



Brotherhood Synagogue ה"ב

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Shabbat Candles in Our Community Room

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

At the four *Yizkor* services each year and on the *Yahrzeit* of a loved one's passing, it is traditional to light a memorial candle that will burn for 24 hours. The simple mystery of a tiny flame bestowing light and continuously flickering upward strikes one at once as a perfect metaphor for a soul yearning for or connected to its source on high.

The Torah speaks of candelabrum in the *mishkan*, the portable desert Tabernacle, and in the Temple in Jerusalem, that was replenished with oil twice daily so that it would always remain lit. As a remembrance of this, every synagogue has an eternal light above its holy ark signifying God's eternal presence.

In the Torah, God does not command Shabbat lights despite the blessing we make before lighting them stating that we are fulfilling God's command. Noting the same issue with Hannukah lights, the Talmud cites a verse in Deuteronomy where we are told to obey the authorities of future generations. And it is the Rabbis of old who decreed that candles would enhance the Shabbat.

The Talmud establishes obligatory Shabbat lights for the utilitarian end of providing peace in the home (*Shalom Bayit*) by creating a source of light for a comfortable meal. Only in the early Middle Ages did the Shabbat candles come to mark the special sanctity of Shabbat.


Normally when we fulfill a mitzvah we first recite the blessing and then perform the mitzvah. However with the Shabbat candles we first light them before saying the *bracha*. The reason is that the blessing is a personal acceptance of Shabbat and fire is expressly prohibited as Shabbat "work." One of the meanings behind closing one's eyes during the Shabbat candle blessing is to be able to open our eyes to lit candles and thereby have the blessing and mitzvah follow the usual order.

The blessing speaks of lighting "*ner shel Shabbat*"—"a Shabbat lamp/candle" in the singular. The Rabbis eventually set a minimum of two candles. One candle is for the mitzvah "to remember the Sabbath day" and one for the mitzvah "to observe the Sabbath day." More than two candles are permissible and some light one for each member of the household.

Shabbat candles are traditionally lit no later than eighteen minutes before the onset of sunset on Friday. The candles must burn until nightfall. With the advent of electrical lightbulbs, Shabbat candles no longer serve pragmatic ends of providing

necessary light. They do, however, provide a spiritual entrance to the Sabbath day.

At the Brotherhood Synagogue we recite the blessing over the candles at the start of Friday evening services. In the winter months, when the start time is past sunset, the blessing is said over previously lit candles. Now, in the Spring and Summer we have the opportunity to light the candles before the start of services.

In memory of Grace Salant^{er} (whose first *yahrzeit* just passed), our member Lisa Brandes has suggested we fulfill Grace's desire to provide candles in our Community Room so that all attendees at Friday evening services can have the opportunity to light their own Shabbat candles before the start of services. So please come to services on Friday evening and take a moment in our Community Room to personally usher in Shabbat in a meaningful way. 

TICKETS \$30

You may also choose to be a FRIEND at \$36 per person or a PATRON at \$72 per person

All performances will take place in the Community Room at the Brotherhood Synagogue

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Lexi Asch

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 12, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Ashton Reino

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Goldman

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 9:30 AM



The Brotherhood Hebrew School Adaptation

Wednesday, May 16
Thursday, May 17
@ 7 pm

SHAVUOT SERVICES

Erev Shavuot: Saturday, May 19, 7:30/9:00 pm

We will once again follow the practice of engaging in Jewish study on Erev Shavuot, as we commemorate the giving of the Torah. A light dairy meal will be served at 7:30 pm with a study session led by Rabbi Daniel Alder, followed by brief evening services at 9:00 pm. Communal late night study then continues at the 14th Street Y.

First Day of Shavuot: May 20, 9:30 am

Second Day of Shavuot: Monday, May 21, 9:30 am

Yizkor will be recited around 12:00 pm at services on Monday, May 21st. Shavuot is one of the four times a year when we recite Yizkor prayers in memory of our loved ones. It is traditional to give gifts of charity in their names. May every gift be blessed and the givers thereof.



My Two Cents

by Rob Roth

In recent years when Candy and I travel overseas, we often stay in apartments instead of hotels. Typically more space for our dollars and fewer amenities. Yeah, we love making our beds and cleaning “hmm,” however: Staying in an apartment or home instead of a hotel makes us feel less like tourists and more like locals. To be sure, we are not mistaken for locals but we feel like them. Our experience abroad is a bit like a “Staycation,” but we don’t stay home. So how else do we feel at home in places where we are foreigners? Not so hard; we seek out Jewish neighborhoods, sights, establishments and synagogues.

