

United Synagogue of Hoboken

SH'VAT / ADAR 5777

FEBRUARY 2017

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

HOW MUCH SHOULD A LEADER BOW?

Since the inauguration of the new President, I have been thinking about a passage from the Talmud, and a quotation from a previous American president, that help me to focus my prayers for the coming administration.

One of my favorite passages from the Talmud (Berakhot 34a) describes how one is



supposed to bow when saying the Amidah (the most important Jewish prayer in each prayer service, recited while standing). The Amidah is composed of several blessings (on weekdays, 19 blessings; on Shabbat and most holidays, 7 blessings.) The Talmud instructs that regular people are supposed to bow a total of four times in the Amidah (at the beginning and end of the first blessing, and at the beginning and end of the next-to-last blessing). A High Priest, however, should bow at the end of each blessing -- either 7 or 19

times. And a King of Israel should bow at the beginning of the Amidah and remain bowed for the whole prayer and not stand straight until the Amidah is over.

(Continued on p. 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thurs, Feb 2, 7:30pm Explore Judaism (session 1 of 5)

Tues, Feb 21, 7:30pm Shalom Baby -Welcoming a New Jewish Child (session 1 of 2)

Sat. Feb 25, 11am Shabbat Shirah music program for families with children age 3 and under

Sun. Feb. 26, 10:30am Brunch with Rita Gabis, author of A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet: My Grandfather's SS Past

Sat. Mar. 4, 7pm Casino Night, Elks Club

Sat. Mar 11, 7:15pm Purim Celebration - Learning Center

Sat, Mar 11, 6:30pm Purim eve service / megillah reading and celebration

Sun. Mar 12, 8:30am Purim morning service and Megillah reading

Sun, Mar 12, 10:00am Purim Party for children 5 and under and their families

Sun., Mar 19, 10:30am Brunch with Prof. Burt Visotzky, Aphrodite and the Rabbis

Sun Apr. 2, 10:30am Brunch with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger & Antwan Saca of Roots: Fostering nonviolence among Israelis and Palestinians

Friday night services 7pm

Saturday morning services 9:30am

See www.hobokensynagogue.org & USH Facebook page for more info on these and other upcoming events!







CASINO NIGHT WITH GARY SPECTOR

by Jeremy Morley

Casino Night is just around the corner! March 4, 2017 at the Elks Club at 7pm. It's a party night of real fun and good humor. It also serves a great purpose. It's the synagogue's biggest fundraiser of the year, and also raises substantial funds to support other important causes: the Hoboken Shelter, the Hoboken Emergency Food Pantry, and the Jubilee Center.

I sat down for coffee with Gary Spector, who is in the throes of organizing the event with his committee. I had absolutely no idea until we spoke of just how much hard work goes into making the event happen. Gary has been head of the Casino Night Committee for the past ten years. I suspect that each time, just before it happens, he says: "Never again!" And then when the event actually happens and people give fabulous feedback, and the funds are presented to the synagogue and the charities, he and the other Committee members say, "How can we not do it again next year?"

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from p. 1) CASINO NIGHT

When he's not doing good deeds for the synagogue, and enjoying his family -- especially his beloved wife Liz and son Sam, and many good friends -- Gary works as a



professional photographer. Before he had a family to support he combined his loves of music and photography by working with rap and hip-hop bands, such as Onyx, doing some really creative record and cd covers. As music became digitalized, he shifted to magazine editorial work, and ultimately to portrait photography for the corporate world, mostly for Fortune 500 companies.



Gary, Liz and Sam

If you check out his new website, www.garyspector.com, you

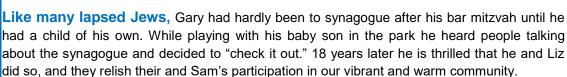
will immediately see that he is a great portrait photographer. Some of the images that resonated with me were his unusual and surprising photographs of actors Sigourney Weaver and Nathan Lane, and an ad that he created for Brookhaven Hospital.





Gary also contributes to his neighborhood in uptown Hoboken, by setting up a mini-studio outside his brownstone every Halloween and photographing his neighbors in their crazy and creative costumes.

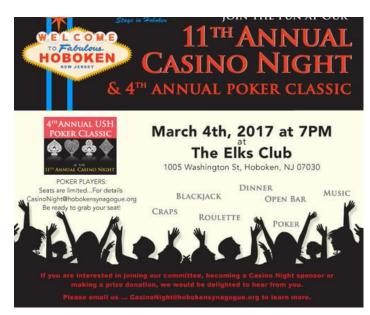
He also has a particular passion for photographing burlesque dancers, but that might not be a suitable topic for further exploration in these hallowed pages.







