



# Brotherhood Synagogue יה"ב

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## Welcoming the Stranger and Protecting the Refugee

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

During the retelling of the exodus story at the Passover Seder, we say about our ancestor the words, "Arami oved avi." This phrase is translated alternatively as "My father was a wandering Aramean" and also as "An Aramean sought to destroy my father." Somewhere between these two translations lies the essence of the Jewish experience over the past couple thousand years: a wandering people who have fled persecution time and time again. These words acknowledge that we have stood in the shoes of the refugee.

As we celebrate our freedom, we should commit ourselves to continuing to stand with contemporary refugees. This is an issue I addressed a little over a year ago in a letter to the congregation. I remarked how we or our immediate ancestors came to America in a time of more open immigration that has benefited both us and this country. There is no religious obligation more central to Judaism than the protection of refugees and immigrants. No fewer than 36 times the Torah admonishes us to treat the foreign born with fairness and compassion: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:20).

Today there are more than 65 million people still making treacherous journeys away from persecution and violence in their homelands. As we dip our karpas (green vegetable) into salt water, we think of the Rohingya father who walked for six days to avoid military capture in his native Myanmar before he came to the Naf River and swam to Bangladesh. We think of the Syrian mother rescued from the dark waters of the Mediterranean Sea in the early hours of morning, still holding the lifeless body of her infant child after their small boat capsized. We think of the Somali and Ethiopian refugees deliberately drowned when the smuggler who promised them freedom forced them into the Arabian Sea.

At the Passover Seder, we eat matzah as we remember the modest means by which the Israelites sustained themselves on their journey out of slavery. Like our ancestors, today's refugees rebuild their lives with precious few resources at their disposal. These meager resources often become the seeds of their liberation as they go on to lay down new roots, rebuild their lives, and make important contributions to their local communities and our country as a whole. HIAS reports that though refugees living in the United States for five years or less have a median household income of roughly \$22,000, that number more than triples in the following decades. Over a twenty-year period, the majority of refugees fully pay back through their taxes the cost of resettlement and other related benefits.

The Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigrant Crisis (SCRIC) is made up presently of 17 synagogues and four nonprofit organizations in Manhattan and is growing. The Brotherhood Synagogue is contemplating being the 18th (chai) synagogue. The coalition is entirely led by members of the various congregations from a variety of Jewish denominations. They seek to promote welcoming, humane responses to refugees

## Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 9:30 AM  
*8th Day of Pesach*


FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 9:30 AM  
*B'nai Mitzvah of Jonathan and Lily Hirsch*

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 7:30 PM  
*(Please note the new start time)*  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 9:30 AM  
*B'nai Mitzvah of Jaden and Justine Ben-Shmuel*

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 PM  
*Speaker at Services: SCRIC*  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 9:30 AM  
*Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Occhiogrosso*

seeking permanent entry and residence in the U.S. and support immigrants, both documented and undocumented, by providing direct services and advocacy.

Come hear more about the work of the SCRIC when a lay leader will speak at 7:30 pm Friday evening services on April 27th. Some of their recent activities include training over 60 lawyers to support asylum seekers, collaborating with NYC government to register over 500 people to obtain a NYCID, joining together to collect goods and delivering them to an Afghan family in Queens, and receiving a grant from UJA to pursue further goals.

God brought us out of Egypt with an "outstretched arm." Jewish tradition teaches us that we are God's partners in the continual act of creating a more just world in which all human beings are treated with dignity and compassion. As we recall the strength that God extended to the Jewish people in the season of our escape from oppression, we extend our arms to embrace those in our world still experiencing persecution because of who they are. 



### Speaker at Services • Friday, April 27, 7:30 pm

Please join at Friday night services and learn more about the work of The Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigrant Crisis (SCRIC). This New York City coalition seeks to promote welcoming, humane responses to refugees seeking permanent entry and residence in the US and supports immigrants, both documented and undocumented, by providing direct services and advocacy.

## My Two Cents by Harvey D. Shapiro

When my mother passed away a few years ago, I wondered how I could say kaddish for her while continuing my work moderating international conferences, a role involving a travel schedule that has made me a Million Miles Club member on three different airlines. I would need to find minyans in a dozen cities on four continents. Fortunately, I was introduced to *godaven.com*, a website listing any and all places in the entire world where you could find Jewish religious services.

So off I went: I davened in Amsterdam, Brussels, Edinburgh, London, Paris, Stockholm, Lisbon, Madrid, and Barcelona. That was just for kaddish. And that was just Europe. Before and after my days saying kaddish, I also went to synagogues in Caracas, Rio, Buenos Aires, and Mexico City and in Tokyo and Hong Kong plus Sydney and Melbourne. My wife and I also spent the high holidays in London, Rome, Amsterdam, and Lisbon, and I spent Purim in Bangkok and in Casablanca. (I know, I know, this is beginning to sound like satirist Tom Lehrer's old song, "I'm spending Chanukah in Santa Monica (and Shavous in East St. Louis).")

My journey offered several insights into Jewish life around the world. First of all the settings ranged widely. In Amsterdam, I went to the Portuguese Synagogue, an historic landmark, but also to a tiny *shniebel* on the ground floor of a canal house. I went to the grand synagogue in Budapest, the largest in Europe, and the Chabad house in a storefront a block away. I looked for downtown shuls because that's typically where my hotel was, and what I found were often architectural gems that were hanging by a thread financially because their congregants had moved to the suburbs. On several occasions, I was pleased to help ensure they had minyan.