A favorite city for us is Paris. Although European cities like Paris seem to be changing, Paris still maintains a fairly large Jewish population. During our trips to Paris, we always try to connect with Rabbi Alder’s colleague and friend, Rabbi Tom Cohen. Rabbi Cohen founded and leads Kehilat Geshet, a “liberal” synagogue in the 17th arrondissement. If you find yourself in Paris, look Tom up. In addition to synagogue services, Tom leads a mid-week “lunch and learn” at local kosher restaurants in French and English with Parisians and expats. He also does a great Paris tour from a Jewish perspective. Also worth visiting is the Musee Nissim de Camondo, an elegant house at the edge of Parc Monceau with an interesting story about the assimilated wealthy Jewish Camondo family. Their story sadly ends during the Nazi occupation of Paris.

In Paris we rent an apartment in the Marais, a diverse neighborhood with a Jewish community and infrastructure. While there we attend services at the local shuls, buy our meats at the local kosher butcher shops (we get spoiled by the kosher foie gras, sausages and duck confit) and mingle with and talk to the people who live in the Jewish community. It is a wonderful way to learn about life in France for French Jewry. At shul, as a visitor, I often receive the honor of the Kohen Aliya. I learned quickly that during your Aliya one must carefully follow the reading in the Torah. During my first Aliya in a Paris syna-

agogue I looked away from the Torah briefly and the Baal Koreh (Torah reader) stopped. It took me a few moments to understand. Explained first in French, then in Hebrew, the finger pointed at the Torah was how I finally caught on. One Shabbat morning I did not receive the honor of the Kohen Aliya. There was a Bar Mitzvah. In this Synagogue on Rue Pave, exterior designed by the Art Nouveau architect Hector Guimard (many of the metro entrances are also designed by him), it seemed that the minhag for a simcha is that almost all (or all) of the family and friends receive an Aliya. Not big groups coming up together, but individual Aliyot, many, many, many. Talk about a long Torah reading. Luckily the French eat late so we did not miss our dinner reservations. That evening (Saturday night) we were dining in a kosher Indian restaurant. Al-

ready late, as it was summer in Paris and Shabbat ends quite late, we ordered our wine and waited and waited. As we waited we realized that the wines were non-mevushal and only the Jewish owner could open and pour them. And of course everyone ordered wine. Table by table he went in this rather large restaurant. A long but interesting Shabbat and evening. Let’s move on.

Rome, Roma, Tisha B’av, Candy and I are sitting in a “Kosher” restaurant in the Jewish Ghetto anxiously waiting for our meal to arrive so that we can finish before the fast begins. The Romans are just not in a hurry. We finished just in time and made it to the reading of Eichah (Lamentations). At the service in the beautiful Great Synagogue of Rome a young man sitting

Continued on page 6

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 April meeting featured a fascinating talk at the Center for Jewish History followed by a stimulating and timely discussion afterward. Many thanks to Brenda Pace for all her work in arranging this event.

A special treat is in store for us on **Wednesday, May 16 at 2:30pm**: we’re touring the interior of New York’s most beautiful Beaux Art gem in Lower Manhattan, the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House. Built in 1902–07 to house the duty collection operations for the Port of New York, the Customs House is located at 1 Bowling Green, near the southern tip of Manhattan, roughly on the same spot as Fort Amsterdam, the original center of the settlement of New Amsterdam. Lavish sculptures, paintings, and decorations by well-known artists of the time embellish the façade and interior of this masterpiece.

We’ll take a break to look at some exhibits in the Museum of the American Indian located inside the Customs House and then continue to tour sites and memorials in the direct vicinity of the Customs House, including one site associated with the famed and ill-fated White Star ship Titanic. Our private tour is priced at \$25 per person. Thank you so much, Paulette Lerner, for organizing the event! **Please email Paulette right away** if you plan to attend at plerne@aol.com, or call 212-598-1805. Our plan is to enjoy lunch together prior to the tour, details to follow shortly.

Thanks to our amazing organizers, Judy, Brenda, Sheila, Paulette, and Susan, we can look forward to a number of fascinating programs this year. In June, we plan to go to the Bronx Botanical Garden to see the Georgia O’Keefe exhibit and the garden as well, of course. Sometime this fall, we plan to take a walking tour of Dumbo or Governor’s Island; a tour of art galleries in Chelsea starting at the High Line with dinner to follow at the Chelsea Market building; and visit Good Housekeeping’s test kitchen to enjoy some tastings! Details to follow for all of these events.

