



Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

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Sivan / Tamuz 5783 June 2023

"Do I Have to Believe in God to be Jewish?"

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

A late-arriving but always timely question that I received asks: Do I have to believe in God to be Jewish?

I don't know whether it's theologically kosher to be both a Jew and an atheist, but if it isn't, half the Americans who call themselves Jews aren't quite legit. That figure is much higher among Jews than any other major religious group in America. Among members of all other faiths, only 10-15 percent express any doubts at all about God's existence.

Jews are an ethnicity and a community, not just a religion. Judaism was not a religion until the emancipation and our encounter with modernity. Rather, it's the culture of the Jewish people. Like most ancient cultures, it was a religious culture, and the relationship between God and the Jewish people as a whole—not the individual Jew—was an integral part of the basis of that culture.

Does an individual Jew have to believe in God to be a part of Judaism? I don't think so. I believe that practicing Judaism demands recognition of the fact that you are part of a culture with a narrative that has God as a central player, part of a people that have had a love affair with God for thousands of years. The narrative of this relationship is probably the central theme in the culture of this people.


Being a people means identifying with a shared memory and narrative and having responsibility for its future, its renaissance, its well-being. That's what Jews are. It's like asking "Can a Frenchman be French without being Catholic?" Of course he can, but he has to understand that being French was built on the Catholic tradition. We are taught that a Jew—never mind how he sins—always remains a Jew. Jewish culture is not based on the individual Jew's relationship to God, but rather on his relationship to his community and the community's relationship to God: We pray in the plural. We need a minyan.

Jews are not alone in being partly an ethnic grouping, but community bonds play an unusually prominent role in our religion. Being Jewish is mostly not about beliefs, but

about connections with other people, sharing values and a collective destiny. Even for non-observant Jews, Jewish values are embodied in the Torah. Most Jews don't take the Torah literally, but it's an exceptional account of the shared history and values of our people. Those values include respect for learning, respect for the individual, and pervasive concern about the fate of the community.

One of the most notable biblical converts to Judaism, Ruth, arranges four words to describe her conversion, roughly translated as: "Your people are my people, and your God is my God." The order is not accidental. Membership in the people is the necessary condition for being a Jew while saying "your God is my God" is not a requirement.

There are those who may doubt God but still live as Jews as if God has a prominent role in Jewish history. Jewish educator Avraham Infeld grew up in a home that was very much a secular home, where he often heard statements such as "I'm not sure there is a God, I'm not sure we were even in Egypt, but I'm sure He took us out of there." In one Midrash relating to a verse in Jeremiah, the rabbis quote God as saying, "Wouldst that they left Me, but not my teachings." God is an integral part of my life, but I understand that's not the case for all Jews.

The ultimate question, though, is why be Jewish? One thing I think most Jews would agree on—and there aren't many things—is that it's not easy to be Jewish alone. It's communal. So what sustains the community in the future? Answers about history and culture are important, but without a God that somehow transcends human history, Judaism becomes just one cultural option among many. As Professor Leora Batnitzky opines: It becomes like ice cream flavors; different people like different flavors, but why should we force our children to like our flavor? Without God, arguments for Jewish continuity—that there should be Jews in the future—end up resorting to ethnic chauvinism. 

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 9:30 AM

Bat Mitzvah of Rose Doniger

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 9:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah of Jack Sobel

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 9:30 AM

Or join Brotherhood Shabbat services from your computer, tablet or phone:

Zoom meeting ID: 225 253 5818

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/2252535818>

Password: 1818

Using your phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 225-253-5818

BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE NURSERY SCHOOL

*Schedule a tour to learn more
about our school programs for
twos, threes, and fours.*

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT
AT 10AM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SCHEDULE
BROTHERHOODNURSERY.ORG

Like us on Facebook 

Life Goes On

Life Goes On is a group for those of us who have lost a spouse or life partner and want to experience the beauty, joy, and opportunity that New York life offers surrounded by supportive friends who understand and share in the loss.

Our April event, a tour of the Jewish Museum's "The Sassoons" exhibit, was incredible! We are grateful to the museum for our amazing guide who made this family come alive for us and helped us understand the extraordinary centuries they lived through, some of it illustrated by Sargent paintings. Do go see the exhibit!

While our May event will take place after this article is submitted, we are excited about having an amazing guided tour of the The Cathedral of St. John the Divine and its Textile Conservation Lab and thank Ruth Grossman for all her work in organizing a fascinating and lovely afternoon together.