And he now suggests, "Come on Casino Night to a great party. Relax. Kick back. Meet new people and people you may have seen but not socialized with before. Have a few drinks, and some good food. Enjoy some wonderful prizes. You'll love it."





HOW MUCH SHOULD A LEADER BOW? By Rabbi Scheinberg (Continued from p. 1)

In other words, the more power and authority and prestige one has been given, the more bowing to God one is going to need to do. We might have thought it is the opposite - that those who are powerful are the ones who have less need of developing a profound sense of humility - but those who have actually lived lives of service and made life-and-death decisions know the importance of balancing confidence with humility and awareness of the limits of their wisdom and power.

Last Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington DC, which is adorned with many of the most famous quotations from that president. I was especially taken with one quote (pictured): "I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and I have been given their trust." This quote reminds us that the President is hired by the American people as a public servant. The White House belongs not to the President, but to "all" of us -- something that wise presidents would contemplate each day.

My fervent prayer -- now, and at every moment of presidential transition -- is that every occupant of the White House should have (or quickly develop) the wisdom and emotional maturity to take the messages of these two teachings to heart each day, and be able to bow with humility before God, and to stand with humility before the American people. Only in this way will this country be steered with a steady hand towards justice, prosperity, and peace. As my friend and colleague Rabbi Michael Bernstein has noted: humility is not merely an admirable trait in a leader. Humility is what transforms power into leadership.



Each year, our community participates in the tradition of Mishloach Manot—sending gifts of food to friends in honor of the holiday of Purim. The tradition is to send at least two kinds of food to at least two people. We make it fun and easy to send to others in our community. To participate, please fill out the form below and return it to the office with your payment no later than Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

On Sunday, March 12, members of our community will deliver the gift bags to those in our delivery area. Those outside the delivery area can pick up their bags at the synagogue starting March 9, but please call the office first. Each household that receives a gift will receive ONE gift bag with a card from the people who sent the greetings.

There are several options for participating in our Mishloach Manot program. You can send to *everyone* in the community for a flat fee of \$135. Alternatively, you can elect to send to just certain people in the community in which case it's \$36 for the first name and \$1 for each additional name. If you select this option you can add *automatic reciprocity* and automatically send greetings to anyone you missed that sent greetings to you. You will be billed \$1 for each additional name after the fact. This has all been set up in a user friendly way at https://www.hobokensynagogue.org/campaign/mishloach-manot-2017.html or you can get a list of names from the office.

We will be sending Mishloach Manot to Israel through the American Zionist Movement (www.azm.org). This year, in light of the terror attacks in Jerusalem, they have decided to focus on the Border Patrols and Border Police to show gratitude for their service to the people of Israel. We will also have the opportunity to provide Mishloach Manot to young children in the South of Israel and near the border with Gaza. Please consider a donation of \$5 or more to join us in extending this mitzvah beyond our community to our brothers and sisters in Israel –this gesture of support will be much appreciated.

Name (please print)	Phone Nur	nber email
Options: Send to everyone - \$135		Please make checks payable to "United Synagogue of Hoboken" and return this form to the office with your payment by Tuesday, February 28, 2017. You can also do this using PayPal on our website www.hobokensynagogue.org or by using the link above.
OR		If you're paying by Visa/MC:
First greeting - \$36 # of additional greetings (@ \$1 per additional Name)		Card#:
Additional donation		Type of card:
Donation for Mishloach Manot for Israel		Exp. Date: Card Security Code:
Total enclosed		Signature:
For automatic reciprocity please check here		

SINGING YOUR PRAISES, BESS

In synagogue a few weeks ago I turned around and complemented the lady behind me on her wonderful voice. I had enjoyed it so much throughout the entire service. And

that's how I met Bess Morrison, a fabulous singer.

Bess and her husband Fred Miller are again the producers of the USH Purim Shpiel. I have read Fred's script for Hamanton; A Shushan Musical. It's going to be so much fun and is absolutely a must-see event. Don't miss it!

