This past summer, our dog, Yogi, passed away at the age of 15 years. When a beloved pet passes away, many of us struggle with the loss of a dear, loving presence, the loss of companionship and a true friend.

Judaism values the compassionate treatment of animals, but stresses that their souls are not like ours. Rabbi P.J. Schwartz opines that our souls can become transcendent and one with God; animals' souls die when they take their last breath. For this reason, it is inappropriate for mourning practices for our pets to mirror those for people. Likewise, we shouldn't equate our relationships with our pets to those we have with people.

Yet, pet owners can easily understand the intense bonds we form with our furry friends. Because they offer us companionship, loyalty, respect, trust, and unconditional love, we often compare our relationships with them to our relationships with people. Our connections are so strong it is as if our souls are intertwined. And, when a pet dies, the sadness and loss we feel can pierce our hearts.

There are many ways that our pets are like us. They look to us for comfort and protection, express a wide range of emotions, seek approval from authority figures, struggle with change and transition, and can learn from their mistakes. Because animals are created by God, perhaps they, too, contain a spark of divinity within.

During times of grief and mourning, we tend to look to our tradition for guidance and comfort. Even though Judaism speaks about our relationship to animals, it does not explore relationships with our pets. As such, Jewish tradition does not offer rituals for pet loss. Contemporary rituals and prayers have been developed to respond to the reality that the loss of a pet feels much like the loss of a family member.

It is appropriate to hold a memorial service where favorite photos, toys, and memories are shared. Making a donation to an animal shelter in the pet’s memory is a form of tzedakah and a fitting way to remember a pet. Alden Solovy has written a beautiful prayer which recognizes the importance of pets in our lives, the reality of our grief when they die, and the difficulty of saying goodbye.

**Passing of a Beloved Pet**

In sorrow and love
1/We remember ______________ (pet's name)
Our beloved ______________ (type of pet: dog, cat, etc.)
Who provided [years of] companionship
And endless joy.
You were more than a pet to me/us,
Becoming a member of my/our family,
Providing consolation in times of loss,
Giving me/us laughter and delight
And a sense of well-being,
Rich with memories,
Rich in love.
The pain is deep.
The empty space,
Too wide to comprehend.

[Forgive me/us, dear __________ (pet’s name),
For my/our decision to remove you from The suffering you endured.
We/I did it with deep sorrow Placing kindness for you above My/Our desire for more time together.]

G-d of the bereaved, Grant me/us to find solace in the days ahead,
And peace of mind as time passes.
Let my/our memories of the time/years together
With ____________ (pet’s name),
Be an endless source of wonder
In tribute to his/her memory.
Rest in peace.
Should I dare
Or even try
As hesitation prevails
Leaving me haggard and shy?
The wild life behind
Me was mystifying and full
Of experiences amazing
Though not well understood
I wish to memorialize my adventure
Yet where to begin leaves
Unresolved expectations
Attempts to go forward
Are in the works
And take me far
To my early youth
Lying in a comfortable bed
Where love and care thrive
I envision my life
How will it materialize?
I dream of Mardi Gras
Colors and costumes abound
Running wild singing applauding
And having a great time
I stand aside
Observing in awe
Wondering if I am part of this hullabaloo
Then comes the silence
Darkness falls with stars around
A sense of peace and quiet
Envelops me and I feel sound
Walking tall and erect
With a book in my hand

I look at the pages
And it is Genesis inscribed
Falling deeper into sleep
Relaxed and complaisant
I wake up early to chaos
And war unexpected
With strength and purpose
Young and old we go on with our lives
Hoping that one day
All will be on one side.
Years have gone by now
With Mardi Gras and many more
Happiness and joy abounded
As well as sadness and gloom
Memory of the dream always
Gives me strength and inspiration
Yet the meaning of it eludes me still
Was there an intention?
While the answer is beyond my reach
Interesting events occur this time not in sleep
Taking a course in learning the trop
It invigorates and grounds me
Feeling protected and strong
It is the first chapter of Genesis
That I will chant
When my monumental date arrives
And I will be in front of the ark.