A fascinating discussion was generated by our reading of *The Burning Girl* by Claire Messud: how do we keep our growing adolescents safe without frightening them of the world they live in? Our next **book club** meeting will be on **Monday, May 7**—we are reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*” by Gail Honeyman. As usual, NYU Professor Margaret Birns will guide our discussion and wine and desserts will be served. Please remember that **you must RSVP in advance to Ellen Kenigsberg** 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 or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org. 🌸

Hadassah Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 1:00 pm

Please join us for our May Hadassah meeting in the reception room on the 2nd floor. East Midtown Chapter member, Lillian Fridman, happens to be the mother of newly elected AIPAC President, Mortin Fridman and our guest speaker will be Sarah Sax, AIPAC Manhattan Associate Director. Sarah is responsible for educating and engaging pro-Israel supporters in Manhattan communities and she will speak about AIPAC’s role in Israel advocacy. All are welcome.

Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Pamela Marcus will lead a discussion of *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin.

Set in a present-day Paris caught between violent unrest and its well-known, inescapable glories. Seventy-four-year-old Jules Lacour, a maître at Paris-Sorbonne, cellist, widower, veteran of the war in Algeria, and child of the Holocaust, must find a balance between his strong obligations to the past and the attractions and beauties of life and love in the present.

Upcoming: June 21 -Joan Price will lead a discussion of *The Yid* by Paul Goldberg

July 19 - Wendy Linderman will lead a discussion of *And After the Fire* by Lauren Belfer

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



PLEASE JOIN US

FOR A NIGHT OF
LEARNING AND CELEBRATION OF JEWISH FOOD, DRINK
AND CULTURE IN MEXICO AS THE
ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

shava Tequila!!

WED
MAY 02 7-10
PM

PLEASE DRESS FESTIVELY
TICKETS ARE \$50 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE
AND \$75 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR

COME LEARN AND PARTY WITH US - MEXIJEWISH STYLE + HAVA TEQUILAI!

שׁוֹלוֹם אֵלֵיכֶם

SHOLOM ALEICHEM 102ND YAHRZEIT

"...gather with my children and with the grandchildren and with just good friends and read this last will of mine, and pick out a story, one of the really merry ones..."

As requested by Sholom Aleichem in his will, the traditional readings of his stories will take place on **Sunday, May 6, at 8 PM sharp** at the Brotherhood Synagogue and our members are again cordially invited to join in the laughter and refreshments.

Please call the office (212.674.5750) or visit www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org to RSVP if you would like to be present for this joyous occasion.



Shabbat Club

Saturday, May 12, 1:00 pm

On May 12, at 1pm, the Shabbat Club will host another Workshop for Tolerance led by Moshe Berlin. Join our active group and help combat the growing anti-Semitism promoted by BDS* in American high schools, colleges and universities. Bring your friends who may be interested in this goal!

We will discuss the requirements and psychological and social benefits, and the dangers surrounding the subjects of tolerance and acceptance, both for individuals and groups. Please bring to share with the group your notes with your own experiences, opinions and ideas. This discussion is part of the early stages of an ongoing Workshop for Tolerance. The second part is an exercise in tolerance which requires a larger population of participants with a wide range of ages - from teenagers all the way up to our concerned elders.

You can visit the web site for the workshop at www.habarbadi.com/classes/tolerance.

All are welcome to this discussion. There will be light refreshments.

M. Berlin has a B.Sc. degree in Psychology and Education from the CUNY and two years of post-graduate study at Queens College.

*The BDS Movement uses the means of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. The campaign has organized demonstrations and protests targeting companies that have contracts with the Israeli military or with companies in Israeli settlements.

SAVE THESE DATES IN JUNE

HOTDOG!

To say "thank you"* for giving to
Brotherhood's Annual Fund, you're
invited to a sizzling time at

**Brotherhood Synagogue's
Annual Fund BBQ**

Thursday, June 7, 2018

6:30 PM



*There's still time to join us by making your
Annual Fund gift. Call 212-674-5750 or make
your gift online at www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org/make-a-donation. Be sure to specify your
gift is for the Annual Fund.

Brotherhood Synagogue Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

6:30 PM

The congregation will vote on
important matters including the
budget and trustees.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Charles and Lainie Asch on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Lexi Asch**. Lexi, a student at Salk School of Science, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, **Gillian**.

James and Deborah Reino on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Ashton Reino**. Ashton, a student at MS 104, will celebrate his simcha with his brothers, **Blake, Chance, and Parker**.

Daniel and Corinne Goldman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Olivia Goldman**. Olivia, a student at St. Ann's School, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, **Noa**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Bob and Jane Lewis on the birth of their grandson, **Theodore Miller Lewis**, born to **Meredith and Sam Lewis**.

Myra Hushansky on the birth of a grandson, **Eitan Shimshon Berk**, born to **Susy and Emile Berk**.