What was most upsetting in Europe was the security. Most of the synagogues had locked doors, security cameras, gated entries and barred windows. While I wanted to come in early and look around, often I had to wait with other congregants until just before services when the staff would unlock the doors. Many times there would be security people—always rumored to be IDF or Mossad alumni—checking the passports of visitors and asking questions. It was an El Al Airlines style of questioning, where your answers were less important than your behavior during the questioning. When I sought to arrange a visit to a synagogue in Nice, France, they even asked for contact details for Rabbi Alder so they could check me out in advance. (I apparently passed inspection—thank you Dan—but never got there because my car was broken into and I spent the late afternoon with the gendarmes instead of at *maariv*, but that's another story.)

Once inside, at every synagogue, everyone was invariably hospitable but not overbearing. Sensing my bewilderment, they would unobtrusively show me where to sit, which book they were using, or what page we were on. In Stockholm, my puzzlement was apparently visible from the bimah and the rabbi soon offered a running commentary in English as well as Swedish. Generally, I could follow the Ashkenazi services well enough. In fact,

in addition to the 19 *Adon Olam* melodies I have heard at Brotherhood, I have now heard about 27 new ones. At Sephardic services, though, I was pretty lost.

One thing I learned during my travels was that it's a small Jewish world. At one synagogue, I overheard someone talking about the Brotherhood Synagogue on Gramercy Park. Turns out it was a fellow member in town for a conference. In Stockholm, after the rabbi saw I was an American, and we got to talking, and I found that he had retired from a Chicago congregation and used to live a couple of blocks from my Chicago cousins in West Rogers Park. (And just a month ago, the rabbi at a synagogue in Paris turned out to have gone to the Jewish Theological Seminary with Rabbi Alder.) Moreover, wherever I talked to congregants, everybody seemed to have a cousin in New York, and no, I didn't happen to know them.

My experiences were often very emotional. In Germany, there was frequently a police car parked in front of the synagogue, and in Berlin there was a permanent guard post. Once inside, there was a vibrant community. In one Frankfurt synagogue, there was a modern orthodox service in the main sanctuary, a liberal *masorti* service in the library, and a Hassidic service downstairs. As I took it all in, I experienced what I know is a common emotion

*Continued on page 7*

## Passover Services

### First Days

Friday, March 30, 6:30 pm  
Saturday, March 31, 9:30 am  
Sunday, April 1, 9:30 am

### Concluding Days

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 pm  
Friday, April 6, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
Saturday, April 7, 9:30 am

*Yizkor will be recited at services on Saturday, April 7th at around 11:30 am. Passover 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.*



## 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 group tour of the Downton Abbey exhibit was universally acclaimed and enjoyed as was the dinner following in the company of good friends.

Our April meeting will be at 7pm on **Thursday, April 26th** at the Center for Jewish History (15 West 16th Street). Harvard Professor Dr. Ruth Wisse will speak on the fascinating topic of "Politics of American Jewish Power." Our group will only have 15 reserved seats at a cost of \$10.30 per ticket, so please **RSVP ASAP** to Brenda Pace at [Bapace172@gmail.com](mailto:Bapace172@gmail.com) if you wish to attend. Dinner will precede the lecture with details to follow to those attending.

A special treat is in store for us on **Wednesday, May 16th at 2:30 pm**: we're touring the interior of lower Manhattan's Beaux Art gem, the U.S. Customs House. Inside we'll take a break to look at some exhibits in the Museum of the American Indian and then go on to tour sites and memorials in the area associated with ill-fated White Star ship Titanic. Our private tour is priced at \$25 per person. **Please email Paulette Lerner right away if you plan to attend at [plerne@aol.com](mailto:plerne@aol.com).** Our plan is to enjoy lunch together prior to the tour or have

dinner together after—when you rsvp, please state your preference.

Thanks to our amazing organizers, Judy, Brenda, Sheila, Paulette and Susan, we can look forward to a number of fascinating programs this year. Details will follow as we move further into the year.

Our book club set a new record for enthusiasm again in our discussion of *Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford, a novel about 18th century New York City. For our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 11th at 7pm**, we are reading *The Burning Girl* by Claire Messud. Our last meeting of the season will be **Monday, May 7**, with the book to be decided at our April 11 meeting. 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](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.

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).

The Israel Committee presents a screening of a documentary by Brotherhood member Beth Krivant

## LEVINSKY PARK

Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 pm

*Levinsky Park* (English and Hebrew-subtitled, 66 min.) tells the simple stories of residents, refugees and activists riding the tide of history in Tel Aviv. Through the lens of an asylum seeker from Darfur, longtime residents of the community, and a human rights activist, the contours and nuances of the refugee story are explored.

The film intimately presents a clash of two worlds: that of longtime residents who have lived in the area of Levinsky Park since the aftermath of WWII and that of the thousands of recent migrants and refugees, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, who crossed the desert to reach freedom in Israel. Like Europe and the U.S., Israel is wrestling with how to balance its right to protect its borders and prevent illegal immigration while at the same time showing compassion and humanity. The refugee conflict as presented in Israel is particularly heightened since as a country created to give refuge to Jews, Israelis are also a people all too familiar with "otherness."