Happy 5780!
Naomi Jones will be reading Torah and sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, October 26th.

A Note from Development:

5780 Annual Fund

The New Year has begun and, with it, The Brotherhood’s 2019-2020 Annual Fund Campaign is underway in full swing. We have sent out our first appeal and we are grateful to every member who has already made his/her gift. Our goal this year is to achieve 100% participation by our members in this important campaign. No amount is too large or too small—we ask only that you give what is comfortable for you. So, why, you ask—in addition to membership dues and, in many cases, tuition as well—is a gift to the Annual Fund so important? The economic reality is that membership dues and tuition do not cover the Synagogue’s annual expenses. The Annual Fund then is truly the blood of the Synagogue. We depend upon the Annual Fund to keep things running—literally—things like air conditioning, heat and electricity. It also enables us to continue to run signature programs like our homeless shelter, our Hebrew School for Children with Special Needs, scholarships to Hebrew School for students who would otherwise not be able to afford a Jewish education, and so many more programs that may not be as well-known. These include our Senior Transportation program, our Chesed fund, and our Interfaith programs, among others. Your support of the Annual Fund enables us to do all that we do so that The Brotherhood can continue to fulfill its mission “to honor the spirit and ethical heritage of our forefathers, to preserve the Jewish faith and to encourage the practice of Judaism among members of the Jewish community.”

We know that with your help, we will reach our goal of 100% participation and we thank each and every one of you for your support in helping us get there!

You may mail us your check, call the office at 212-674-5750 to make your gift by credit card, or make your gift online at https://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/make-a-donation-form.

—Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development

High Holiday

ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 29
Community Service 6:00 PM
Members’ Service 8:00 PM

First Day Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 30
Morning Service 9:00 AM
Family Service at Calvary Church 10:30 AM
Children’s Service 1:30 PM
Children’s Tashlich 2:30 PM
Tashlich 5:00 PM
Mincha/Ma’ariv 7:00 PM

Second Day Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, October 1
Morning Service 9:00 AM
Children’s Service 1:30 PM

Kol Nidre
Tuesday, October 8
Members’ Service 6:00 PM
Community Service 8:45 PM

Yom Kippur Day
Wednesday, October 9
Early Yizkor 8:45 AM
Morning Service 9:15 AM
Yizkor 12:00 PM
Musaf 12:45 PM
Children’s Service 2:30 PM
Community Yizkor 3:45 PM
Discussion 4:00 PM
Mincha 5:00 PM
Neilah 6:00 PM

Yom Kippur concludes at 7:08 PM

Shabbat Club

Saturday, October 12, 1:00 pm
Ophir Tal on Israeli Election Results

Ophir Tal, our Shaliach, or Emissary, will lead a discussion on What’s Next After the Second 2019 Israeli Elections? We will meet in the second floor reception room. All are welcome to attend. Questions and comments are welcome, too! There will be light snacks and beverages.

Upcoming Shabbat Club meetings:
November 23: Jews in the News
December 28: Dennis Consumano on Privacy
**Sukkot Services**

**FIRST TWO DAYS OF SUKKOT**
- Sunday, October 13, 6:30 PM
- Monday, October 14, 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, October 15, 9:30 AM

**HOSHANAH RABBAH**
(7TH DAY OF SUKKOT)
- Sunday, October 20, 9:00 AM
  
  In keeping with the Sukkot tradition, you may wish to purchase your own lulav and etrog to fulfill the mitzvah at services and in the sukkah.

**SHEMINI ATZERET**
- Sunday, October 20, 6:30 PM
- Monday, October 21, 9:30 AM

**Yizkor prayers recited around 11:30 AM**
Shemini Atzeret is one of the four times a year when we recite Yizkor prayers in memory of our loved ones. It is traditional to light a memorial candle and give gifts of charity in their names.

