On Saturday, November 10, the discussion will be led by **Connor Mayes**, representing the **Burma Task Force**, which is part of the **Faith Coalition Against Genocide**. He will speak about the atrocities being committed in Burma (Myanmar), give some background on the conflict, and describe steps that citizens can take to fight against this genocide on the Rohingya Muslim minority. As usual, the group will meet at 1pm in the Reception Room on the 2nd floor. There will be light refreshments. All our welcome. Contact Deborah Newman or the office with questions or suggestions.

## Social Action Committee Marks Two Decades of the Cemetery Program

In 1998, after his retirement as spiritual leader of the Brotherhood Synagogue, Rabbi Block called Arthur Plutzer, then co-chair of the Social Action Committee to “chat” about visiting cemeteries. He put forth that we have members who drive to a cemetery to visit their loved ones – mostly with an empty backseat in their car. At the same time we have members who would like to visit that same cemetery but can only travel there with great difficulty. So he asked, “what if the people who were planning to drive to a cemetery could call the office and get the names of one or two people who wanted to get there.” He asked Arthur to think about what could be done to bring this about.

Rabbi Alder, who was consulted, suggested that there might be members who would volunteer to drive people to a cemetery even if they themselves were not going there, and suggested that we do this as a project before the High Holidays when it is traditional to visit the graves of loved ones.

This is the genesis of the program of the Social Action Committee for which so many members and their guests are grateful. Arthur has run the program from the start and continues to lead it.

The first two volunteer drivers were Jerry Solomon and Steve Ginsburg, both of blessed memory.

Although the Social Action Committee will honor all volunteer drivers, past and present at a future Friday night, the Committee recognizes and thanks the following who volunteered to drive during the last three years:

Alyson F. Breier	Ellen Renstrom
Arthur Plutzer	George Brecher
Bob Wolf	Janet Heller
Brad Miles	Karen Morse
Charles & Jayme Rich	Laura Ward
Charles & Maryann Rich	Marcia Tevlowitz
David Barry	Martha Feinstein
Debbie Pearlstein	Melissa Cohen
Debra Aaron	Randi Bayroff
Diana Federman	Seth Reagan
Dina Wizmur	Sherry Field
Dominick Porto	

The Social Action Committee also wishes to thank the invaluable assistance it receives from Roberta Kahn and Manda Hegardt in getting this project done each year.



### November 3-9

Maurice Abraham, Bennet Abramson, \*Goldie Appel, ^Harry Blumenthal, \*Louis A. Capaldo, Lewis Cohen, Martin S. Drucker, Henry Entus, ^Penny Forman, \*Abraham Franklin, ^Doris C. Freedman, ^Sylvia Friedberg, Shirley Friedes, Arthur Frommer, Lina Frommer, Abraham Glazer, Yankel Glickstein, \*Rabbi William Goldberg, ^Louis Green, ^Arthur Greenbaum, ^Hilda Harris, \*Morris Herbst\*, ^Abraham M. Hoffman, Naomi Holcomb\*, Florence Jacobs, \*Dr. Herman Jacobs, ^Rose Kaminsky, Esther Kapelus, Ida Kaplan, ^Hannah Kaplan, ^Samuel Kaplow, Aaron Kars, Fannie Karten, ^Ruth Rose Klonsky, ^Barnet Kurland, Bernard Levy, Rose Lewis, Elias Lieberman, Max Lippman, Peter Loy, \*Anna Meyer, \*Harry Meyer, \*Louis T. Meyer, Robert N. Strauss, ^Morton Raskin, Gerald Rockower, ^Gerald Sager, ^Louis Schneider, ^Kate Schonhaut, Anne Silberling, ^Henry A. Silver, ^Shiphrah Silver, Mollie Silverstein, ^Jean Gordon Sperling, Sarah Spiegel, \*Mary Spiegel, Matilde (Schmidt) Tuchfeld, Semyon Vaidman, George Vassil, \*Sophie Versh, ^Max Joseph Wasserman, \*Flora Weinstein, David Wilf, Miriam Wosk, ^Dr. Maurice Yarkow, ^Herman Zeitlin