We have extraordinary plans for June as well, with thanks to Joan Goldfield for arranging it. On **Wednesday, June 7, 2 pm**, our favorite tour guide, Rick from NYC Discovery, will take us on a grand tour of Grand Central Station and its new Madison Avenue Extension. Our tour will include art installations by Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith and cover the secrets of Grand Central's history with a discussion of the symbolism behind its decor and the mysteries behind the Beaux Arts gem. Stops include the "whispering arch," a secret apartment used as a speakeasy during the 1920s, the classic ceiling mural with its mysterious constellations painted in reverse, and Jules Coutan's masterpiece, the Roman group god sculpture. As usual, lunch together will be arranged prior to the tour, with details to be sent to participants. **The cost of the tour is \$32 per person. Please contact Joan joangoldfield@gmail.com if you would like to join us.**

Our book club is live again—actually hybrid, because a few people joined us online. It is so much more interesting to sit around a table companionably expressing our opinions as we discuss our book—with thanks to Brotherhood for the treats and wine in our hands. Thanks are also due to Professor Margaret Birns for leading our discussions and presenting so much information about the books to enrich our conversation. Our next book club meeting will be hybrid as well and will take place on **Tuesday, June 20, 7 pm** at Brotherhood's 4th Floor Library. Book club members will be advised of the book selected. Professor Birns will lead our discussion, and **the cost remains \$20 per person. Please know that you must advise Aggie in advance if you plan to participate**—we can not reserve Professor Birns' time without a sufficient number of participants.

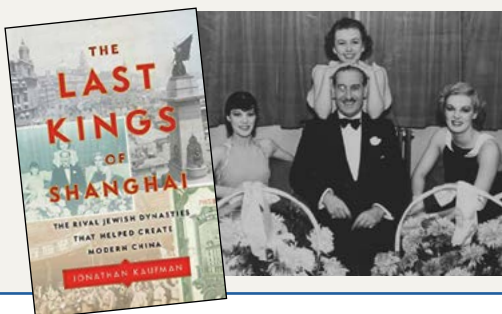
If you or someone you know would like to be a part of *Life Goes On*, please come to our meetings—we would be happy to see you! If you have any questions, please call Agnes Marton at 917-519-4427 or e-mail her at lagnesmarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 pm in person and on Zoom

Alyson Fendel Breier will lead a discussion of *The Last Kings of Shanghai* by Jonathan Kaufman.

Please contact Gail Pierris abend@nyc.rr.com if you are interested in joining.



June Classes with the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program

Brotherhood Synagogue Adult Education in partnership with the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program (CSP) presents the following roster of amazing online classes during the month of June!

Please click on the class titles for full description and to register or go to <https://occsp.net/current-online-events/>.

The King, the Priest, the Heroine and the Prophet: Passionate Portraits of Lesser-Known Biblical Characters

Tuesdays May 30, June 6, 13 & 20 | 3:30 pm | Rafi Zarum

Part 1: Malkitzedek

Part 3: Elisheva

Part 2: Jethro

Part 4: Bilaam



Navigating Complex Identities: Arab Citizens in Israeli Society

Thursdays, June 1, 8, 15 & 22

1:00 pm | David Mendelsohn

Part 1: Arabs with Israeli Citizenship: Policy and Identity

Part 2: Between Palestinian and Israeli Identity, with Ahamad Mounir

Part 3: Non Muslim Arab Minorities within Israeli Society

Part 4 The Dusky Mirror in Contemporary Israel – Reclaiming Origins

Jewish Spies

Sundays, June 4, 11, 18 & July 2

7:00 pm | Howard Lupovitch

Part 1: Jew, American, Athlete, Spy – The Many Sides of Moe Berg

Part 2: Julius and Ether Rosenberg – Jewish Spies and Anti-Communist Paranoia

Part 3: "Our Man In Damascus" – Eli Cohen and the Mystique of the Mossad

Part 4: The Controversial Career and Capture of Jonathan Pollard



Monarchs vs. Presidents: A European Insight into American Democracy and Leadership

Wednesday, June 7

7:00 pm | Clive Lawton

Brotherhood Synagogue continues to offer Adult Education classes on Zoom through your kind and generous donations. Please consider making a donation of \$36 or more to help cover the cost of this and other important education programs. [Visit our website](#) and designate your contributions as a gift to "Adult Education" in the dropdown menu.

While Brotherhood Synagogue sponsors a Blood Drive every November, the need for blood is constant for accident victims, cancer patients, and even newborn babies.