\$10 suggested at the door



Downtown Jewish Life (DJL)  
Celebration of Yom Haatzmaut:

## Yael Deckelbaum & Prayer of the Mothers Ensemble

Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 pm  
at Le Poisson Rouge,  
158 Bleecker Street

Award-winning Israeli multi-cultural women's ensemble Yael Deckelbaum & Prayer of the Mothers celebrates Yom Haatzmaut and the great diversity of Israel at 70.

\$25 Tickets

## WE REMEMBER

Brotherhood Synagogue, along with Downtown Jewish Life (DJL) will hold our annual community commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day at The Museum of Jewish Heritage including a musical presentation by the Brotherhood choir, Harmoni'AH!

Join us for a night of music, lights and ritual to honor lives lost in the Holocaust

April 11, 2018 • 6:30 pm

Museum of Jewish Heritage

36 Battery Place

New York, New York

Doors open at 6:15 pm

RSVP to Michele Schulman

[mschulman@14streety.org](mailto:mschulman@14streety.org)



## Celebrating Israel at 70!

### Ella's Trip to Israel!: An Interactive Musical CHILDREN'S Performance

Sunday, April 22, 12:30 pm

Join MusicTalks ([www.music-talks.com](http://www.music-talks.com)) for a fun-filled Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's 70th birthday!) celebration with the delightful children's book, *Ella's Trip to Israel!* Come along and discover with Ella the most breathtaking Israeli sites such as the Kotel in Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, a Galilee Kibbutz and much more.

Ella's magical journey through Israel will be brought to life with a sing-along of well-known Israeli tunes such as *Hine Ma Tov* and *David Melech Israel*, narrated and sung by actress Adi Kozlovsky and a five-piece band.

Following the interactive performance, the participants will be invited to meet the musicians up close and learn about the different instruments at our one of a kind "musical instrument petting zoo."



### The Fascinating Eco-Systems of Israel Travel the Land with Hedy Ben Eliahu

Sunday, April 22, 4:00 pm

Join Hedy Ben Eliahu, Ranger, Israel Nature & Parks Authority, who returns to Brotherhood to lead you on a journey through the land of Israel, highlighting its extraordinary geographic diversity.

From north to south to east to west, the tiny land of Israel is characterized by a wide range of geography and rich variety of flora and fauna. Along its 300 mile length, Israel embraces landscapes that are normally separated by thousands of miles in other countries: Mount Hermon in the north has snowy slopes and alpine habitat while the Gulf of Eilat, in the south, harbors spectacular coral reefs and colorful tropical fish. Lying between these two extremes are arid desert areas, lush oases, green Mediterranean woods and forests, and the lowest point on earth—the Dead Sea.

Within this small land area, two different and even opposing climate zones are found—Mediterranean in the north and desert in the south, with the central part of Israel serving as a transition area between these two bio-geographical regions. On our tour we will explore the beauty and splendor of this land and the ecological reasons that make Israel one of the most diverse countries in the world.



## Happenings in Our Kehilah

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

Stephen and Alison Hirsch on the B'nai Mitzvah of their twins, **Jonathan and Lily Hirsch**. Jonathan and Lily are students at Simon Baruch Middle School.

**Dominick Balletta** and **Ilene Wilets** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Justin Balletta**. Justin, a student at Pleasantville High School, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, **Ethan**.

**Izac** and **Abby Ben-Shmuel** on the B'nai Mitzvah of their children, **Jaden** and **Justine Ben-Shmuel**. Jaden and Justine, students at Avenues World School, will celebrate their simcha with their older sister, **Jordan**.

**Glen** and **Mallay Occhiogrosso** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Eliza Occhiogrosso**. Eliza, a student at Simon Baruch Middle School, will celebrate her simcha with her siblings, **Duncan** and **Casey**.

**Correction:** Mazel Tov to **Alison Monk**, **David Monk** and **Allegra Cohen** on the occasion of their daughter **Eden Monk's** Bat Mitzvah. The Brotherhood community would also like to extend a Mazel Tov to Eden's grandparents, **Madeleine** and **George Brecher** and **Myra** and **Dennis Monk** on this simcha.

### Births, Mazal Tov to:

**Amy** and **Craig Gluckman** on the birth of their son, **Joshua Levi Gluckman**.

**Rachel** and **Kurt Enger** on the birth of their son, **Solomon Ernst Enger**; and to older sister, **Charlotte**.

### Condolences to:

**Julie Zeitlin** on the passing of her mother, **Rebecca Davis Flather**.

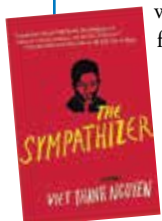
**Danielle Ofri** on the passing of her father, **Zecharia Ofri**. 🌸

## Brotherhood Book Club

### Thursday, April 19, 7:00 pm

Roberta Koza will lead a discussion of *The Sympathizer*, a sweeping epic of love and betrayal by Viet Thanh Nguyen and the winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Please contact Margie Katz [margie.katz@icloud.com](mailto:margie.katz@icloud.com) if you would like further information about the Brotherhood Book Club. All are welcome!