### November 10-16

Libbie Bezief, Samuel Bolotin, Allan Campbell, ^Minnie Cohn, Sylvia Dolitsky, Prof. Taamrat Emmanuel, ^Belle Feuerstein, \*A. Herman Friedman, Ruth Kempner Fuss, Sylvia Gewirtz, Ephraim Glasser, ^Harry Gold, ^Pauline Gordon, ^Rose Gottlieb, ^Dora Grossman, Emma Hayeem, Sheila Heller, \*Solomon Hudes, Henry Iskowitz, Max Karten, \*David Katz, Dorothy Klein, ^Kate Knopf, Irving Korman, ^Edith Kowal, George Landon, Ann Rechtschaeffer Levy, ^Brenda Alice Levy, ^Stephen Lewin, Harry Liebowitz, \*Helene Lind, Daniel Lipner, Louis Lipshic, ^Jack Low, \*Harris Mahler, \*Abraham Mald, John Malino, ^Isabelle Mersky, \*Sarah Meyer, ^Emanuel Morgenstern, ^Maurice Musiker, \*Richard Naftalis, ^Abraham Novom, Phillip Padvá, ^Fred Phillips, Rodney Pollick, ^Betty Ress, Kate Richkin, \*Herman L. Rosenberg, \*Reuben Rothman, Rabbi Jeshai Schnitzer, Herbert Seidel, \*Molly Seidman, Louis Sussman, ^Lillian Teitelbaum, Eric Wagman, Esther Wertzer, Ida Wigdor

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

If you are having a medical test or procedure and need an escort to help you get home, the Chesed Committee is here to help. Please give us as much advanced notice as possible. Call the Synagogue office and provide the time and place information for your pickup and someone from the Chesed Committee will get back to you.

\*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.

## Yahrzeits

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

### November 17-23

^Freida Abraham, Mark Adelsberg, Ralph Adler, David Bober, Sarah Brown, ^Edith N. Conway, Julius C. Edelstein, ^Lily Ente, Stanley K. Fass, Roger Flather, ^Benjamin Friedman, ^Samuel Friedman, \*Honey F. Goldby, Alexander Gordon, Sadie Grobow, Hugo Hamburger, Benjamin Hauptman, Benjamin Hushansky, Harry Jacobs, Barbara Joslyn, \*Minnie Katz, ^Geza Kesternbaum, \*Benjamin Klein, David Krelloff, Abe Leinweber, ^George Levy, \*Samuel L. Magerfeld, Anna Marie Ross Maikish, Michael Nappi, Louis Newman, ^Gertrude Novom, Herman Nussbaum, Mark Raffel, ^\*Rose Greenberg Rechtschaeffer, ^Joseph Ripinsky, Joseph Rogoff, ^Morris Rosenberg, Dr. Meyer Rosenblum, Walter Rosenthal, \*Samuel Rossman, ^Annie Schindel, ^Joseph Simon, David Sandler, ^Irving Statsinger, ^Miriam Statsinger, ^\*Rev. Jesse W. Stitt, Kay R. Strauss, Ida Weinstein, \*Esther Wittenstein

### November 24-30

Dorothy Adelsberg, ^Freya Bodkins, \*Irving A. Browner, Jerry Burger, Betty Casper, ^Irwin Cassell, Sidney Cohen, ^\*Ida Cohen, Theresa Consumano, ^Mildred Dorman, \*Julius Duberstein, ^Isidore Dursht, Rebecca Ellenzeig, Bruce Fendell, \*Barnett Finebaum, Helen Firstenberg, Gary Fisher, ^Gerald J. Friedman, \*Anny H. Gelber, Dorothy Goldstein, ^Lenore Goldstein, ^Fritz Hahn, Abraham Kasman, Andrea Katz-Andrade, Leonard Kaufman, ^Alice Kenner, Jack Kleinman, Hanna Lederer, Florence Levine, \*Gussie Levine, ^Gloria Love, ^Gussie Low, ^Sylvia Mayo, Caroline Nachman, ^Edward Perlstein, ^Joseph Pessar, Charles Poole, \*Anna Poswolsky, ^Linda Ripinsky, ^Arthur Rosenblum, \*Anna Schlager, \*David Schlanger, Pearl Schwam, ^William Seinfeld, ^Pearl Sekular, Neil Siderow, \*Jonas Spiegel, Morris Sussman, Ned Sussman, Ben-Zion Toback, \*Hannah Toby, ^Paul Tuchfeld, ^Alexandra Weiler, ^Edward Weisman, ^Richard Zeitlin

## The Brotherhood Synagogue



28 Gramercy Park South  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
Phone: (212) 674-5750  
Fax: (212) 505-6707