Janice and Robert Olshever on the birth of their grandson, **Russell Morris Olshever**, born to **Samantha Olshever**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Roxanne Farkas and Gregg Rubin on their marriage.

Roberta and Steve Glusband on the engagement of their daughter, **Ilana Glusband** to **Isaac Gruber**.

Condolences to:

The family of our member, **Ruth Goldklang** on her passing.

Michael Bijaoui on the passing of his father, **Elie Bijaoui**.

Beverly Buscemi on the passing of her sister, **Judy Vernikoff**.

Patricia McGovern on the passing of her husband, and our member, **David Behrens**.

Helaine Teperman on the passing of her mother, **Carole Feinberg**.

Elaine Yudkovitz on the passing of her mother, **Ruth Yudkovitz**.

Vicki Morwitz on the passing of her father, **Bernard Morwitz**. 🌊

President's Post

by Trudi Rae Bartow



For those of you who haven't realized that I am constantly questing for self improvement (you must not have been reading my columns these past two years), it should come as no surprise that I consider Oprah a modern day secular saint. Her passion, advice, and thoughtful use of language have helped me become a better person. Earlier this year the media mogul and billionaire turned 64, and she remains as powerful, influential and wise as ever.

Oprah, a woman dedicated to learning more about spirituality and understanding the how's and why's behind our existence, often interviews high profile gurus, religious celebrities, and powerful writers such as Maya Angelou, the Dalai Lama, William Paul Young, Eckhart Tolle and Anthony Tony Robbins (many can be seen on her TV show SuperSoulSunday on OWN). One of the topics she always hits on during these interviews is to ask how these people have navigated their most challenging times and how they've achieved happiness and inner peace.

She perpetually shares what she learns with her audience and today I'm sharing some of my favorite advice.

Do Your Best, Always—“My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment, puts you in the best place for the next moment.”

Every Day Won't Be A Good Day, And That's OK—“Every day is a chance to start over.”

Practice Gratitude—“Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.”

Don't Fear Failure—“Failure is another steppingstone to greatness.”

If You Don't Learn From A Mistake, It Is A Waste—“Turn your wounds into wisdom.”

To read more about these principles and see even more please visit forbes.com and read the fascinating article by Frances Bridges called *The 10 Best Pieces of Life and Career Advice from Oprah Winfrey*. 🌊

A Note from Development

Planned Giving Donor Profile



When Melissa Cohen decided to make a Planned Gift to the Brotherhood Synagogue in 2015 she, as a professional fundraiser herself, knew it was a step that would make an impact on the future of the Synagogue. As a Charter Member of our *Irving J. Block Legacy Society*, Melissa tells us why she chose to make a planned gift, in addition to her regular contributions to the Annual Fund and other programs and funds at the Synagogue and hopes that her story will inspire others.

“I moved to the Gramercy Park neighborhood nearly 3 decades ago. After several years of living in the neighborhood, I learned about the legendary line that circled around the block every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for entry to Brotherhood's free High Holiday services. (No fee to attend High Holiday services? What a concept!) In due course, I queued up myself and, as I became more familiar with both the people at Brotherhood—the wonderful clergy, staff and congregants—and the programs, offering something for everyone, I was inspired to join this warm and embracing community. Over the years, I have been an active

member, attending services, serving on committees and volunteering to serve the greater community around us through Brotherhood's Social Action Program. But still I wanted to do more. So I decided to name Brotherhood Synagogue as the beneficiary of my IRA. In this way, I know I am ensuring that Brotherhood's programs will continue nurturing souls, enriching lives, and celebrating our proud Jewish traditions, culture and learning for generations to come.”

We thank Melissa for her visionary giving and hope that others will join her in their estate planning!

Estate Planning Seminar

We had a great response to our December Estate Planning Seminar, both in attendance and in requests for another date for those who were unable to attend the Sunday morning session. TIAA's estate planning experts Joe Goldgrab and Tamara Telesko will be returning to conduct a second seminar on Thursday, May 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Please email mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or call me directly at 212-674-5750 to register or for further information.

—Marilyn Strozak,
Director of Development 🌊

Back by
popular demand!

BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE

and



Invite you to
An Estate Planning Seminar
May 24, 2018
6 – 8 pm

Come and learn
about estate and tax planning strategies
that will benefit you,
the people you care about,
and the charities
that mean the most to you.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to

Marilyn Strozak at:

mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org

or 212-674-5750

Another successful homeless shelter season came to an end on March 27th.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to all of our devoted volunteers for the loving way in which they served our guests.

