



# THE SHOFAR

## שופר

### United Synagogue of Hoboken

HESHVAN / KISLEV 5780

November 2019

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### November 2019

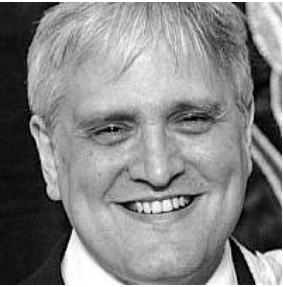
- 11/7 Shalom Baby
- 11/11 USH at the Shelter
- 11/15 TRIBE Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner
- 11/17 Book Fair Family Day
- 11/19 Planning a Jewish Wedding Workshop
- 11/23 Speakeasy: Isle of Klezbos

##### December 2019

- 12/8 Brunch with author Sarah Rose
- 12/14 Speakeasy: Evening of Storytellers
- 12/15 Young Families Hanukkah Party 11 AM – 1 PM
- 12/22 Hanukkah begins (at sundown)
- 12/22 TRIBE Young Professionals Vodka Latke Dinner

**Friday night services 7:00 pm**  
**Saturday morning services 9:30 am**

See [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org) and the **USH Facebook page** for more info on these and other upcoming events!



#### BIRTHDAYS

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

*What they don't understand about birthdays, and what they never tell you, is that when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one. And when you wake up on your eleventh birthday you expect to feel eleven, but .... you don't feel eleven at all. You feel like you're still ten. And you are --underneath the year that makes you eleven.*

*Like some days you might say something stupid, and that's the part of you that's still ten. Or maybe some days you might need to sit on your mama's lap because you're scared, and that's the part of you that's five. And maybe one day when you're all grown up maybe you will need to cry like if you're three, and that's okay. ....*

*Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion, or like the rings inside a tree trunk, or like my little wooden dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is.*

I bet some people here recognized what I just read as the opening to Sandra Cisneros' classic short story called 'Eleven.' This story is told from the point of view of an eleven year old girl, it begins with an adept discussion from her perspective of what it means to grow older, that rings especially true to me.

There are a host of metaphors that people use about the process of growing older: It's like going on a journey from one place to another, or undergoing a metamorphosis from one kind of creature to another, or tearing out pages in a calendar. But the metaphor that Cisneros prefers is that it's an experience of gradually acquiring new layers of self, to coexist with all the other layers of self that we already have. Someone outwardly might appear to be one particular age, but that person at all the other ages still exists inside. Much like an archeological excavation, the deeper you dig into a person, the further back in time you go. ...

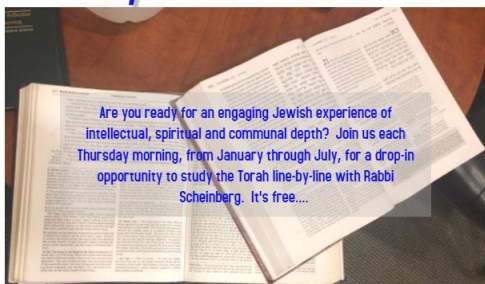
Interestingly, the primary metaphor for getting older in the Torah is remarkably similar to the one used by Cisneros. When Biblical personalities including Isaac and David are elderly, they are described as being *זקן ושבע ימים* *zaken u-seva yamim*, which means 'old and full of days,' or even 'satiated with days.' This is close to the opposite of the metaphor of depletion; as one gets older and older, one isn't using up one's life or running out of life; rather, one is accumulating more and more of it as time goes on.

These themes are on my mind because -- maybe like some of you -- I celebrated a birthday since last Rosh HaShanah. (OK, actually like all of you.) But like only about 10% of you, I celebrated a birthday last year that ends in 0. I'm not going to tell you which one - but I will give you some hints: It's an age at which I spend significantly more time and energy celebrating the achievements of my children than of my own, and I have absolutely no complaints about that.