If you are able, please consider donating at one of the New York Blood Center's many locations. And, remember to use Brotherhood's ID number 14200—your donation will be considered as on behalf of the synagogue.





Special Year End Musical Celebration with Daphna and Saskia!!!

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am

Please join us for a very special year-end musical gathering with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane!!!

For children age 5 and under and their families!

Please consider [a contribution in any amount](#) in support of this and other family programing at Brotherhood. Thanks to your generosity we are able to continue to provide you with wonderful programs such as these.

Come for MUSIC and stay for BAGELS!!

THE FIRST ANNUAL Cantor Herman & Evelyn Diamond ^{z"l} Memorial Concert

Sunday, June 4, 4:00 pm
Brotherhood Synagogue Sanctuary

Sponsored by Ivan & Margot Diamond and their Families

Join us for a celebration of the Diamond Family and Cantor Diamond's favorite music!

Featuring Cantor Isaac Yager, Meredith Kelly, the Brotherhood Synagogue Congregational Choir Harmoni-AH! and other special musical guests!


Refreshments will be served following the concert.

[Register here](#)

The Audacity of Faith

Mondays, June 5, 12, 19 @ 7:00 pm on Zoom with Rabbi Avi Strausberg

[Register here](#)



Faith by definition is required at the very moment when we are in doubt, unable to see our way forward. What do we do when, in the moments when we most need our faith, we find ourselves at a loss, unable to say, I believe? In this class, we'll turn to the writings of several important modern Jewish thinkers to uncover their own teachings and struggles with faith. From the ghetto of Warsaw and the writings of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira to the modern poetry of Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, we'll ask: what is the nature of faith, what do we do when we find ourselves without it, and on whom or what might we rely in moments of struggle?


Tuesday, June 13

You're invited to join us at Brotherhood Synagogue's Annual Meeting BBQ @ 5:30 pm

Please join us for hotdogs, burgers (veggie too), a beer, and good times! Bring the kids of course!

Please register for this popular community event so that we have sufficient food for attendees.

You can [register here](#) by Friday, June 9.



Come for the BBQ- and then stay for the... Brotherhood Synagogue Annual Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Our congregation will vote on important matters including our budget and trustees. If you are unable to join us in person following the Annual Meeting BBQ, please join the meeting via our Zoom services link and help us form the mandatory quorum!

<https://zoom.us/j/2252535818>

Password: 1818 | By phone 646-558-8656 | Meeting ID 225-253-5818

We look forward to seeing you for both community fun and business!

A reminder that Brotherhood's fiscal year ends on June 30, and your help is needed to meet our community's financial goal.

To make your online gift now, please [visit our donation page](#) and select Annual Fund (Eternal Light Fund) - Member. Your gift can be made as a one-time payment or set up for monthly installments.

Cantor Herman Diamond Whiskey Tasting

Thursday, June 8 • 7:00 pm

Please join us for Brotherhood's second Cantor Herman Diamond Whiskey Tasting as we imbibe a specially curated whiskey selection in honor of our former cantor and in support of our community. If you're wondering why whiskey in the month of June, the answer resides in the abundance of lighter varieties that are perfect for this time of year.

To reserve your spot now, [please register here](#) and be sure to spread the word about this unique event to friends and colleagues. Contact [Jennifer Rosenberger](#) with any questions. We're looking forward to seeing you on June 8!

Dinner will be served.

\$118 per person



Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Michael Doniger and **Jeanne Manischewitz** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Rose Doniger**. Rose, a student at Nord Anglia, will celebrate her simcha with her younger sister, **Milly**.

Michael and **Leslie Sobel** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jack Sobel**. Jack, a student at Wagner Middle School, will celebrate his simcha with his older sister, **Talia**.

Stuart and **Heather Krasna** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Elizabeth Maybelle Krasna**. Maybelle is a student at the Summit School.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

Deborah Halper and **Gary Giddins** on the marriage of their daughter **Lea Giddins** to **Allison Millstein**.

Jane and **Floyd Warren** on the marriage of their daughter **Caroline Warren** to **Tara Roach**.

Kaz Block on her marriage to **Alan Eiges**.

Condolences to:

The family of our member **Robert Bauchner** on his passing.

President's Post by Russell Kohn



Over the past six months, our Strategic Planning Committee has been gathering input and feedback from a wide swath of our community. Our Community Conversations engaged more than 90 members in small group settings. Our Synagogue-wide survey received more than 240 responses. And we have met with board members, staff, and congregants to learn about what the key issues are for our community.