Thank you as well to Nancy Hornstein, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you to our generous members and nonmembers from the Gramercy community led by Arlene Harrison who donated gifts for our guests. Special thanks to Laura, Jack and Lyla Guttman who put together many wonderful gift bags and the talented Eve Rich who delivered her delicious baked goods at the beginning of every week.

Last, but not least a very special thank you to Inge Dobelis who, for many years has cooked fabulous soups for each night of the shelter season.

All of your efforts were so appreciated by our guests.

Leah Glasser
Homeless Shelter Coordinator



YAHREZITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

May 5-11

Gordon Alpert, Bernard Baumstein, Mildred Behrens, ^Harry Berke, Moshe Bialer, Bob Birnbaum, Dawn Bowers, ^*Julius Cohen, ^Harry Cohn, *Florence Dolitsky, *Selma Eisinger, Philip Elson, Samuel Farber, *Irene C. Field, *Anita Frankel, Toby Garfin, ^Ceal Goldman, ^Marjorie R. Goodrich, ^Nathaniel H. Goodrich, ^Annette Green, Frieda Gutterman, Jean Haberman, Rosalyn Harris, Joe Hill, Hopestill Hunter, ^Nathan Izenzon, Alan Kornfeld, ^Pearl Krauss, Naomi Kruvant, ^Jonas Landau, *Joan D. Laufer, Charles Maikish, Chaim Marcus, ^Pauline Musiker, Ida Newton, Grace Nicolas, ^Harold Pomerantz, ^Nathan Ray, ^Hal Reiff, ^Curt Reisner, ^Emanuel Rosenberg, ^Elizabeth Rosenblum, Sidney Rosenfeld, ^Mina Rubin Roth, ^*Rosalind G. Roy, ^Samuel Rubinoff, ^Esther Sager, Benjamin Salom, ^Col. Milton Seaman, Jack Silverstein, ^Lillian Singer Simon, Ethel Solender, ^Alita Dee Star, ^Abraham Boris Strauss, ^Philip L. Sulzer, Milton Teitelbaum, Lenora Vassil, Samuel J. Warner, ^Isaac L. Weiner, ^Joseph Weisglass, ^Seymour Weisglass, *Martin Wittenstein

May 12-18

^Edward S. Abrahams, Jack Abramowitz, ^Alfred Alterman, Jack Berkman, Wilbur Bobker, Hananiah Borochoy, Marcus Breier, Ida Cooper, *Vera Cushin, Joseph Epstein, Ralph Fleckman, Sarah Fox, ^Aaron Friedman, Seymour Gazes, Fannie Gerstein, Edith Glassman, ^*Pearl Greeninger, ^Carol Grunberg, ^Mildred Haas, ^Olly Billig Hahn, Harry Hansell, *Charlotte Heyman, Rachel Jacobs, William Jassey, Robert Jordan III, Jerome D. Kaleko, *Isidore Korein, *Max Krumholz, Estelle Levine, ^Max Levine, *Jennie Mahler, *Asher Markowitz, ^Harry Meyer, ^Israel Miller, ^Hymen Monk, Manny Mortz, *Malke Moses, ^Irving Moskowitz, Edward Perlow, Esther Rabinowitz, Eric Reagen, Clara Rofman, *Isidore Rosenbaum, Martin Roth, Abraham Schenker, *Harry Schlanger, Joyce Schupak, *Hyman Seidman, ^Judith (Julia) Seinfeld, Sarah Rivie Slotnick, Morris Spiegel, Evelyn Storick-Sobin, Lloyd Walther, *Anabel Weiner, ^Jerry Weiss, Millie Wine, Mae Winston

May 19-25

^Leo Alperson, *Simon Baumann, Ernest Beck, Roberta Berk, *Helen Shrom Berkman, ^Harry A. Bernstone, Edwin Blate, ^Theodore Blum, ^Max Braver, Sylvia Brown, ^Louis Hannon Burgoff, Irving Cohen, Bernard Domow, Albert Einbinder, Abraham Ellias, Richard Evans, Mary Feinstein, Hanna Flame, Joseph Godfrey, ^Anna Gold, ^Sally Green, Muriel Gross, *Jacob Grossman, ^Milton Hoffman, Helen Kasman, Daniel King, Edward Klauber, Ralph M. Larkin, Louis Lieberman, *Esther Lipshie, Phoebe Margolis, ^George Marton, ^Abraham Menaker, Seymour Meskin, ^Frieda Meyerson, Esther Miles, Sylvia Morris, Dorothy Newburg, Sherley Plasse, Bernard Plutzer, ^Fannie Cohen Poller, *Sidney Poswolsky, Adina Raviv, ^Herman Reinis, Joel Reiss, Richard Robbins, Louis Ross, *Besse Satosky, Eydie Scher, Jacob Schneier, Ruth Simring, *Adele Topolsky, Lottie Tucker, Irving Weber, Sam Weinman, Joel Weprin, Gertrude Winn