*(continued on page 2)*

Thursday mornings, 9.30-11am

#### Torah Study with Rabbi Scheinberg



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken NJ [rsvp.office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:rsvp.office@hobokensynagogue.org)

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It's an age when -- whereas anything is possible -- there's a growing realization that life is just not going to be long enough to fulfill all the various dreams I have, so it's time to triage. It's an age when I am increasingly thinking about my responsibilities as a member of my generation.

For these reasons, I am feeling the experience of growing older particularly acutely this year. But for all of us in this room -- at the risk of stating the obvious -- one of the themes of these high holidays is that simply put, all of us are a year older than we were last year at this time, and we are asked to gather and take individual and communal note of that fact. We've gathered here in part because we're looking for guidance about how to respond to this fact by living more wisely and sensitively and reflectively and generously, and we hope Jewish tradition will give us some of this guidance.

Rosh HaShanah, of course, is also a birthday - traditionally regarded as the birthday of the world itself. And on this day, I suggest we make an effort to contemplate our own process of getting older, at whatever age, as a process of growing yet more layers of self, to do whatever we can to gradually become ימים שבעה yamim- full of days.

An important part of being "full of days" is being confident that we are holding within ourselves the experiences of children. Rosh HaShanah is full, more than any other Jewish holiday, of stories focused on children - stories that communicate how children reflect the promise of new life, and tragically, stories of childhood trauma. Together these stories reflect the full spectrum of possibilities in the relationship from one generation to another: The giving of life. Protection. Inspiration. As well as abandonment, neglect, violence, and disconnection. Perhaps the point of reading these stories on Rosh HaShanah is to communicate that no matter what kind of relationship between the generations you have known, that relationship is somewhere within the spectrum of what the Torah knows.

We now turn to a detail in rabbinic interpretation of the Torah that reminds us of the absolute centrality of children in the Jewish religion, as well as of our own childhood experiences. When Jews pray, no matter where we are around the world, we face the city of Jerusalem, and the site of the Kodesh ha-Kodashim קדש הקדשים - the Holy of Holies -- the area in the Temple that was so holy that only the High Priest would enter it, and only on Yom Kippur, in conditions of complete purity.


Suppose you WERE the high priest, and you got to enter the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur, in conditions of complete purity: what would you have seen there? Whatever was there is clearly absolutely the focal point of the entire Jewish people. The Holy of Holies was a room, maybe about 200 square feet, that had only one object in it: the Aron - the holy ark that contained the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. Immediately above the Aron was the Kaporet - the covering - a golden slab adorned with two golden images that were mirror images of each other: two images of winged beings called *kruvim*. These images faced each other, and in some way we cannot comprehend, God's presence was said to dwell beneath those wings.

In the Talmud, there is speculation about what these Kruvim looked like, and one rabbi, Rabbi Abbahu, says: The word '*kruv*' כרוב really means 'כרביא' '*ke-ravya*' - 'like a child.' Thus, when Jews turn in prayer towards the site of the Holy of Holies, we are facing the site of the Ten Commandments - we are facing the place where according to tradition, the presence of God used to dwell - and we are facing a place that was adorned by the faces of children.

# Women's Torah Study Group

Come join us to schmooze, nosh, and study torah and liturgy with a lively group led by Anne Pettit.

We meet at USH on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm



To RSVP or be added to our mailing list please email [ritual@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:ritual@hobokensynagogue.org)

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We shouldn't expect otherwise. Since the destruction of the Temple, truly children have become our world's Holy of Holies. Children are the ones who are most full of the purity, the hopefulness, the optimism, and the potential for making our world ever more holy. Even today, rings of Jewish worshipers encircle the site of the Holy of Holies every day around the world, turning towards it, placing it at the very center of our communal concern, because of how much we treasure and wish to protect what it contained. And I have my concerns about how well we have been fulfilling this responsibility. As I imagine turning towards the Holy of Holies in prayer, as I imagine what those faces on the Kruvim might have looked like, increasingly I am picturing faces of deep concern.

I've heard it suggested that there may be another 'greatest generation' in the making because of the commitment to activism and public service that we see among young people today. To some degree, that activism is borne out of difficulty and trauma and a stunning loss of innocence.