**SIMCHAT TORAH**
- Monday, October 21, 6:30 PM
  
  Hakkafot (processions) and dancing with the Torahs
- Tuesday, October 22, 9:00 AM
  
  Presentation of Simchat Torah honors to:
  - Trudi Bartow, Kallah Torah
  - Jeff Ross, Chatan Bereshit

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**Simchat Torah Honorees**

**Trudi Bartow**
Our Kallah Torah grew up on Long Island and began pursuing her interest in Judaism as an undergraduate at NYU, where she later received an MA in Publishing. Trudi presently is Director of Sales and Marketing at the Unemployed Philosophers Guild. She has served the Brotherhood Synagogue as President, a member of the Board of Trustees, chair of the Synaplex/Shabbaton committee and coordinator of our adult education higher learning classes. She is proud of her becoming an adult Bat Mitzvah, and encourages others to explore Judaism as well. Her parents Gene and Diane Bartow are also members here.

**Jeff Ross**
Our Chatan Bereisheet was born and raised in Cleveland where his daughters were fifth generation members of the Conservative Park Synagogue. He moved to New York in 2007 and found the Brotherhood Synagogue that year while saying kaddish for his father. Jeff serves on the synagogue’s Board of Trustees, co-chairs the Interfaith Committee and attends the Tuesday minyan as often as he can. His two adult daughters, Carie and Allie, now also live in New York and often accompany him to services. Jeff, a physician, is Senior Director for Medicare Medical Operations at Aetna.

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**SHABBATON@BROTHERHOOD**
Friday–Saturday, October 25-26

**An Extraordinary Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Alex Rosner**

Following Friday night services and a delicious congregational dinner, please join us for a compelling, informative, and interactive conversation with Alex Rosner, a living witness to the Holocaust, whose family was rescued by Oskar Schindler and who’s childhood experience in the camps was depicted in the Steven Spielberg film, Schindler’s List. Rosner spent the years between 1940 and 1945 in various German concentration camps where his father’s musical talents were chiefly responsible for their survival. He and his parents immigrated to the United States in 1946. At Steven Spielberg’s invitation, Alex and his family took part in the filming of the epilogue scene of Schindler’s List in which they are shown placing stones on Oskar Schindler’s grave in Jerusalem accompanied by the actors who portray them in the film.

See the enclosed flyer for a complete weekend schedule.

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**Coming in November**

**An Evening with Matti Friedman**
Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm

The Israel Committee is pleased to sponsor an evening with Matti Friedman, award-winning author, journalist, and Op-Ed contributor to The New York Times.

Friedman will speak about his latest work, Spies of No Country and a Q&A will follow.

**Memorial for the Tree of Life Shooting in Pittsburgh**
Friday, November 15-16

The one year yahrzeit (by the Jewish calendar) for the Tree of Life Shooting in Pittsburgh will take place on Shabbat, Friday November 15. At services we will honor the memory of those killed as well as affirm our commitment to fighting anti-Semitism.

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**Medicare Educational Event:**

**GET TO KNOW MEDICARE**
Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 pm

The Chesed Committee is pleased to sponsor this Medicare Educational Event which provides an overview of the four parts of Medicare and explains how beneficiaries can make an informed decision when selecting Medicare coverage.

Topics to be discussed include:
- When and how to enroll in Medicare
- An explanation of the different enrollment periods, including Initial, Annual, Special and General Enrollment periods
- Changes to Medicare for 2020
- Coordinating Medicare coverage with employer provided health insurance
- Review of the benefits and associated costs of each different part of Medicare, including monthly premiums, deductibles, co pays and coinsurance charges
- Sources of assistance for those who may be eligible for help paying Part B premiums as well lowering prescription drug costs.

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- Sources of assistance for those who may be eligible for help paying Part B premiums as well lowering prescription drug costs.
**Happenings in Our Kehilah**

**B’nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:**
Bruce and Maria Antelman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Alexander Antelman. Alexander, a student at East Side Middle School, will celebrate his simcha with his younger brother, Ari. 
Sarah Litt Cole and Elan Cole on the Bar Mitzvah of their daughter, Violet Cole; and to older sister Elsie.

**Births, Mazal Tov to:**
Stephanie and Stephen Helfand on the birth of their son, Noah Samuel Helfand; and to older sister, Sloan. 
Jillian and Jonathan Banayan on the birth of their son, Jordan Ace Banayan.