May 26 – June 1

^Irving Abraham, Sydel Alper, Norman Apt, Barbara Berger, George Bergofin, ^Irving Birnbach, Ralph Click, ^Ben Dubin, Hyman Eisenberg, Joseph Feldman, *Dr. Arnold B. Field, Bernice Fine, ^Geraldine Finsie, ^Manny Fox, *Frank Frankel, Albert W. Fuss, Jacob Goldklang, *Arthur Greeninger*, Jacob Hill, Freda Hofstetter, *Lena Elias Israel, Herman Kasman, *Louis Katz, Roberta Klein, *Harold Klein, Rose Korach, George Krulik, ^Arnold Lappert, Marcia Lash, ^Kathe Mansfeld, Kate Markovitz, Sam Miller, ^*Rudolf Nachman, *Hermann Nachmann, *Edith Perman, Mary Rockower, ^Abram Rubinstein, Max Jack Schneider, Beatrice Schoenberg, David G. Schorr, Marcia Schwartz, *Harold John Shaine, Judith Shiffman, Michael Shiffman, Hinde Shragowitz, Julia Simon, Shirley Speer, Rina Stempel, ^Ezra Strong, ^Sol Sunkin, ^Stanley Topper, ^Ruth Varsano, *Fred Weideger, ^Samuel Zolick, Louis Zonon, Rose Zonon

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Public health experts encourage people to have “in case of emergency” information available to paramedics, firefighters, hospital personnel, and police officers so they know what relative or friend to contact for you in a crisis, and to provide important medical information. The Chesed Committee has created convenient wallet cards as well as larger notices that you can post in your home on which you can supply this information. Stop by the Synagogue office and pick up one of each.

*The Chesed Committee provides help and compassion to Brotherhood members in times of need. Reach us at chesed@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or through the synagogue office.

The Brotherhood Synagogue



28 Gramercy Park South
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Phone: (212) 674-5750
Fax: (212) 505-6707



www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER,
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER,

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²¹ D.D.: Founding Rabbi

HERMAN DIAMOND: Cantor Emeritus

TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

Another Hebrew School year is nearing its end! On May 2 we will hold our 12th annual Chai-Q Contest! Our students and their families have been studying feverishly to compete in this amazing Jeopardy-style game—with questions based on basic precepts of Jewish life and Jewish law. Categories include: Jewish holidays; Bible; Law and Customs and Israel. The names of the Grand Champion and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be published in the June Brotherhood Bulletin.

Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm our Hebrew School's musical adaptation of *Bye Bye Birdie* opens and our second and final performance of *Bye Bye Birdie* will take place on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm. Several of the musical numbers will be performed both in Hebrew and in English. We are excited about this production—and hope that you will be able to attend. Tickets are now on sale! To purchase tickets, contact Bunny Blei at bblei@brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Kitah Zayin's (7th Grade) Siyyum (Completion Ceremony) will take place on Friday,

May 18, at the 7:30 pm Sanctuary services. Our 7th Graders will be helping co-lead parts of the Friday evening service and will share reflections about what growing up in the Brotherhood Synagogue community has meant to them. They will also speak about their 7th Grade Tzedakah project—the Jewish Child Care Association—and why they chose it.

Kitah Bet's (2nd Grade) Stepping Up Ceremony will take place that Shabbat morning May 19, as our 2nd graders celebrate their promotion from the Aleph Bet Club to Junior Congregation and mark their first day of attendance as full-fledged members of Junior Congregation.

On the evening of Saturday, May 19 through Monday, May 21 we will be celebrating the Festival of Shavuot—the Feast of Weeks (7 weeks after Pesach). There will a special Shavuot Celebration Ice Cream Party for the children on Monday, May 21 at 4 pm. The Shavuot Ice-Cream Party is a Brotherhood tradition, based upon our tradition of eating dairy

on Shavuot, as we awaited the arrival of the Ten Commandments and Torah! Please join us for the wonderful and delicious celebration!

The last school day of this year's Monday and Wednesday students is Wednesday, May 23 and for the Tuesday students (in Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) and Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) the last school day of the year is Tuesday, May 22.

Our first day of Hebrew School for the coming school year (5779 – 2018-2019) is Wednesday, September 12 (Kitot Gimmel through Vav (3rd -6th Grades)) and for the Tuesday students (Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Aleph (1st Grade), Kitah Bet (2nd Grade), Kitah Zayin (7th Grade)) the first day of school will be Tuesday, October 9. **Registration for the Fall 2018 has already begun!**

Wishing you all a healthy, safe and productive summer!