Bess has sung, and also acted, her whole life. She was always surrounded by music, especially musical comedy. She sang in synagogues in New Jersey from the age of 12. At Gettysburg



Cantor Richard Nadel

College, Bess majored in music education and vocal performance, sang in the choir in churches throughout the country, and to maintain her Jewish identity in a sea of Lutherans, founded a Jewish Students Group. After graduation, her first job was assisting a cantor in Wyckoff to organize a children's choir, with fun mini-musical shows. She also sang for the High Holidays and Passover with the famed Nadel Choir, in Brooklyn, and then at Borscht Belt hotels such as the Nevele and the Pines.



Bess and I had fun

talking about her gigs a while back for Eastern Onion, the singing telegram company. She went to Andy Warhol's place decked out as a pink gorilla, and as a New York police officer and in various other get-ups, risgué and otherwise, to serenade" Mayor Ed Koch, Phyllis Diller and a host of other New Yorkers.

For many years she sang on every Shabbat and holiday at the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan - which has a long and illustrious

history in the world of liturgical music - in a quartet, that backed up the two cantors.

Now she is the Cantorial Soloist at The New Jewish Home in the Bronx, which she absolutely loves. Many of those who attend services are not Jewish, including a group of Catholic nuns. "They are all incredibly appreciative" and "it's a spiritual journey for everyone regardless of their religion, which is wonderful." On Rosh Hashanah the rabbi could not attend and so it fell to Bess to conduct the "sermon," which was a whole new experience.

Bess has been a professional actor for thirty years. She was Aldonza in Man of La Mancha and then in the plum role of Fosca in Stephen Sondheim's *Passion*. A reviewer wrote, "In Bess Morrison, Dicapo director Michael Capasso has

found a marvelous Fosca. The attractive Ms. Morrison manages to look plain, without any extreme makeup tricks. She captures Fosca's frailty and sadness but also her dignity. And, of course, she sings beautifully, especially the gorgeous "Loving You is Not a Choice-- it's who I am."



In My Fair Lady

2000. and their son Logan is in 7th grade with a bar mitzvah on the horizon. This past summer Bess and Fred helped to organize The Peace Train 2016 Tour Across America: Putting the "United" Back in the USA, modeled on The Peace Train's highly successful projects for Nelson Mandela in South Africa. In 1993 Sharon Katz (a distant cousin of USH member Michael toured South Africa on "The



of La Mancha

Bess now teaches voice at her private studio in Jersey

City. Her passion is teaching musical theater. She has a special program called "The Healthy Voice" and fervently believes that young singers should learn and adopt healthy voice habits. She explained while it's great that there are so many opportunities now for children to sing, they should learn breathing, posture and basic vocal technique.



Bess, Fred, Logan and Lauren (Fred's daughter) in Antarctica

Peace Train," with 150 students of all races and encouraged people of all races, cultures, ages and political affiliations to put down their guns and hostilities and prepare for peaceful democracy.

Last year, in light of shocking incidents of racial conflict in the U.S., Sharon and friends decided a Peace Train was needed

here, and now. The East Coast leg of the train's journey featured a diverse group of 140 youth and adult singers from across America, with additional singers joining when the train arrived in each city. It included stops in New York City, Jersey City, Trenton, Philadelphia and Baltimore with a culminating performance in Washington, DC at the Washington Monument. Bess and Fred handled fundraising, public relations and many other tasks, while Bess also handled warmups for the choir. A trailer of a film of the tour is available at getonthepeacetrain.org/2016_train_tour



Come meet Bess and Fred at the Purim Shpiel. It will be quite a night!

Ways you Can Help Refugees Resettle in New Jersey

by Dina Rose and Alicia Weinstein

Do you know that United Synagogue of Hoboken has a Refugee Committee? We do! About a year ago, a few of us got together to figure out how USH could make a meaningful local contribution to the global refugee crisis. The committee is launching our first initiative and asking for your help.

We are building an Employment Networking Directory of people who are willing to share their knowledge about a job sector with refugees looking for employment. We are not asking you to offer, or even necessarily to be willing to consider offering, anyone an actual job. Rather, we are asking people to share their knowledge about jobs, job skills and networking opportunities.

Here is the situation: When refugees come to the United States, they work with a resettlement agency to find housing, a job, and the documentation they need to operate in society (license, health care, social security numbers, etc.) Refugees are legally entitled to work in the United States. But here's the rub: the government only provides three months of assistance. After that, people are on their own.