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

RABBI DANIEL ALDER

CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

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

HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus

TRACIE BASCH: President

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:

Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954

Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

# Hebrew School News: Jewish Book Month, Brotherhood's Book Fair, Parent Teacher Meetings, & Auditions For "The Sound of Music" (An Adaptation)

We are looking forward to our **Brotherhood Synagogue Book Fair**, which coincides with Jewish Book Month! This year, Jewish Book Month is November 1 (23 of Cheshvan) to December 2 (24 of Kislev = Erev Chanukah). Yes, we are known as "the People of the Book," but how did Jewish Book Month come into existence? In 1925, Fanny Goldstein, a librarian at the Boston Public Library, set up an exhibit of Jewish books and used it as a focus of what she named "Jewish Book Week." In 1927, the event was adopted by communities around the country. During its first fifteen years, the annual date of the program coincided with either Lag B'Omer or with Shavuot, both of which are regarded as a scholars' festivals. In 1940, the event was moved to the pre-Hanukkah, so as to promote books of Jewish content as Hanukkah gifts. Jewish Book Week became so popular and so filled with activities that it was extended to a one-month period in 1943—and has remained so ever since. In celebration of Jewish Book Month, we host a Jewish Book Fair.

Our **Book Fair** dates are **Tuesday, November 13** and **Wednesday, November 14**. The Book Fair has Jewish books for everyone—toddlers, children, teens and adults! If you are interested in volunteering at the Book Fair, please contact **Book Fair Coordinator David Barry** (email: [davidbarry@verizon.net](mailto:davidbarry@verizon.net)). In the mornings, our Nursery School students and families visit the Book Fair, and in the afternoons, our Hebrew School students and their families visit the Book Fair. On Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 13), the older

children of Kitah Zayin (7th Graders) will spend time at the Book Fair. In addition to looking for books of interest for themselves, these 7th graders will be reading to the Gan (Kindergarten) and Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students and will help them select Jewish books. You are invited to browse through our extensive collection of Jewish-themed books for children and adults. It's a great time to pick out Chanukah gifts (1st Chanukah Candle—Sunday evening December 2) for family and friends!

The following week on **Monday, November 19** and **Tuesday, November 20** we will be holding our annual **Parent-Teacher Meetings**—following the regular Hebrew School day—from 6:10 to 8:00 pm. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for parents to get to know more about the Hebrew School curriculum and how their children are faring in Hebrew School.

The day following our Thanksgiving break—Monday, November 26—our now-famous pop-up **Brotherhood Synagogue Chanukah Store** opens—and will be located just outside of our ground floor cloak room! It will provide you with additional opportunities to select fabulous Chanukah gifts for your family and friends.

That same evening—Monday, November 26—from 6:10 pm to 7:15 pm we invite all Brotherhood children who are interested in performing in our Broadway musical *The Sound of Music* (an adaptation) next May 15 and 16, to come and audition! (Further information about these auditions will be emailed to all of the Hebrew School families.)

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 9 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm!** Our **Annual Family Chanukah Party and Concert** featuring the Mira Rivera and Jerry Korman Family Band. The band plays Chanukah favorites, as well as klezmer classics! There will also be Chanukah arts and crafts booths with coloring, beading and other craft projects! On top of it all, there will be *sufganiot* (jelly donuts) and latkes (*livivot*=potato pancakes) so that we call all delight in the scrumptious flavors of Chanukah! **And of course, please join us for the Lighting the second candle of the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah) in Gramercy Park on Monday, December 3 at 5:30 pm.**

L'Shalom,

—Barbara Simon,  
Hebrew School Principal

**Save the Date**  
**Summer Camp Fair!**  
**Monday, December 10, 5:30-6:30 pm**



## ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD BOOK FAIR

**Tuesday-Wednesday, November 13-14**  
**in the Community Room**

**Conveniently OPEN during Nursery School**  
**AND Hebrew School hours!**

**Tuesday: Noon - 6 pm • Wednesday: 9 am - 6 pm**

**There will be hundreds of books of Jewish interest for children, teens and adults! Books are great gifts and great holiday gifts!**



### **Volunteer Opportunities Still Are Available!!**

Please email David Barry ([davidbarry@verizon.net](mailto:davidbarry@verizon.net)) to volunteer to staff the book fair during any of the hours above and .... we are still looking for volunteers to help set up the fair on Tuesday, November 13 and break down the fair on Wednesday, November 14. **Please volunteer!**

**A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE GOES TO BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE!**

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

**Monday, December 3, 5:30 pm**

Join us for communal blessings and singing at the annual community lighting of the Chanukah menorah in Gramercy Park. Just following, join us for refreshments in our Community Room!