**Condolences to:**
Samantha and Scott Jeffreys on the passing of their father, and our member, Howard Jeffreys.
The family of our member Judith Alpert on her passing. 
Cantor Emeritus Herman Diamond on the passing of his wife, Evelyn Diamond.

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**Brotherhood Book Club**

**Thursday, October 17, 7:00 pm**

We will be reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. 
Save the Date: November 21: Susan Franklin will lead a discussion of *Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado.

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

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**Mazon Corners of Our Fields Campaign**

On this Yom Kippur, we ask that you make a contribution to MAZON: a Jewish Response to Hunger for its support of programs which help feed hungry people here in New York, throughout the United States, Israel, and the world. Our tradition provides that the “corner of our fields” and the gleanings of our harvest be left for the poor.” Special MAZON envelopes will be available in the Synagogue for your direct contribution to alleviate hunger, or you can donate online at www.mazon.org or by telephone at 1-800-813-0557.

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**Brotherhood City Harvest Campaign During October**

The Social Action Committee is hosting its annual food drive to benefit City Harvest during the month of October.

By donating food items from the lists below you can help feed a family in need. Kindly bring your food donations to the collection box in the Synagogue lobby anytime during October.

The most needed foods are:
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- peanut butter (plastic jars)
- mac and cheese (packaged)
- hot and cold cereal (packaged, family sized)

You can also donate the following items:
- canned tuna
- snack packs of fruit or apple sauce
- shelf stable 100% juice
- juice packs
- shelf stable milk
- canned soup
- baby food (all stages)

*No glass, with the exception of baby food!*

The following donations will feed a family of four for a day:

- **Breakfast:** Box of cereal or oatmeal; dried fruit; powdered milk; 100% fruit juice.
- **Lunch:** Tuna, peanut butter, or soup; canned vegetables; canned fruit.
- **Dinner:** Any canned protein (i.e. beef stew, chicken), or meat sauce; macaroni and cheese, pasta or rice; canned fruit or applesauce.

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**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.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden in September is amazing! We had a wonderful docent who guided us to the most beautiful seasonal blooms, and the lunch we had together preceding the tour was great fun.

Our October event is going to be equally excellent. **On Thursday, October 24 at 3:30 pm** we plan to visit two Chelsea galleries—the new eight story Pace gallery and the Hauser and Wirth Gallery—just a few blocks from each other, and look at amazing works of art! Our tour will be led by our wonderful private docent, our member Sheila Zaslower, who will be making the arrangements—thanks so much Sheila for doing all the work!

Following the gallery visits, we plan to walk a few blocks North on the High Line to Hudson Yards for dinner. Dinner details will follow shortly to our members with the cost for dinner if you plan to dine with us. The tour is free, cost is only for the dinner. Please contact Sheila at szaslower@aol.com or Agnes at lagnesmarton@gmail.com if you plan to join us.

Book club was particularly lively in our discussion of *Waking Lions*, which deals with racial and religious problems in Israel. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 23, at Brotherhood Synagogue as usual**. We are reading Mrs. Bridge by Evan S. Connell. Please make sure you notify Ellen Kenigsberg—ellenken14@gmail.com—if you plan to join us.

We are seeking suggestions for fall activities and members who wish to run them! If you have any idea for an outing and are willing to lead it, please 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 rkahni@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

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**Sunday, October 27, 10 am – 4:00 pm**

**The Brotherhood Synagogue’s 17th Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood and “Be the Match” Bone Marrow Drive**

Chuck Ginsburg was a cool, generous and loving guy. His family and friends remember him with love each and every day. Blood plasma helped give him energy and some feeling of normalcy during his battle with cancer. In the loving spirit of Chuck’s life, the Brotherhood Synagogue, the Social Action Committee and Chuck’s family are proud to sponsor the 17th Annual Chuck Ginsburg Memorial Blood Drive.

**“Be the Match” Bone Marrow Drive during the Blood Drive**

Want to save a life? Every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer. A patient’s doctor will search for an unrelated donor through “Be The Match” (https://bethematch.org) when their patient has exhausted all other treatment options. A bone marrow transplant is their last chance at life. You must be between the ages of 18-44 to donate.