L'Shalom,

—Barbara Simon

Hebrew School Principal

SHAVUOT ICE CREAM PARTY

for Brotherhood kids and families!

Monday, May 21
at 4 pm



Hear the Ten Commandments read aloud and join us afterwards in eating a dairy dish to symbolize the sweetness of the giving of the Torah and the land of milk and honey:

Ice cream sundaes with all the toppings!

MY TWO CENTS, continued from page 2

on the floor next to me wailed throughout the reading. The destruction of the Temple is a tragic event and this young man certainly felt the anguish as did I that evening. I do recommend Shabbat morning services at the Great Synagogue. Although we were lost during most of it (the Roman service and melodies are unique), the Kiddush luncheon was great, only outdone by Phil's. And definitely try some of the kosher restaurants in the Ghetto. We have had wonderful meals meeting local Jewish Romans and tourists, conversing while literally sharing food and drink. We also ate and learned how to make great kosher meat Pasta Carbonara (for creaminess, replacing the parmigiana with extra egg yolks.)

Barcelona—we were warned; good luck finding kosher friendly food. Well our first day walking along Las Ramblas we stumbled across a kosher restaurant. We looked at each other—gee, this won't be so difficult. That was the first and last kosher place we found. There is however a great Vegetarian restaurant in Barcelona called Sesamo. Highly recommended to

us by a friend of Candy's who lives in Paris who is not vegetarian, not Jewish/kosher and loves meat. Candy and I also not vegetarians went twice—in our opinion, that good. We did meet a nice Jewish couple at the tiny synagogue museum and spent the day with them. So much for our Jewish experience in Barcelona, we stayed in a hotel. We were tourists.

Saving the best for last. Israel. As a Jew, it is hard not to feel at home. Living in the Diaspora, I have never felt the comfort I feel being in Israel. And the food and restaurants are spectacular. One Saturday evening Candy and I were walking in Tel Aviv trying to find the restaurant a friend had recommended located in an area like the meat packing district of NYC years ago (off the beaten track and fairly desolate). We came across a gentleman who looked pretty shabby, but we were lost and needed help. After he gave us directions, he said to us "Shavuah Tov" (a good week). We were really home.

This is another in our series of "My Two Cents" columns about travels in the world-wide Jewish community.

Seeking Graduation News

We would like to hear about all graduations from High School, College and Professional and Graduate Schools for listing in our June bulletin. Please contact the synagogue with this information and any future plans of the graduates by May 13. Phone: 212-674-5750 or Fax: 212-505-6707 or Email: rabbib@brotherhoodsynagogue.org



Nursery School Thoughts

by Jonathan Berk

My children have had enough of me. Not only am I a teacher at their school, but Gus and Oscar have taken turns as my pupil in the Yellow Room. I'm also a former teacher (and student) at the Brotherhood Hebrew School and in the Tikvah Program. I had my bar mitzvah here and had my wedding reception here. For Oscar and Gus, there's no one in the Synagogue they're excused from acknowledging. Congregants recognize me as Myra's son, teenagers remember me from Hebrew school or Tikvah, nursery school parents from the Yellow Room, and synagogue employees from any of the four. Two years ago, I added 'nursery school parent' to this rap sheet and was surprised by how quickly I fell in love with being "Oscar and Gus's dad."

The Brotherhood Synagogue is my second home. Carl, Phil and Rabbi Alder knew me as a toddler. Amy and I couldn't imagine sending our kids anywhere else. Thanks to the generous support from the synagogue we were able to enroll them in a nursery experience that we would otherwise be unable to provide. I hope that being a teacher has made me a more patient father and that being a father has made me a more thoughtful teacher.

As easy as our bifurcated life may sound (bear in mind that I'm trying to complete a PhD and Amy works afternoons and evenings), it's not easy. On a Tuesday in February, the perfect storm hit. Our babysitter left us for a full-time job and Gus was beginning the delightful transition out of napping. Amy brought Gus to me in Union Square, from where we typically walk to pick up Oscar. But this Tuesday Gus was sleeping. When we arrived at the synagogue, I woke Gus, who wailed, "I want my mommy!" and banged his obstinate fist into his tired hand. On this Tuesday my fuse was especially short having learned that one of the classes I adjunct teach was not being offered in the fall. With my attention split between money and keeping up appearances, I was neglecting Gus. I then watched as a teacher took him by the hand into the Red Room, helping Gus and myself immeasurably. The next day, as Gus and I turned towards the nursery school, we saw the same teacher standing at the stairs, hands stretched out, waiting. She still refuses to make anything of it.