Most adults I know have done evacuation drills in their places of work but have never done a lockdown drill or an active shooter drill in their place of work, and the thought of doing one may be traumatic. For anyone who is a teenager or younger, active shooter drills are simply a normal part of going to school. And so is news about school shootings and other shootings in public places.

Most adults I know are fully aware of the predictions about the impact of climate change -- some have even perused the maps of what Hoboken is projected to look like 50 years in the future after rising sea levels. And yet for many of today's children, this tends to be a less theoretical issue and a more practical issue. It should not be surprising to us that today's most prominent spokesperson for those concerned with the state of the environment is not a political leader, and is not a climate scientist, but is a 16-year-old girl, who sees her generation bearing the brunt of environmental inaction. If I have within myself all the ages I have been, I have the capacity to empathize with younger generations who are angry, feeling betrayed and abandoned, in a world that they see as not taking steps to keep them safe.

As I contemplate facing towards the Holy of Holies that included images of children, I also note that the southern border crisis hinges now on the fate of children. When physicians have visited American immigration detention camps for children -- (the mere fact that the words "American immigration detention camps for children" can be strung together to refer to something in the real world is so terribly troubling) -- and report no access to hand washing during their entire time in custody, teen mothers in custody not having the ability to wash their child's bottle, flu outbreaks and deaths of children in custody -- we know we are failing in our responsibilities. I so appreciate how across the political spectrum there was agreement that such a situation is unacceptable, though of course there was a range of opinions about whose fault it is. That lack of consensus may also exist in this room. But hopefully we DO have consensus on this simple truth: children are not guilty. Young children are never guilty of anything, and they certainly are not guilty of the political infractions of their parents. And the pain that is inflicted on young children often stays inside them when they are older. It is the antithesis of what we would want to do for their

But with all these moments of pain - so many of my greatest joys this year have come from the experience of children. There were some Thursday evenings this past year when it's my sense we could have just relocated our older learning center classes to the Church of Latter Day Saints in Jersey City, because that's where the Fun Club takes place - the weekly program that assists recently arrived refugees in our area. So many of our students, and bar and bat mitzvah students in particular, have been volunteering with these families who are on track to become American citizens and yet whose children could still benefit from assistance with English and homework and friendship and opportunities to deepen their connection to an American way of life. I am grateful that our kids are seeking out opportunities to make a big difference for families and especially for children. It's a profound manifestation of Jewish value of אהבת הגר *ahavat ha-ger* - loving and identifying with the stranger and immigrant - and it echoes the Jewish historical experience. And the more welcome these families feel in the United States, the more we ALL win.

Repeatedly in our prayers we say לדור ודור וגידך גדלך *le-dor va-dor nagid godlecha*, "From generation to generation we declare God's greatness." Intergenerational contact and education and responsibility has always been a core Jewish value, even enshrined in the Shema's injunction וישננתם לבניך *ve-shinantam le-banicha*, "you shall teach the words of Torah to your children." May we never lose sight of the responsibilities that are ours at whatever age we are, because there is never a time when we stop growing.

The comedian George Carlin liked to tell the story of the cellist Pablo Casals who still practiced playing the cello 3 hours a day -- at age 93. When someone asked him "Why are you doing that?" he answered, "I'm beginning to notice some improvement..." So may it be with us in this new year 5780.



**Jewish Federation presents**  
**ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL**



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Tuesday, November 12 | 7:30 pm  
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**Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$18 at the door**

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Presented in partnership with Israeli American Council and United Synagogue of Hoboken



This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.





# Chesed (caring) Committee

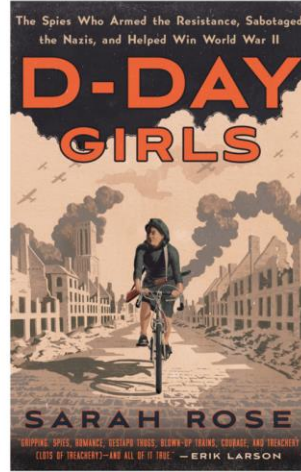
Would you like to support and grow your community? Would you like to be a part of a force that mobilizes into action when a member of our community has a great need? If yes, consider being a volunteer for the Chesed Committee!