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



November 16

5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane

5:30 pm - Children ages 3-6 years old with Katie Shea

November 30

5:30 pm - Children up to 3 years old with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane

5:30 pm - Children ages 3-6 years old with Katie Shea

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

## Nursery School Thoughts

by Lauren Riese Garfunkel

On Rosh Hashanah, my best friend told me that she would be delivering her first baby a couple of days later. I was so excited for this next chapter of her life and to meet my new “nephew.” I was simultaneously enjoying the holiday with my family and in-laws, planning our Yom Kippur break-fast, and getting ready for my son, Levon’s, first day of nursery school. The joy was palpable. As I contemplated fitting more plans into my already-packed schedule, an undercurrent of “something else” entered my emotional consciousness. I noted it but paid little attention, choosing to focus on when I would get to meet this new little human.

But when I awoke the next day, the unnamed feeling persisted. I felt it at Torah Tots as I watched Levon parade, waving his stuffed scroll with unfettered glee. I felt it during tashlich, laughing as he threw bits of challah into the creek while my dog ran to gobble them up before they vanished into a too-small crevice in the rocks. I pondered it, but was still unsure what the feeling was, other than that it felt like sadness. Being sad did not make sense, so I again brushed it off and moved on.

Finally, as I left Brotherhood the following Monday, happy that my prediction of Levon

easing into school without a hitch seemed to be coming true, it hit me hard. This melancholy I had sensed for the past week was a direct reaction to all the happiness. I knew right away that I was sad because of how fast life moves, especially when we have children.

It sounds trite at worst or obvious at best, a cliché about the difficulty of raising kids. But for me, this sense of the ticking clock was profound. Recognizing this sadness was recognizing a deep ache that all parents feel at multiple times throughout their children’s lives. He’ll never be this little again, she’ll never be this carefree again, he was *just* a newborn and then I blinked. The best remedy for this ache is to make the most of every second with our kids. It means putting our phones down more, joking around, and roughhousing with them. It’s making great memories even in the smallest moments and celebrating big occasions like they’re going out of style.

When I held my nephew a few days later, I remembered to take a long look at his angelic face and a deep sniff of his baby scent. I focused on his warmth, his little fingers, and on our connection, allowing myself to be completely in the present, feeling a prolonged moment of joy. ~

## ♪ Cantor’s Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

There was a period during my childhood when I hated my name. I don’t think this phase lasted too long, but I remember it well. I must have been five or six years old. All I wanted was a more common name, one that helped me fit in with the half dozen Michaels and Jasons that roamed my school classroom. Ironically, as time went on, I began to get my wish (sort of). I had a French teacher in elementary school who called me Jacob for our entire professional relationship. After a few times I just stopped correcting her. In fact, I have been mistakenly called Jacob by random people for my entire life, even as recently as two weeks ago. This has happened so frequently that my go to response is, “Anything from the bible will do.” (better to say “bible” over “Torah,” more mass appeal). I have also encountered various and creative spelling renditions of “Isaac,” the most common being “Issac.” When I was a student in the seminary, I arrived at a synagogue for an audition weekend and waiting for me in the lobby was a large poster that read, “Welcome Cantor Issac Yager!” I mean, really? In a synagogue? I thought that shul was the one “safe space” for Isaacs. Unsurprisingly, the one time I’ve had to compete with other Isaacs was when I was a student in Hebrew school. There couldn’t be

two Isaacs, so the other Isaac hurriedly claimed “Isaac” as his chosen identifier. I was usually stuck with being called “Yitzchak.” I remember when my childhood rabbi was interviewing for the position he met with several students from the Hebrew school. As we went around the room saying our names, I was sitting next to the other Isaac who decisively announced that he was the Isaac of the class. Being fed up with being called Yitzchak, I told the rabbi to just call me Bob. Later, during my Bar Mitzvah service, the rabbi confessed that he actually thought my name was Bob for a long time, not completely understanding the subtlety of an eleven year old’s sarcasm. However, as I learned about the origin and meaning of Isaac, the name began to feel more suited to me. Abraham laughed when God told him that his aged wife Sarah would become pregnant with Isaac, therefore Isaac literally means, “he will laugh.” My sense of humor has always been intact, so this feels all the more fitting. Additionally, Yager (or Jaeger) means “hunter” in German. A “laughing hunter” seems like the perfect name for a vegetarian such as myself. Clearly, I no longer dislike my name. And not only that, my childhood wish for a new name also came true recently. Except, like Isaac, “cantor” is not that common a name. ~