## President's Post

by Trudi Rae Bartow



During the height of the Civil Rights movement, Dr Martin Luther King led thousands of nonviolent demonstrators along a 54-mile highway from Selma, Alabama to the state capital of Montgomery. One of the people who participated in that march was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. When Rabbi Heschel returned from Selma, he was asked by someone, 'Did you find much time to pray, when you were in Selma?' Rabbi Heschel responded, 'I prayed with my feet.' At first you wonder, does that mean he added some complicated choreography to his prayers, but then you understand that Heschel meant that marching, that protesting, that his speaking out for Civil Rights, speaking out against discrimination, injustice and intolerance, was an important prayer in and of itself.

In today's politically charged climate there are many issues worth getting to your feet for. One such issue that I am personally passionate about is the refugee crisis. For several years, a group of Upper West Side synagogues have partnered together to work on issues of refugees including campaigns to raise public awareness and running drives for needed goods. This organization has continued to grow and has rebranded itself as the Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis and has grown to include 17 synagogues in Manhattan and one in Queens, as well as several Jewish nonprofits including HIAS, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and T'ruah. I was introduced to

this group through a good friend at CBST. He is a leader in this movement and has connected me to some amazing people through a variety of lectures, programs, marches, and events. I have learned, first hand, how people have come to this country—just as my ancestors did—looking for opportunity to make a better life for their children or to escape an oppressive and discriminatory regime. These people deserve our help, not our scorn. It is easy to say “no” when you don't know the faces of the movement. It is easy to make a blanket statement of “no” out of fear and distrust. It is easy to turn around and ignore the issue when it isn't your family, your friends, your race or your religion. But doing the easy thing isn't always the right thing.

The point of this article isn't to make you angry but to motivate you to learn a little more about this often controversial topic. Over the course of the next several months, Brotherhood Synagogue will be hosting several programs on the immigration and refugee debate and letting you know about the interesting programs sponsored by the members of the Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis. I encourage you not to say “no,” but to come and listen and hear the stories of those directly involved. Not from the news commentators or politicians, but from the actual on-the-ground people working, just like Heschel, to end discrimination, injustice and intolerance. Let's use our feet to pray, to make a change, to bring about the world to come. 🌸

## Celebrating Israel at 70!

### Shabbat Club

#### Saturday, April 21, 1:00 pm

The Shabbat Club will hold its next monthly meeting on Saturday, April 21, at 1 pm, in the reception room on the second floor. Snacks and beverages will be available and all are welcome to attend

Our congregant, **Paul Hill**, will lead our discussion. Paul recently taught an Adult Education course on *A History of the Jewish People Gained Through Tel Aviv Street Names*. He will focus on some of the most interesting of these street names and the people and events associated with them and will provide maps of Tel Aviv so we can “follow in his footsteps.” Whether you attended the course or just want to stop in for this afternoon, he'll provide a fresh view of several thousands of years of history, just by reading street signs!

Stay tuned to announcements on Shabbat and to weekly emails for information on upcoming meetings and topics. Do you have suggestions for discussion leaders or topics in the future? If so, please contact Deborah Newman ([newmanddale@aol.com](mailto:newmanddale@aol.com)) or the office.

### Hadassah Meeting

#### Tuesday, April 10, 1:00 pm

Please join us for our monthly meeting when our speaker will be **Brotherhood member, Naomi Jones**, who will speak about her personal memories of growing up in Jerusalem during the War of Independence and her impressions of Jerusalem now. All are welcome to join us at our meeting in the Second floor reception room!

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

To encourage a spirit of chesed at Brotherhood, the committee will happily cover the registration fee for any member wishing to attend this year's Bikur Cholim conference sponsored by The Jewish Board on Sunday, April 29th. Information on the conference is found on page 8 of this bulletin. Please let Roberta Kahn ([rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)) know by Wednesday, April 18th if you would like to attend.

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

## VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED IN OUR GARDEN



## YAHRZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance \*Book of Remembrance

As we mark Yom HaShoah, observed on April 11-12, 2018 (27 Nissan 5778), we think of members of families in our congregation who perished during the Holocaust and whose names are memorialized on the wall of our Garden of Remembrance.

Rivka Leah Aspis, Chaim Berglas, Herman Berglas, Rachel Leah Berglas, Elvira Berkowitz, Regina Berkowitz, Alma Bermann, Leo Bermann, Bertha Brenman, Moses Brenman, Fanny Friedenstein, Israel Friedenstein, Mina G. Friedenstein, Rosa Friedenstein, Sonia Friedenstein, Hedwig Friedjung, Boris Glucksman, David Glucksman, Esther Glucksman, Helena Glucksman, Ilya Glucksman, Lola Glucksman, Masha Glucksman, Nadia Glucksman, Sasha Glucksman, Yetta Glucksman, Zsayama Glucksman, Pincus P. Goldman, Berish Goldreich, Sarah Goldreich, Yitzak Goldreich, Adolph Hamburger, Bella Hamburger, Ilse Hamburger, Joseph Hamburger, Natalie Hamburger, Ibi Hausler, Rifka Hausler, Frieda Heidelberger, Adolph Hirsch, Yaakov Michel Hirsch, Abraham Hirschfeld, Bertha Jacobowitz, Bertha Blume Jacobowitz, Fannie Jakobovits, Kaethe Kelemen, Sandor Kelemen, Ferdinand Kohn, Sophie Kohn, Avraham Kolodicki, Feige Kolodicki, Wolf and Sarah Lebowitz Family, Emma Anna Lowinger, Leopold Lowinger, Miklos Marton, Elizabeth Nachmann, Florine Nachmann, Julius Nachmann, Ruth Nachmann, Gita Najberg, Tzvi Najberg, Margarete Neumann, Rudolf Neumann, Benjamin Orenbuch, Isaac Rabinowitz, Erwin Roth, Isidor Roth, Mina Rubin Roth, Esther Rothenberg, Joseph Rothenberg, Abraham Rothstein, Ida Rothstein, The Family Rothstein, Max Rubin, Ella Schaeffer, Hugo Schaeffer, The Family Schreier, The Family Silberling, Samuel Stanger, Sari Orovan Steiner, Feiga Trencher, Moses Trencher, Ida Berger Veisz, Lajos Veisz, Avram Weissman, Avrom Weissman, Hentshe Weissman, Hersh Weissman, Lonka Weissman, Necha Weissman, The Family Weygman, Emma Wolff, Josef Wolff, Avrum Wolkove