Please call the office at 212-674-5750 to schedule an appointment to donate blood. You can also make an appointment online: go to http://nybloodcenter.org, click “Schedule Donation” and search on Group Number 14200 or the Brotherhood Synagogue Drive on October 27. No SS# is required but you must bring a photo or signature id. The NYC Eligibility Line is 1-800-688-0900.

Remember to eat protein rich meals the week before!!
We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our members who gave so generously to the Annual Fund in 2018-2019. As membership dues and tuition do not cover the Synagogue’s expenses, we depend upon the Annual Fund as our “bread and butter”—serving throughout the year to reduce our deficit and to allow us to offer a wide array of programs and services to our members and to the community at large.

We’ve written elsewhere in this Newsletter about the importance of the Annual Fund and we thank one and all for your participation and support. Last year, our members contributed a total of just over $626,000 to our Annual Fund, and we are grateful for the support of each and every one of you. We are also grateful to our many members who gave to other programs at the Synagogue as well! Thank you to all once again!
William Portnoy & Karen Kulvin
Dominick & Harriet Porto
Marlin Potash
Roger Quinton & Rachel Sapir-Quinton
Sylvia Rabiner
Malka Rabinowitz
Marc & Andrea Rachman
Peter & Robyn Rahbar
Evan Raine & Rashmi Patel
Ruth Raskin
Gil & Emily Raviv
Seth & Melissa Reagen
Michael Reiff & Tatiana Simonova
Elaine Reiss
Ellen Renstrom
Sean Rheuben & Rachel Kittner
Charles & Jayme Rich
Charles & Mariellen Rich
Jonathan & Jessica Right
Harriet Ripinsky
Sarah Rosen
Steve Sherman & Iris Rosenberg
Neal & Michele Rosenberg
Gerald Rosenberg & Cheryl Wiesenfeld
Jeffrey Ross
Yoav & Lauren Roth
Robert & Candice Roth
Paul & Donna Rothchild
Manya Rubinstein
Richard Rubinstein & Katherine Kolbert
Jeff Sagansky & Christy Welker
Kenneth & Lisa Salzman
Ross & Alice Sandler
Barry Savits
Harvey Sawikin & Andrea Krantz
Glenn & Rochelle Schattner
Michael & Marina Schmutzer
Mitchell & Celeste Schneider
Evan Schneider & Susan Greenberg
Harvey Schneier & Barrie Mandel
Michael Schor & Natalia Alfonso
Andrew & Karen Schulman
Steven & Elizabeth Schwam
Natalie Schwartzberg
Robert & Nancy Segal
David & Jenny Selvers
Roy Shapiro
Judith Shapiro
Rick Shapiro & Lynn Usdan
Robert & Laurie Shapley
Russell & Emily Shattan
Marc & Judith Sherinsky
Marc & Joan Sherman
Neil & Lenore Sherman
Joel & Barbara Shiller
Richard & Faye Silberberg
Nadav & Francine Silberstein
David & Roberta Silver
Irwin Silver
Douglas & Fabienne Silverman
Michael & Fifi Simon
Joan Simon
Art Simon & Barbara Berger
Michael Skinner & Cindy Menell
Linda Sloane
Nat Sobel & Judith Weber
Michael & Leslie Sobel
Joan Solomon
Martin & Cristiana Sorrell
Roy & Susan Sparber
Glenn Speer
Beverly Spielvogel
Sidney & Sue Stein
Evan & Jennifer Stein
Michael & Janna Stern
Barbara Stern
Ruth Sternfels
Chester & Donna Stone
Eric Stone & Marianna Vaidman Stone
Herman Storick
Peter & Marian Sugar
Laurence & Rhona Susser
Daniel Sussman & Beth Barry
Rob Tannenbaum & Gabriela Shelley
Peter Taylor & Shelly Jacobson-Taylor
Ariel Teitel & Aviva Werner
Lewis & Helaine Teperman
Paul Tevelow
Marcia Teviovitz
Selma Toback
Floyd & Gail Tupper
Alan & Lori Unger
Brenda Waldman
Laura Ward
Floyd & Jane Warren
David & Lynne Weinberg
Abraham & Naomi Weinstein
Phil & Rochelle Weintraub
Amelia Weprin
Laurence & Naomi Wexer
David & Sonya Wexler
David & Shelley White
Zahava Wiggod
Charles Wimer & Susan Soroka-Wimer
Joshua & Judith Wind
Arnold & Elizabeth Winn
Jonathan Wolf
Robert Wolf & Penny Domow
Alexander Wolfman
Ivan Wool
Tracy Young
Julie Zeitlin
Renna Zimmer
Jan Zonon
Barbara Zucker
Andrew Zuckerman & Nicole Bergen
October 5-11