Whether your schedule is predictable or unpredictable, the Chesed committee has a place for any USH member who is willing to be called upon when life happens. We need people who can, for example: assist with shiva arrangements, visit the sick, drive or prepare meals for those who are dealing with stressful circumstances, or offer respite to a family with a challenging situation.

If you would like to contribute in any of these situations, or would like to discuss ways in which we can extend our outreach, please contact Elisabeth at [chesedcommitteeush@gmail.com](mailto:chesedcommitteeush@gmail.com).

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## SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Brunch with Sarah Rose**, author of "D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II"

Come hear the extraordinary story of five women recruited by Britain's elite spy agency to help pave the way for the D-Day invasion and Allied victory in World War II. Ms. Rose's account includes spies and saboteurs, ingenious deceptions, dirty poems transformed into cryptologic keys, blown-up trains, audacious courage, romance, and treachery.



Sun., Dec. 8, 2019  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$18 for members  
\$25 for nonmembers



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
201.659.4000



Purchase tickets by email to [office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:office@hobokensynagogue.org) or online at [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org)

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## HAVDALLAH GAME NIGHT



NOVEMBER 16  
5PM - 6:30 PM

115 PARK  
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HOBOKEN



## Kaplan Preschool Book Fair Family Day 2019!

November 17, 10am-1pm

Join us for a fun day of activities and shop the book fair at Kaplan. Free and open to the community!

You can also support Kaplan Preschool by shopping at Little City Books November 11-19 and mentioning "Kaplan" at checkout!



THANK YOU to all of you who have donated to the YOM KIPPUR APPEAL!!!!!! The Appeal is still in progress!!!!!! If you have not donated and are able, please do so now! Kol HaKavod and Todah Rabbah to all donors for your generosity and for your continued support!!!!!! Our Yom Kippur Appeal donors will be recognized in the December Shofar.

#### General Fund

- Derek Slovin
- Michael and Rivka Soloway
- Jonathan Zaid

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Alex Dubro, in memory of Jared David Dubro
- Harriet and Harry Kafka, in memory of Belle and Irving Taub
- Rebecca and Phil Cohen, in honor of Rabbi Scheinberg

#### Learning Center Fund

- TK

#### Refugee Fund

- Lisa Bochner Sims, in honor of Jill Katz

#### Thank you for sponsoring Kiddush:

10/5: Harriet Taub and Harry Kafka in honor of their grandson Irving, son of Sarah Kafka and Jonathan Tarshis Neil

10/12: Jason and Dana Pinter in honor of their daughter Lyla Sage's baby naming and Rabbi Naomi Kalish and Rabbi Robert Scheinberg in honor of their daughter Talia's birthday

10/26: Lovella Santos in honor her son Ari's bar mitzvah

#### Congratulations to:

Sara Gunther and Tomer Chutman on their wedding  
Dana and Jason Pinter on the baby naming of their daughter

Lyla Sage and her big sister Ava

Malki and Loni Mori on the birth of their son, Liam and his big brothers Eitan and Daniel



#### A workshop for couples:

## Planning a Jewish Wedding

rings... chuppah.... ketubah.... witnesses....  
blessings.... breaking the glass...  
what's it all about?



Learn about Jewish traditions and customs for your special day; ask your questions; meet other couples who are soon to be married!

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

7:30-9pm

led by Rabbi Rob Scheinberg

Free for USH members;

\$25/couple for non-members

United Synagogue of Hoboken,

115 Park Avenue

RSVP: 201-659-4000 or

office@hobokensynagogue.org

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Saturday, November 23 at 8:00pm  
The Joel and Marilyn Freiser Speakeasy Series  
at the United Synagogue of Hoboken presents:



#### ISLE OF KLEZBOS

This soulful, fun-loving powerhouse all-women's klezmer sextet has toured from Vienna to Vancouver since 1998. The gals' repertoire ranges from rambunctious to entrancing: neo-traditional folk dance, mystical melodies, Yiddish swing & retro tango, late Soviet-era Jewish drinking songs!!, re-grooved standards, and genre-defying originals.