And the children who perished.

### April 7 – 13

\*David Aaronson, ^Lottie Abrams, Sidney Alper, Herbert Alpert, Sarah Altman, Jack Babitz, Elaine Bailin, Rachel Balaber, Joel Berger, ^\*Herman Berglas, \*Martin Berkman, Jack Berkowitz, Martin Blank, ^Sarah Block, Olga Blum, \*David Cagen, Paul Benjamin Cohen, \*Herbert E. Cohen, Ariel Distenfeld, \*Samuel Eichner, ^Albert Eidelberg, Beatrice Einbinder, Hillel Eisenberg, \*Mark Ellenbogen, ^Fannie Feitell, ^Robert Fink, Edward Fong, ^Helen Friedman, Jules Gaynor, ^^Nathan Goldschlag, \*Dr. Samuel Gross, \*Rose Gross, \*Saul Grossman, Frederick Hardenburgh, Irving Hattem, \*Hyman Herbst, \*Harold Irving Hill, ^^Henry Hodys, \*Kati Jacobs, Gizelle Joblin, Eva Kalish, ^Many Kaplow, \*Isak Katz, Albert Kaufman, \*Cornelius Joseph King, Edith Kitt, Sheila Leah Klein, ^Ferdinand Kohn, ^Sophie Kohn, ^Lillian Kosta, Fred Kriegel, Shirley Krieger, Philip Kruvant, Owen Kupferschmid, \*Phillip Langer, ^Sarah Lebowitz, ^Wolf Lebowitz, \*Jules Lederberger, Jack Lederman, Sarah Lesser, Elizabeth Levine, Esther Levine, ^Stanley Levitt, Ruth Lewen, ^^Carl Maisel, Daniel Mann, ^Blanche Mann, ^Miklos Marton, Ruth Mason, Rosalind Miller, Gertrude Miller, ^Larry Miller, Edward Moskowitz, \*Beatrice Nemser, ^Margarete Neumann, ^Rudolf Neumann, Guta Perle, Sophie Polk, \*Rose Pollack, ^Benjamin Protter, ^^Dora Robins, ^^Joseph Rofman, Murray Rosenberg, ^Kalman Schindel, Johannes Schmutzer, \*Marcus Schnapp, Joseph Selterman, ^Pearl Settle, \*Ruth Shaine, Vera Shapiro, Rene Shapshak, ^Samuel Signer, Nathan Simon, \*Benjamin Siskind, ^Maxwell Siskind, ^Sidney Solomon, M.D., ^Michael S. Soloway, ^Dorothy Spatt, ^Florence I. Stark, Tilly Stern, Stanford Stillpass, Belle Weissman, Gussie Wilf

### April 14 – 20

Eva Aaron, Luna Alhadeff, Saul Allenson, Albert Altaras, \*Max Bachrach, William Barr, Max Bledstein, Donald Brandt, Gale Brown, Irving Chais, Elio Cohen, Matthew Consumano, ^Carole Gelfand, ^Richard Glaubinger, ^Adele Hirsch, Esther Kassin, \*Dr. Jerome J. Klein, Millie Koppelman, Alice Kresic, David Lesser, Alexander Levine, \*Marion Lipshie, Jacob Menschenfreund, ^Bertram Miller, ^Milly

Monk, ^Paul Newton, Jack Parker, ^Marian L. Plotka, Jonathan Marc Ragovin, ^Sylvia Regan, \*Rose Rosen, Samuel Rosenberg, ^Anna Helen Rothbart, ^Ben Rothstein, Sheila Sagman, \*Max Schlanger, Florence Sherinsky, Claire Silverstein, Ella Soroka, \*Harry L. Spindel, ^Fay Stelzer, ^Rose Williamowski Strauss, ^Henrieta Tarlow, Minna Tornek, Buddy Weiner, Dora Wertzer, Rabbi Manfred Wimer, Charles Zimmerman