The resettlement agency in New Jersey is The Church World Service (CWS). Their office is in Journal Square. The USH Refugee Committee has been talking to CWS about the best way to be helpful. They have asked us to help with employment. New refugees arrivals ebb and flow but CWS has a big client load looking for jobs. When CWS can help—they are incredibly short-staffed—they essentially cold-call potential employers. We think helping job-seekers to network would be more effective. And, for the most part, we're a professionally-employed group with lots of contacts.

People arrive here with a range of skills. One woman we have met, for instance, is pursuing her PhD and looking for a teaching position. Many, however, are looking for jobs in cleaning, construction, etc. As you might expect, many of the refugees struggle with English, though this varies too.

Adding your name to the Employment Networking Directory in no way obligates you to hire anyone. It doesn't even obligate you to meet with anyone. It simply means that, if the committee comes across someone looking for a job in a field that you are knowledgeable about, you are willing to be contacted by someone from the Refugee Committee. Your information will never be released without your consent.

If you are interested in being part of the directory, please follow this link: http://bit.ly/USH_Refugees_Networking

In addition, if you would like to volunteer with Church World Service, you can go to this link and contact them directly: http://cwsjerseycity.org/ They have opportunities for individuals depending on the needs and who is coming at the time. These may include tutoring English, helping set up apartments, picking up people at the airport and taking people to appointments where an English speaker is



needed.

The synagogue is also looking into a program called the League of Kitchens where refugees cook a meal in a person's home that reflects the cuisine of their country. We hope to have some more details on this event shortly.

If you have time, please take a look at the following New York Times articles: "Comparing Jewish Refugees of the 1930s with Syrians Today" and "A Joyful Bustle to Get Ready for Guests: Syrian Refugees." The first article reminded me



The German liner St. Louis, carrying about 900 German Jewish refugees, was denied entrance to the Havana harbor in 1939. The ship was later denied entrance to the United States and returned to Hamburg, Germany

(Alicia) of my grandparents and my mother's arrival from Poland to Israel and then to the United States after two years in a displaced persons camp. Many were not ever able to come as they perished in the war and the doors were closed to them from the beginning. My family spoke no English but at least had some family in the United States.

That said, getting settled and learning English was challenging. Some people thought they were communists, job takers or just plain dirty. One of the differences we face today is the fear of safety related to terrorism whereas the fear back then was related more to economics, political affiliations or Jews weakening the "Anglo stock." The second article focuses more on the day to day resettlement of refugees and the cultural vibrancy that they bring to communities.

As Eleanor Roosevelt said in 1939 and the Times article quotes, "We must not let ourselves be moved by fear in this country. We have seen that happen too many times in other countries." We wonder if she would worry that we were following that same example now.

If you would like to read a book about a young boy who emigrates from Sudan to Minnesota, we recommend Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate. It is a great book for kids in middle school with parental discretion as to maturity and gives adults and kids a feeling of what it is like to be a refugee resettled in a foreign land.

Thank you and hoping you find this article of interest. Any questions related to this program can be directed to the Rabbi or members of the committee or by calling the synagogue office at 2016594000.❖

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS **DONATIONS:**

General Fund

Norman and Myrna Kasser for a Happy New Year Jeremy and Eriko Morley Sanford and Jodie Friedman Marc Weinstein and Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein in

honor of their grandchildren, Dov, Batya and Gershon

_earning Center

Samuel and Rose Riemer Private Foundation Adam and Rhonda Strosberg in memory of Adam's close friend, Dr. Steven Marc Epstein

Learning Center Special Needs Fund

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Learning Center Scholarship Fund

Jeffrey Kalman and Barbara Malach Kalman in honor of their grandson, Ezra Benjamin Kalman

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Rabbi Shelley Kovar and Marty Becker Allen S. Levine in memory of his friend, Scott Newman

Dawn Raffel and Mike Evers Sharon Stern

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Meistrich Culture Series

Matt Meistrich

Yom Kippur Appeal

Amanda Grant in honor of Pamela Grant David Kalmus and Abbie Jacobs David and Monica Plotka Bruce and Kathy Prussack

Sarah Condiotti Chesed Fund

Marlene Jurman

Andrew Reibman and Elizabeth Oldmixon in memory of Robert and Colette Oldmixon and Rossi and Jonathan Reibman

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH:

Jan 6 USH in honor of Heschel Harmonizers Jan 14 Laden, Myers, Olah-Reiken and Plotka families in honor of first KPS graduating class Jan 21 Ronny and Emily Tabak in honor of their granddaughter. Elise Shari Jan 28 Matthew Cheng and Talya Schaeffer in honor of Chaya's 5th birthday