The Speakeasy is an intimate, candlelit performance space within the United Synagogue of Hoboken. Complimentary curated wines, beer, beverages and snacks are served.

\*\*\*\$20 members; \$30 non-members\*\*\*

Tickets: e-mail [office@hobokensynagogue.org](mailto:office@hobokensynagogue.org) or  
online at [www.hobokensynagogue.org](http://www.hobokensynagogue.org) or  
by calling 201-659-4000  
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# HOBUSY PROGRAMMING AND EITANIM : TEEN PROGRAMMING AT USH!!!

Follow @HOBUSYY On Instagram or reach out to [jrfirestein@gmail.com](mailto:jrfirestein@gmail.com) to get involved!!!







## BLESSINGS

By Jeremy Morley

What still resonates with each of you after the tremendously inspiring High Holidays?

For me, it's been Rabbi Scheinberg's talk about blessings. He encouraged each of us to notice ten new items each day for which to give thanks, and to consider each of them as a blessing.

On those days when I follow the process, I have really enjoyed it. It's both calming and stimulating to pay greater attention to individual experiences, whether it is admiring the color of a leaf, the sound of rain, the taste of bread or my daughter's laugh. I intend to continue counting new blessings each day in order to make it into as natural a habit as brushing my teeth.

I would truly be most interested in your thoughts.

Meanwhile, may I express great thanks to all who have blessed USH by contributing to the Yom Kippur Appeal. The Appeal is still in progress and we still have quite a way to go to reach our target. We really need your generous contributions to enable us to provide essential air conditioning for our magnificent sanctuary.

If you have not contributed yet please do so now. If you have contributed already, you might consider making a further contribution.

Also, we still need volunteers to pitch in and join the Casino Night Committee. It will be fun! And rewarding! Please contact Gary Spector at [gary@garyspector.com](mailto:gary@garyspector.com) if you want to help or if you have questions.

Shalom,

Jeremy

### The USH "Pair for Prayer" Initiative

The skill of leading Jewish prayer services has long been an important aspect of Jewish leadership. A knowledgeable Jewish community like ours has many people who have these skills (and all bar/bat mitzvah students in our community acquire some of these skills), but we can always use more. You are invited to fill out the [form](http://bit.ly/pair_for_prayer_USH_2019) at [http://bit.ly/pair\\_for\\_prayer\\_USH\\_2019](http://bit.ly/pair_for_prayer_USH_2019), to indicate what skills you have and what skills you are willing to teach as a volunteer. We will then make an effort to pair people together to acquire these skills. Many recordings, texts, etc are available to assist you, whether you are a teacher or a learner, at [rabbisheinberg.blogspot.com](http://rabbisheinberg.blogspot.com).

### Shabbat Dinner Initiative

We would like to try a new approach to encouraging people in our community to share Shabbat meals together. We invite you to fill out this [questionnaire](http://bit.ly/USH_Shabbat_Dinner_Initiative_2019) ([http://bit.ly/USH\\_Shabbat\\_Dinner\\_Initiative\\_2019](http://bit.ly/USH_Shabbat_Dinner_Initiative_2019)) and to indicate if you are interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner and inviting others from our community, and/or in being a guest at a Shabbat dinner. We also invite you to indicate your approximate age and life stage, if you would be interested in connecting with others who are demographically similar to you. We will then work with the hosts to help them to invite people who have indicated a desire to be guests. We also have resources available to help people to learn and lead the Shabbat evening rituals (see <http://rabbisheinberg.blogspot.com/p/resources-for-hosting-shabbat-dinner.html>). It is our hope that this initiative will strengthen the bonds that connect us to each other, as well as strengthen our connection to Shabbat. There is also an opportunity on the questionnaire to indicate if you would like to assist in organizing this initiative.



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