## Brotherhood Book Club

November 15, 2018, 7:00 pm

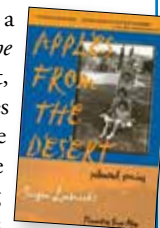
Debra Aaron will lead a discussion of *Apples from the Desert* by Savyon Liebrecht, a collection of short stories by a best-selling female Israeli author exploring the everyday tragedies emanating from strained relationships between Arabs and Jews, men and women, older and younger generations in present day Israel. These stories shed light on a terrifying political conflict.

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

Future Book Club Meetings/Books:

**Thursday, Dec. 20:** Barbara Feingold will lead a discussion of *Nothing is Forgotten* by Peter Golden

**January, Dec. 17:** Margie Katz will lead a discussion of *The Diamond Setter* by Moshe Sakal and Jessica Cohen.



# Brotherhood Synagogue



Cheshvan / Kislev 5779  
November 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 9 am: Tikvah	29 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study	30 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Pirkei Avot	31 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Calvary) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: The New York Jew	1 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 II	2 5:33 pm: Candles: 6:30 pm: Services	3 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Sam Lubelsky 5:30 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Ariel Ofri-Akman  <b>CHAYE SARAH</b>
4 9 am: Tikvah	5 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study 7 pm: Irving J. Block Memorial Lecture 7 pm: Jewish Current Events	6 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 7:30 pm: Pirkei Avot	7 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class Noon: Interfaith Bible Study (at Cavalry) 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: The New York Jew	8 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 II	9 7:30 am: Minyan 4:25 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	10 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Charlie Hammack 1 pm: Shabbat Club  <b>TOLEDOT</b>
11 9 am: Tikvah	12 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study	13 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 1 pm: Hadassah 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH! 7:30 pm: Pirkei Avot	14 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 3 pm: Life Goes On 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: The New York Jew	15 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4 pm: Life Goes On 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	16 4:19 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (3-6 years) 6:30 pm: Services Veterans Shabbat	17 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Newman  <b>VAYETZE</b>
18 9 am: Tikvah 10 am: Dorot Thanksgiving Deliveries Noon: Challah Baking with Millie Fell	19 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study	20 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!	21 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: The New York Jew	22 <b>THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED</b>	23 4:14 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	24 ☆ 9:30 am: Services  <b>VAYISHLACH</b>
25	26 11:30 Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5 pm: Torah Study	27 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!	28 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Intro to Trope 7 pm: The New York Jew	29 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 II 4:45 pm: Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich at the Jewish Museum 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club	30 4:11 pm: Candles Family Shabbat 5:30 pm: (up to age 3) 5:30 pm: (3-6 years) 6:30 pm: (2nd - 7th grade) 6:30 pm: Services	1 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Blake Levine  <b>VAYESHEV</b>

**ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD BOOK FAIR**

Save these dates in December!

## SHABBATON@BROTHERHOOD

Friday, December 7

Following our Shabbaton congregational dinner, a conversation with congressional editor and deputy Washington editor at the *New York Times*, and author of (((Semitism))): *Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*, **Jonathan Weisman**

Saturday, December 8

Torah Talk, Spiritual Yoga, Terrific Toddler Time

Saturday evening December 8

Brotherhood's Annual Hanukah Party!! – Latkes, Vodkas, and a great new band – **TELAVANA!**

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 16  
5:00 pm

Featuring Harmoni-AH!, Cantor Isaac Yager and Meredith Kelly, presenting a variety of music from American Jewish composers.



## BBYO at Brotherhood

Thursday, November 15, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Thursday, November 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Attention all teens in grades 8 through 12!

BBYO, the world's leading pluralistic youth movement for Jewish teens, has 2 active chapters that meet regularly at Brotherhood Synagogue!

Chapter meetings are fun places to meet other teens and participate in exciting programs planned and led by teens like you. Our next two meetings are coming up in November. They are absolutely free to attend and no RSVP is required. Just show up! And feel free to bring a friend. Contact Jon Zeftel (jzeftel@bbyo.org), BBYO Regional Director, with any questions!