I omit the teacher's name because each teacher has a story like this. And by 'teacher' I include the compassionate support staff. This experience would not be what it is without the sensitive and loving members of the nursery school and Synagogue. To the administrators and clergy, maintenance and security, congregants and teachers: thank you for showing me kindness beyond the limits of your duties without the slightest hesitation. And to fellow parents—from someone on both sides of the parent-teacher conference table—your children are in incredible hands. 🌈

Sunday, May 6, 11:00 am

Please join us for a VERY special year-end musical event for children age 5 and under and their families!



Registration for our Fall early childhood classes will open first week in June – Please Register Early!!



Please join us at Brotherhood for our musical Family Shabbat service!

Friday, May 11

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3 in the Yellow Room with Saskia Lane

♪ Cantor's Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

As we count the 49 days of the Omer that lead towards Shavuot and our receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, we can also reflect on the significance of our Exodus from Egypt. More pointedly, we can also reflect on the Jewish people's ability to exercise resilience, especially in times of turmoil. From the depths of slavery to our obtaining of the Torah, our narrative as a people embodies the true strength of our character. We endured hardship, fought for our freedom, and retell the story of this fight on an annual basis. Essentially, this narrative lays the groundwork for the exploration of other Jewish narratives (as well as potential non-Jewish narratives) that demonstrate the effect persecution can have on a group's spiritual resolve, and ultimately, how it can reveal the embodied strength of a people. The importance that we give to retelling the story of our Exodus and celebrating G-d's gift of Torah exemplifies the value we place on understanding and learning from our shared history so as to strengthen our future.

It was Rabbi Yom Tov ben Avraham Ishbili (13th-14th century) who said, "Every single individual must see and look at himself as though he had been a slave in Egypt and as though he went forth to freedom." Much like our shared

symbolic experience at Sinai, so, too, do we share the symbolic affliction of our history as slaves in Egypt. Consequently, recognizing the communal effect of this hardship makes the celebration of receiving the Torah all the more joyous.

The late author Elie Wiesel²⁷ wrote, "I marvel at the resilience of the Jewish people. Their best characteristic is their desire to remember. No other people have such an obsession with memory." This quote speaks to the heart of one of the most defining characteristics of the Jewish people, resilience. As Wiesel understood, the value the Jewish people have placed on memory has helped to strengthen our ability to never forget the path we followed to achieve our freedom and revel in the gift of Torah. Fundamentally, this resilience is defined by the worth the Jewish people place on understanding our complicated history. Our yearly commitment to retell the story of Passover and count down the days to Shavuot is an indication of that worth. This commitment to constantly understand and learn energizes us as a people, unites us in our shared pursuit of knowledge, and provides us with spiritual stability as we retell our story of both persecution and joy for generations to come. 🌈

Brotherhood Synagogue



Iyar / Sivan 5778
May 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 |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 29 9:30 am: Tikvah 9:30 am: Bikur Cholim Conference | 30 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School | 1 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 | 2 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Hava Tequila! | 3 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II | 4 7:37 pm: Candles 5:15 pm: Second Nursery Family Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm: Services | 5 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Lexi Asch EMOR |
| 6 9:30 am: Tikvah 11 am: Early Childhood Program Year End Concert! 8 pm: Sholom Aleichem 102nd Yahrzeit | 7 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> Book Club | 8 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan | 9 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School | 10 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II | 11 7:45 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 7:30 pm: Services | 12 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Ashton Reino BEHAR-BEHUKOTAI |
| 13 9:30 am: Tikvah | 14 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School | 15 7:30 am: Minyan 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 ROSH CHODESH | 16 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 2:30 pm: Life Goes On 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Hebrew School Play <i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> | 17 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club 7 pm: Hebrew School Play <i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> | 18 7:51 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services Siyuum Step Up | 19 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Goldman 7:30 pm: Supper and Study 9 pm: Services BEMIDBAR |
| 20 9:30 am: Services SHAVOUT | 21 9:30 am: Services Noon: Yizkor 4 pm: Ice Cream Party SHAVOUT | 22 9:30 am: Toddler Class 10 am: English in Action 10:45 am: Toddler Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan | 23 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School | 24 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action 3 pm: Thursday Corner 4:15 pm: Thursday Corner II | 25 7:58 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services | 26 ☆ 9:30 am: Services NASSO |
| 27 | 28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 29 10 am: English in Action 5:40 pm: Minyan | 30 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class | 31 9:30 am: Toddler Class 11 am: Pre-Toddler Class 2 pm: English in Action | 1 8:03 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services | 2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services BEHA'ALOTECHA |



Delicious Jewish Breads - 2018

Many thanks to member Mark Goldey, for teaching this great class again this year!