### April 21 – 27

^Arlene Abramowitz, Dorothy Baumstein, ^Charles Bloom, ^Cynthia Blumenthal, ^Irving Bogash, Sylvia Bronstein, ^Arthur Dorman, Paul Ellant, ^Irving Feldman, Julian Fish, ^Bella Flame, ^Sadie Flax, Herman Fox, ^^Samuel J. Friedman, ^^Jeanne Engel Friedman, Rose Gelber, Harry Gingold, Robert Glazer, Rose Gluck, Paul Goldman, \*Herbert Gourse, ^Theodore Green, ^Belle Greene, Ruth Hill, Robert Jacobson, ^Leonard Kahn, Sylvia Korman, ^Leonore Soloway Lippman, Samuel Mandel, ^Ruth Marlowe, ^Helen Millstone, Julia Moss, Edith Penchina, ^Phillip Pritchard, ^Sid B. Pritchard, Conrad Roland, Jacob Rootenberg, Joel Rosenfeld, ^Irvin Russ, Laura Dee Russell, ^^Yetta Gustin Safadi, Marvin A. Saltzman, \*William Schwartz, Leo Sigal, ^Cantor Samuel M. Soloway, M. James Spitzer, ^Kenneth Stark, ^Rose Williamowski Strauss, Dorothy Unger

### April 28 – May 4

\*Israel B. Aaronson, ^Rebecca Abelson, \*Maurice Adams, Lony Alexander, Albert Anes, Ruth Ascher Abel, Seymour Bauchner, Shirley Bauchner, Myer Block, Y'chiel Bronfman, ^Rose Carlin, Helen Cohen, Alain-Gerard Cohen, \*John Delay-Naftalis, ^Renee Feinberg, Ann Friedman, ^David Goldsmith, ^Lydia Goldstein, Joseph Greene, Howard Greif, Hans Guggenheim, Barbara Herman, ^Belle Hocky, Irving Jacobs, Jack Kindler, ^^Theresa F. Lasser, ^Rose Magram, Alan Mamber, ^Joseph Margolis, \*Mortimer M. Natilson, Neil Pace, Michael Press, ^Lili Reinis, Carl Ross, Joseph Saba, Bernard Schneider, Samuel Schwartz, Billie Seffens, ^Gittel Silberling, Leah Spielman, Anita Stern, Margit Sugar, Daniel Tishler, \*Saul Unterweiser, Martin Wexer

## שְׁלוֹם אֵלֵיכֶם

## SHOLOM ALEICHEM 102<sup>ND</sup> 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](http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org) to RSVP if you would like to be present for this joyous occasion.



## 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  
TRUDI RAE BARTOW: President  
PHILLIP ROTHMAN:  
Executive and Education Director

Congregation founded in 1954  
Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

## A Note from Development

### Annual Fund

We hope this finds everyone enjoying a meaningful *Pesach* and a happy beginning of Spring!

With just three short months left before our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2018, we are appealing to you to support our Annual Fund and help us reach a lofty goal of \$650,000 this year.

### Why the Annual Fund?

Virtually every aspect of life at Brotherhood Synagogue depends on support from the Annual Fund. Programs like our homeless shelter, Tikvah and school scholarships would not be possible were it not for the Annual Fund. Our beautiful and inspiring Shabbat and holiday services, lifecycle events, our robust roster of programs for every interest as well as our Shabbatons, featuring lively and engaging speakers, all rely on support from the Annual Fund. Our Tikkun Olam and Chesed programs, interfaith outreach, and Social Action initiatives—all based on the founding principles of Brotherhood—are essential to our mission and every contribution to the Annual Fund helps assure their continuance. Each and every one of these programs, not to mention the maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful landmarked building, relies on your support. Every contribution is deeply appreciated and no gift is too large or too small.

To make your gift count, send a check by mail to my attention at Brotherhood, call 212-674-5750 to make a credit card gift by phone, or go to our secure website at [www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org](http://www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org). We thank you in advance, knowing that with your help, we will meet our goal. Please call me at 212-674-5750 or email me at [mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:mstrozak@brotherhoodsynagogue.org) if you have any questions about the Annual Fund or any aspect of your charitable giving. I am always happy to make the acquaintance of a new member and I look forward to hearing from you!

—Marilyn Strozak,  
Director of Development



## Hebrew School News

This year the month of April begins on the 2nd day of Pesach (the 16th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan)—exactly in sync with the first day of the counting of the omer!

Counting the *omer* dates back to biblical days. On the 2nd day of Pesach the Israelites brought a bundle, or *omer*, of barley to the *Beit HaMikdash* (the Holy Temple) as a gift to G-d. By bringing the bundles of barley to G-d, the Israelites were asking G-d to send rain and to make the second crop a good one. Every day after that—for 49 days/ 7 weeks—the omer was counted in the Holy Temple. On the 50th day, the second spring crop would be ready to harvest. At the conclusion of the counting of the omer we celebrate *Shavuot* (the Festival of Weeks)—the time when we received the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

Pesach, which begins on the 15th day of Nisan (the evening of March 30), has many names:

The Spring Festival (Chag HaAviv); the Festival of Matzah (Chag HaMatzot); the Season of our Freedom (Z'man Cheyruytanu), and of course, Passover (Pesach).

Our Hebrew School children spent the month of March preparing for Pesach. On Tuesday March 27, the Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Aleph (1st grade), and Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) students invited their families to join them in a Hagaddah Sing-Along in the Sanctuary.

On Wednesday, March 28, our students in Kitot Gimmel through Vav (3rd through 6th graders) participated in a Model Seder conducted by Rabbi Alder and our music teacher Daniel Meron. Each grade studied sections of the Hagaddah, which they led at our Model Seder.

Wishing everyone a Chag Pesach Sameach!