October 12-18

October 19-25

October 26-November 1

The 30th annual Bikur Cholim Conference sponsored by the Jewish Board will be held on Sunday, November 10, from 9:15 am - 3:15 pm at the UJA offices on East 59th Street. The conference offers advice, practical tips, and opportunities to network regarding serving the sick in our community. The Chesed Committee will pay the registration fee for any Brotherhood member wishing to attend. Please contact Roberta Kahn to sign up (rkah@brotherhoodsynagogue.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.
During the month of October (2nd of Tishri-2nd Cheshvan) we celebrate the second day of Rosh Hashana, observe Yom Kippur, celebrate the festivals of Sukkot, and Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah! When we celebrate the festivals of Tishri, we connect ourselves to our ancestors of biblical days.

In the parasha Emor, (Leviticus Chapter 23), we are given very specific directions how to celebrate Sukkot—beginning with line 39, which reads: "Mark, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Tishri), when you have gathered in the yield of your land, you shall observe the festival of the Lord seven days: a complete rest on the first day, and a complete rest on the eighth day. On the first day you shall take the product of [palm], branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees [myrtle], and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your G-d seven days. You shall observe it as a festival of the Lord for seven days in the year; you shall observe it as a festival of the Lord for seven days in the year, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I the Lord your G-d."

During the month of October, our Hebrew School children will help decorate the Synagogue's Sukkah and will learn the blessing for the arbaah minim (the four species)—the lulav (comprised of the palm, myrtle and willow) and etrog. The rabbis offer additional symbolic significance for the arbaah minim. Each of the four species was interpreted as representing different parts of the body: the willow represents the mouth, uttering prayer; the etrog, the heart, seat of wisdom and understanding; the lulav, the spine, symbolic of upright character; and the myrtle, the eyes, tools of learning and enlightenment.

Another interpretation equates smell with righteous deeds and taste to learning. The etrog, with both taste and smell represents the person who is knowledgeable and performs good deeds. The myrtle, with smell but no taste, is the person who is righteous but ignorant. The lulav has a taste, but no smell, indicative of one who is learned, but does not engage in righteous acts. The willow, with neither taste nor smell, symbolizes one who is neither learned, nor engages in righteous acts. As our Hebrew School students continue their study of Torah, it is our hope that they will, like the etrog, engage in righteous deeds and be learned in the Torah.

One important way that we strive toward this goal is to get the entire family involved in their children's Jewish education. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, whose ideas paved the way for 21st century Jewish life in America, articulated the importance of family education and family involvement in a child's Jewish education. He said: "To educate the child without educating and involving the parents and the entire family can be compared to heating the house while leaving the window open."

Consistent with the wisdom of Rabbi Kaplan, our on-going Mishpacha programming, brings the entire family into the learning process. Toward the end of this month, we begin our Mishpacha (Family) programming.

This program was an initiative of long-time Brotherhood Synagogue member Annette Rosner, who made a generous contribution to fund the Mishpacha Program. The idea behind the program is that family learning and family participation in synagogue life builds strong families and a strong Jewish community. So, each year, we invite parents and grandparents, to learn alongside their children/grandchildren.