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

David Wilson and Terry Pearl



A two-session workshop for expectant parents:

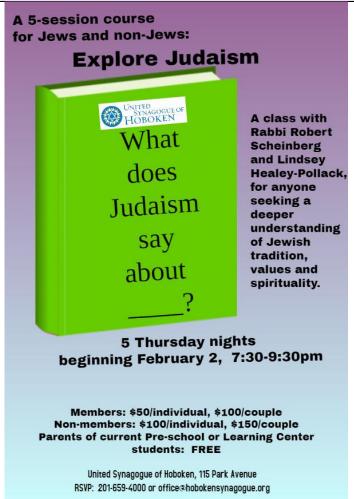
SHALOM BABY: Welcoming a Jewish child

Enhance your preparation for welcoming a new child into your family and the Jewish community Learn about values, customs, rituals and community resources available to help as the family grows.



Tuesdays, Feb 21 and 28 7:30-9pm led by Rabbi Rob Scheinberg Free for USH members; \$40/couple for non-members United Synagogue of Hoboken, 115 Park Avenue RSVP: 201-659-4000 or

office@hobokensynagogue.org





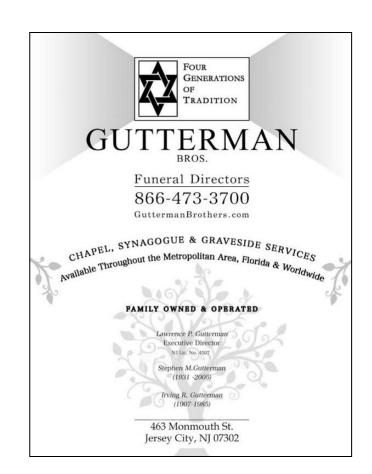




Gentle Dental Care 710 Washington Street Hoboken, NJ 07030

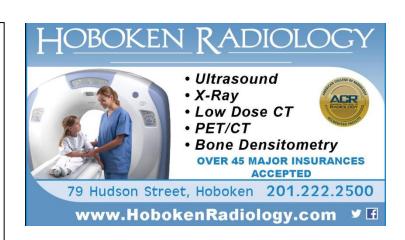
tel # 201-659-8800 fax # 201-656-4319 hobokensmile@yahoo.com www.drsharonstern.com







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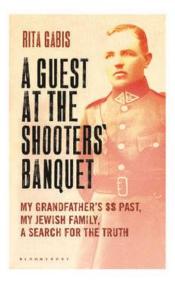
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USH TWELFTH ANNUAL CULTURE SERIES THE PHILIP & CLAIRE MEISTRICH SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Sun. Feb 26, 2017 10:30am Brunch with author Rita Gabis



Rita Gabis comes from a family of Eastern European Jews and Lithuanian Catholics. Five years ago, she discovered an unthinkable dimension to her family story: from 1941 to 1943, her beloved grandfather had been Chief of Security Police under the Gestapo in a Lithuanian town where 8,000 Jews were murdered over three days in the fall of 1941. Gabis felt compelled to find out the complicated truth of who her grandfather was and what he had done. Built around dramatic interviews in four countries and filled with original scholarship, and mesmerizing in its lyricism, A Guest at the Shooters' Banquet is a history and family memoir like no other.

\$25 per person/\$18 for members

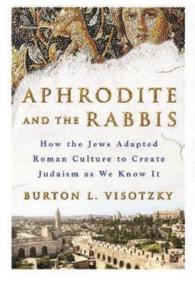
Purchase tickets by email at office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org



115 Park Avenue
RSVP: 201.659.4000 or office@hobokensynagogue.org

USH TWELFTH ANNUAL CULTURE SERIES THE PHILIP & CLAIRE MEISTRICH SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Sun. March 19, 2017 10:30am Brunch with Professor Burt Visotzky



The Passover Seder is a Greco-Roman symposium banquet? The Talmud rabbis presented themselves as Stoic philosophers? The Jewish courts were named after the Roman political institution, the Sanhedrin? There were synagogues in Israel where the prayers were recited in Greck? Rabbi Burt Visotzky, eminent scholar of ancient Judaism, shows that the Greco-Roman culture in which rabbinic Judaism grew in the first five centuries of the Common Era nurtured the development of Judaism as we still know and celebrate it today.

\$25 per person/\$18 for members

Purchase tickets by email at office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org



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