—Barbara Simon  
Hebrew School Principal

## Once again, we will be publishing our outstanding PLAYBILL!



Save the Date  
Wednesday & Thursday  
May 16 & 17 @ 7:00 pm

The Brotherhood  
Hebrew School Adaptation

The money raised from playbill advertisements will be used to benefit the Brotherhood Synagogue.

You can place an ad to honor your children, your friends or to advertise a business.

The ad information form can be found in the weekly mail or you can pick one up in the Hebrew School office.

All ad forms and payments must be received prior to: May 1, 2018.

Please note: all artwork must be in high resolution (300 dpi) PDF or JPEG format only.

All contributors will receive a copy of the playbill.

# Nursery School Thoughts

by Kate Klein

I never imagined that I would use not being allowed to go to school as a threat against my child: “You aren’t going to school tomorrow if you get out of your bed one more time. Go to sleep!”

I chuckle to myself each time this threat leaves my lips. The concept seems somewhat ridiculous. Had my parents held the same threat over my head each night, I would have never gotten through school. At the same time, however, it always brings me joy. What a wonderful concept. That his time in the Yellow, Red and now Blue Room has instilled in Xander such a love for school at a young age is something for which I will be forever grateful.

As we approach Irving Place each morning, he scoots away from me with immense confidence. He then races down the nursery school stairs, his little feet close to tangled in each other, shouting words from the fictional language Xander and his

classmates have created. Irritating and unintelligible to most, but he is almost exploding with joy so I hesitate to silence him. I’m barely down the stairs; he is already in the Blue Room.

His teachers are his cheerleaders, filling him with confidence and a sense that there is nothing he cannot do. He calls them by nicknames, hugs them readily and repeats their praises to anyone who will listen. His friends are his superheroes, filling him with boundless love and excitement and providing endless content for evening conversation.

I’m sure any family whose child is moving on from Brotherhood in the fall has mixed emotions—nostalgic for what they’re leaving behind but hopeful that they find in their next step what they found in their first. For Xander, I can’t ask for much more than that he love his next school as he has Brotherhood, not only, but at least a little, so that bedtime is never a battle again. ~

## Cantor’s Notes

by Cantor Isaac Yager

Typically, when we think of Passover, we are immediately drawn to the narrative of Moses and our exodus from Egypt. Too often, the women of the Passover story are overlooked. The narratives of Jochebed (Moses’ mother) and the Pharaoh’s daughter play an integral part in our understanding of the significance of *Pesach* and demonstrate the type of humanity that can be possible in moments of crisis. Ultimately, these women are linked by the bravery they display in doing whatever is necessary to protect the innocent baby Moses. Knowing that her son would be killed due to the Pharaoh’s decree concerning first-born Jewish males, Jochebed releases her innocent son Moses into the Nile with only the hope that he will be saved. To a certain extent, Jochebed’s actions here do not indicate any sort of power that she might have possessed and in fact demonstrate a clear example of her powerlessness against the authoritative and oppressive rule of the Pharaoh. Undoubtedly, compared to Jochebed, the Pharaoh’s daughter is higher up in the echelons of Egyptian power during this time. After all, she is Egyptian and her father is the ruler of Egypt. However, like Jochebed, her actions towards Moses indicate a similar helplessness. Although her royal blood puts her in a position that makes her capable of saving Moses, she does not possess any real political clout. She cannot voice her dissent with the Pharaoh’s decree and her ethical dilemma with the order against Jewish males forces her to hide Moses’s true identity in order to protect him. Her only concern is for the wellbeing of Moses and placing him

in the care of a Hebrew nursemaid (not knowing that the nursemaid is Jochebed) is another indication of where her interest lies.

Fundamentally, the actions of Jochebed and Pharaoh’s daughter were not an expression of power, but rather, an expression of decent human concern and should serve as a model for everyone, men and women alike. In a sense, both Jochebed and the Pharaoh’s daughter share the same type of powerlessness against the oppressive environment in which they live. Though the Pharaoh’s daughter certainly comes from a more privileged background, both women are seemingly powerless against an authoritative government where women’s voices are clearly not meant to be heard. Though these women never attained a type of authority that would permit them to vocalize their discontent out in the open, power is not necessarily rooted in authority. These women unknowingly demonstrated their strength by adhering to their moral and ethical convictions. Essentially, Jochebed and the Pharaoh’s daughter attained power through exercising their indifference to a law that they saw as unjust. They did not fight against this law; they simply did not abide by it. And given the general subjugation of women during this time, there was nothing subtle about this type of defiance. In fact, any righteous act of defiance against an established norm could be seen as a demonstration of personal and courageous power. As we prepare for the arrival of *Pesach*, let the actions of these courageous women serve as an inspirational example to us all. ~

### Harmoni-AH! at Services Friday, April 20, 7:30 pm

Please join us at Shabbat services when our Congregational Choir, **Harmoni-AH!**, will perform a variety of contemporary and traditional Jewish musical selections during the evening Ma’ariv service. All are welcome!