Each grade has its own topic. This month Kitah Vav (6th Grade) will be holding its Mishpacha Programming learning about the Havdalah ceremony (10/30). Next month the Mishpacha Programming will continue with: Kitah Hey (5th Grade) and their families learning about Tzedakah through the teachings of Maimonides (11/06); Kitah Dalet learning the laws of Kashrut (11/13); Kitah Gimel focusing on the 10 Commandments (11/20) and Kitah Bet (2nd Graders) and their families will be learning about Shabbat (11/26).

How is the Mishpacha Program set up? We begin our Mishpacha programming with a brief discussion of the topic or a story which illustrates the central issues to be explored. That discussion leads to questions that our researchers (all of the Mishpacha participants) will explore. The children and their parents are then divided into three or four groups and are assigned questions related to the Mishpacha topic to be explored. Parents and children are provided with study packets to help them in their guided learning.

For example, during the Tzedakah mishpacha, groups are provided with Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) hierarchy of tzedakah—without knowing how Maimonides ranked the levels of Tzedakah. The task of that group would be to analyze the eight levels of giving and decide for itself—based upon discussion and debate—to figure out the "correct order" (according to Maimonides) of the types of tzedakah—from best to worst—although it can be argued that even the "worst level" or "lowest ranking" of Tzedakah is better than no participation in the mitzvah of tzedakah at all. After lively discussion and debate, each group reports its conclusions to all of the Mishpacha participants. In this way parents and children learn together—making the Mishpacha Program true intergenerational learning. Mishpacha participants are assigned "follow-up" activities. For example: Participants in the havdalah session are given travel havdalah kits and asked to perform the havdalah ceremony over the coming weeks— and then to write about their experiences.

Thanks to the vision and support of Annette Rosner, the Mishpacha program is alive and well at the Brotherhood Synagogue Hebrew School! Chag Sukkot Sameach!

—Barbara Simon,
Hebrew School Principal

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**Shabbat Corner, Aleph Bet Club, Junior Congregation**
**Saturday Mornings at Brotherhood Begin October 19!**

A great way to celebrate Shabbat with your children is by attending one of these warm, fun-filled, and educational Shabbat morning experiences!

*Shabbat Corner:* For children 3-5 years old led by the amazing Mira Shaar at 9:45 am in the Yellow Room. (*There is a fee for Shabbat Corner—please visit our website to register and for further information at [http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/early-childhood-programs.html](http://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/early-childhood-programs.html)*)

*Aleph Bet Club:* For children kindergarten-2nd grade at 11:00 am on the 4th Floor.

*Junior Congregation:* For children in 3rd grade and up led by our beloved Phil Rothman, at 10:30 am on the 4th floor.

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**Come celebrate Sukkot at**
**Pizza in the Hut**
**Wednesday, October 16 @ 5:30 pm**

Rabbi Alder, Cantor Yager and Phil Rothman invite all Brotherhood kids and their families to join them in the sukkah for a slice and to say the blessings over the meal and the lulav and etrog!

It is a mitzvah to eat together in the Sukkah during the seven days of Sukkot!

No need to RSVP. Hope to see you there!
My thoughts are often stretched between the poles of a) every single thing I do with my children matters, and b) really nothing, or at least, no one thing, matters all that much. I’m always impressed by twin studies, where the identical twins separated at birth turn out to be astonishingly similar—including idiosyncratic habits like preferring to wash hands before going to the bathroom—despite different upbringings. I guess it’s a variant on the question of nature versus nurture, but it seems less academic with my own offspring. Will keeping them up late to eat ice cream and socialize set the stage for them to become teenagers who sneak out to eat ice cream and worse? Could taking a solo trip instead of staying home and tucking them in affect where they seat me at their weddings?

As the high holidays approach, I am shaken from the throes of parental neuroticism by the impending commandment to repent. In Hilchos Teshuvah, or the laws of repentance, Maimonides explains that, “Each and every person has merits and sins. A person whose merits exceed his sins is considered righteous. A person whose sins exceed his merits is considered wicked. The same applies to an entire country…Throughout the entire year, a person should always look at himself as equally balanced between merit and sin and the world as equally balanced between merit and sin.” One single sin or mitzvah, then, could tip the balance of the fate of the whole world.