Please join us at Brotherhood  
for our wonderful  
**Family Shabbat services!**

.....  
**Friday, April 13**

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3 with  
Saskia Lane

.....  
**Friday, April 27**

5:30 pm - Children up to age 3 with  
Daphna Mor  
5:30 pm - Children ages 4-6 years old  
with Katie Shea  
6:30 pm - Grades 2-7 with  
Phil Rothman

.....  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Early Childhood  
Year-End Concert  
with Daphna and  
Saskia!**  
**Sunday, May 6 at 11 am**



MY TWO CENTS, continued from page 2

for Jews visiting Germany: Well, Third Reich, we are here, and you are not.

Barcelona was also emotional. At first, my wife and I couldn’t find the shul; turns out it was in an unmarked store front in a strip mall. Inside the guy who was pacing the back of the room during services and keeping an eye on a closed circuit television feed had a visible bulge on his hip under his suit jacket. But here too, there was an exhilarating feeling: You threw us out in 1492, but we’re back.

And in Edinburgh for Purim, I learned that many of the congregants had originally come to Scotland through *kindertntransport*, which brought Germany Jewish children out of Germany in the late 1930s. At one point I was overcome with emotion by this Rashomon-like setting in which I was hearing about that happened in Shushan long ago seated among many who had narrowly escaped their own Haman not so long ago.

Through my eleven month odyssey I never lost sight of my mission. My mother raised me to do things like this, and *baruch hashem*, I was doing them. I missed a number of days here and there, sometimes because of my schedule, and sometimes because I got lost. (You try deciphering a street map in Dutch on a two inch i-phone screen.) But if saying kaddish would smooth my mother’s path to her deserved place in heaven, well, I did my best. Our sages tell us that saying kaddish should not be seen as a sad chore but rather as a welcome opportunity to remember a loved one, and so it was. ~

# Brotherhood Synagogue



Nissan / Iyar 5778  
April 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
1 9:30 am: Services <b>PASSOVER</b>	2 <b>PASSOVER</b>	3 4 5 <b>NO SCHOOLS - PASSOVER</b>			6 7:08 pm: Candles 9:30 am: Passover Service 6:30 pm: Services <b>PASSOVER</b>	7 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 11:30 am: Yizkor <b>PASSOVER CONCLUDES</b>
8	9 Nursery School Classes Resume 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	10 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 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!	11 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Holocaust Memorial at the Museum of Jewish Heritage 7 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> Book Club	12 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	13 7:15 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 6:30 pm: Services Remembering Marion Cooper	14 ☆ 9:30 am: Services B'nai Mitzvah of Jonathan and Lily Hirsch <b>SHEMINI</b>
15 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Justin Balletta 9:30 am: Tikvah	16 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	17 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!	18 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	19 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 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	20 7:23 pm: Candles 7:30 pm: Services *Harmoni-AH! at services	21 ☆ 9:30 am: Services B'nai Mitzvah of Jaden and Justin Ben-Shmuel 1 pm: Shabbat Club <b>TAZRIYA-METZORA</b>
22 9:30 am: Tikvah 12:30 pm: Ella's Trip to Israel! 4 pm: Israel's Ecosystems with Ranger Hedy Ben Eliahu	23 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	24 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! 6:30 pm: Nursery School Benefit	25 10 am: Pre-Toddler Class 11 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School	26 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 7 pm: Life Goes On	27 7:30 pm: Candles 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat up to age 3 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat ages 4 to 6 6:30 pm: Family Shabbat ages 2nd to 7th grade 7:30 pm: Services Speaker: SCRIC	28 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Occhiogrosso <b>TZAV</b>
29 9:30 am: Tikvah 9:30 am: Bikur Cholim Conference	30 11:30 am: Baby Class 4 pm: Hebrew School					



## The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Bikur Cholim Conference on Visiting the Sick Sunday, April 29 at UJA-Federation of New York, 130 East 59 St.

If you would like to attend the Bikur Cholim conference, please email Roberta ([rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)) or call her in the office. The Chesed Committee has graciously offered to cover registration costs.

### Schedule of events:

- 9:15 am: Registration and Breakfast
- 9:45 am: Welcome by Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LCSW, Rabbinic Director, The Jewish Board
- 10:00 am: Keynote Presentation on *Hope and Renewal in the Face of Life's Challenges* by Dvora Entin, LCSW, Director, Ma'oz mental health program for the JFCS of Philadelphia, Therapist and Educator
- 10:45 am: Morning Workshops
- 12:15 pm: Lunch and Networking
- 1:15 pm: Afternoon Workshops
- 2:45 pm: Closing Remarks and Misheberach Prayer for Healing
- 3:00 pm: Film Viewing (optional)

### Possible Workshops:

- Essential Visiting Skills: The How To's
- Building a Caring Community: Organizing and Beyond
- Filling in the Gaps: Visiting those with Age-Related Memory Loss
- Visiting with Someone at End of Life
- The Healing Nature of Expressive Writing: A Journey Towards Self-Discovery
- Infertility Challenges: A Guide for Compassionate Attending
- Mental Illness: Awareness, Understanding, and Empathy in Bikur Cholim
- The Shiva Visit: Being Present at a Time of Loss and Bereavement

### About Jewish Community Services

The Jewish Board's Jewish Community Services (JCS) integrates expertise in social work with spiritual care, providing a broad range of services to Jewish organizations, individuals, and families facing life's challenges and transitions. Events like these are made possible as part of our Lynn and Jules Kroll Jewish Community Consultation Services. Questions? Email us at [jcs@jbfcs.org](mailto:jcs@jbfcs.org).