Compared to the fate of the world, the potential repercussions of offering salmon and broccoli versus macaroni and cheese for dinner seem small. Still, Maimonides’ explanation seems like a potentially useful framework for my quotidian quandary. He describes one’s actions as a constant reversion to an even split of positive and negative. He emphasizes that the important thing is to always strive to tip the balance towards the positive—on a personal, communal and global level. One set of positive actions we can take as parents is to provide our children with a sense of community, Jewish values, and an awareness of their role in tikun olam. Despite being of two minds about the impact I can expect to have on my children, I sincerely believe that choosing this foundation will be a positive influence for them and, in turn, with any luck, the world to come.

Lishana tovah u’metukah! ♫

♪ Cantor’s Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

I was once abducted outside 770 Eastern Parkway, aka the Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters. My Israeli cousin (with whom I would later spend a great deal of quality time when I lived in Jerusalem) was in town and was staying with her husband’s family in Brooklyn. My parents and I crossed the border into Black Hat Town on a Saturday evening right as Shabbat was ending. At some point during our visit, we decided to set out on a mission to retrieve my cousin’s husband who had gone to 770 to study and daven with his peers; the ultimate Jewish play-date. I was younger, probably a senior in high school, and felt out of place among these more observant practitioners. The Shabbat buzz was in the air as we walked and only became more pronounced the closer we got to the headquarters. At some point, I strayed from the group and ended up near the entrance to the building among a gaggle of Moshe and Ya’akovs, curiously looking around and assessing my surroundings. And then I heard the now familiar call of the Chabadniks; “Are you Jewish?” I was caught. I’m sure I replied “yes” and gave some explanation for my presence involving searching for my cousin who was inside. “I used to be like you” my new friend told me. He then showed me his California driver’s license with a photo of himself that basically looked like a scraggly surfer-duke version of the guy standing in front of me. I nodded out of politeness, though it did not appear to be a dramatic physical transition, he probably just needed to add some pimpus and he was good to go. But my new friend wouldn’t have it as I attempted to make my get-away. “Come with me” he said, shooing away every excuse I had for not wanting to leave the sidewalk. Before long, we were inside the belly of Rebbe Schneerson’s spiritual headquarters. There was a lot to look at; intense chevruta Torah study in one corner, shuckling back and forth the likes of which I had never seen in another, and Shnaps accompanied by un-choreographed dancing scattered throughout; basically Studio 54 with more sidurim. My unofficial tour guide pointed out different groups to me and explained what they were doing in a friendly and accessible manner. Though I felt a little uncomfortable, this ba’al t’shuvah could not have made me feel more welcome. The most interesting part of our tour was when he showed me the space outside of Rebbe Schneerson’s office (it was locked, otherwise he would have taken me in he said) and talked about the mystical powers surrounding the rebe and the lines of people that would form where we were standing with visitors seeking the rebe’s guidance and magical touch. I’m not sure how the tour ended or how successful it was from the perspective of my guide. I understood then the same way I do now that I observe differently and was cautious to not disrespect this man who went out of his way to talk to me and make me feel welcome. But it was clear that he did not want anything in return, not even a commitment to be more Jewish. He just wanted to show me around and make me feel comfortable, and he did. At some point I shook his hand and said that I needed to find my family who had already started putting my photo on milk cartons; thank g-d it was a dairy day. ♫
Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art
A docent-led tour at the Jewish Museum
Thursday, November 7, 5:00 pm

Born to a Jewish family in Odessa, Edith Halpert (1900–1970) was the first significant female gallerist in the US, propelling American art to the fore at a time when the European avant-garde still enthralled the world. In 1926, Halpert opened the Downtown Gallery in NYC, the first commercial art space in Greenwich Village. She promoted a diverse group of living American artists, still enthralled the world. For further information about the exhibit, please visit http://thejewishmuseum.org.

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 at 4:45 pm in the museum lobby. The tour will be 45 minutes and group size is limited to 20. Cost is $20 and payment must be made in advance and is non-refundable. To register, please call the office (212.674.5750) or email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or register online on the website or the weekly mail.