With this information, we enter the next phase of the Strategic Planning process, in which we form focused task forces to do the real work of planning. We hope that you will consider joining one of these task forces to contribute your voice and help us to shape the future of Brotherhood. The task forces are not intended to cover every possible topic; rather we want to focus on the areas that need the most work and where we have the most opportunity to improve.

- **Membership and Engagement:** Improve new member recruitment and existing member engagement across our entire community, to create a more welcoming and inclusive community.
- **Families with children up to age 5:** Improve the programming for families with young children and address any obstacles to membership and engagement for these families.
- **Families with children ages 5-18:** Improve programming for families with Hebrew School-aged children and teenagers.

- **Affinity Groups:** Explore the formation of small groups that would enable members to connect around particular interests or experiences.
- **Religious Engagement:** Develop new opportunities for religious practice and spirituality at Brotherhood.
- **Communications and Marketing:** Improve Brotherhood's communication with existing and potential members.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Create a plan for long-term financial sustainability for our community.

* * *

As hard as it is to believe, this is my final bulletin as President of Brotherhood Synagogue. Working with our clergy, staff and membership over the past two years has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career, and there is no way I can thank everyone who provided their advice, guidance and support. The past two years have not always been easy and I have made my fair share of mistakes along the way, but I am proud of what we have accomplished. I could not be more excited for Brotherhood's future and know that our incoming president, Seth Hulkower, will help us continue to grow and develop as a community.

Thank you all for being a part of our community and our Synagogue. Brotherhood quite literally would not be here without you.

Warmly, Russell Kohn



PLAY MAH JONGG!!

Summer Wednesdays
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
at Brotherhood

Brotherhood is holding Mah Jongg games in June, July & August.

Play is open to members & nonmembers!

Dates:

June 7, 21 & 28

July 12 & 19

August 2, 9, 16 & 23

Cost per session: \$11

payable **IN CASH AT THE DOOR**

All levels welcome!**

To join a game, please email Janet Heller

jheller711@gmail.com

**We will be offering classes for beginners again after the high holidays!



The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis | **BCRIC UPDATE**

The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis (BCRIC) ended the 2023 school year with two very special dinners for asylum-seeker families whose children attend PS 11. Children and parents ate delicious dinners, engaged in art activities and games, and had a fun and relaxed time which is in sharp contrast to the evenings in the homeless shelters in which they live.

In the upcoming school year, BCRIC will prioritize three projects: continuation and possible expansion of the dinners for asylum-seeker families with children in NYC public schools, preparation and distribution of gift packages with seasonal clothing and age-appropriate games and toys for children, and expansion of our advocacy campaigns in conjunction with HIAS and the Synagogue Coalition for the Refugee and Immigration

Crisis (SCRIC). For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Dinners for asylum-seeker families:
Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net

Gift Packages for Children:
Melissa Rutkin at missstheima18@yahoo.com

Advocacy campaigns: Jenny Amanda Horowitz
at subvppop7@gmail.com



BCRIC volunteers with asylum seeking families at a spring dinner.

A Note from Development:

Can We Count on You?

Did you know that membership dues cover only one-third of Brotherhood's annual expense budget and that we rely on the philanthropy of our members to make up the difference? Your gifts to Brotherhood's **Eternal Light (Annual) Fund** fuel our essential operations and support the services, programming, and opportunities for connection that enrich and strengthen our wonderful community. Your gift can be made as a one-time payment or in monthly installments.

To make your gift today, please visit <https://brotherhoodsynagogue.shulcloud.com/payment.php> and select "Annual Fund (Eternal Light Fund)-Member" from the drop-down menu. Checks may be mailed to Brotherhood Synagogue at 28 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003. To make a gift of stock or other securities, please contact Jennifer Rosenberger, Director of Development and Member Engagement (jrosenberger@brotherhoodsynagogue.org).

Your support will make all the difference as we approach the end of Brotherhood's fiscal year and plan for a great year to come. Thank you in advance for making Brotherhood a philanthropic priority. 🌈

Shabbat Club

Saturday, June 17, 12:30 pm

Our guest speaker, **Phil Rothman**, who will talk on *The Torah: The Book That Never Ends* or —Everything You Need to Know Can Be Found in the Torah.

Join us for a lively discussion with Phil at 12:30pm in the second floor reception room. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Masking is suggested. Contact Deborah Newman at debd.newman@gmail.com with your ideas for future meetings.

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Brotherhood Synagogue is here to support you during your time of loss. Our webpage provides information and resources for the mourner, including a booklet describing the stages and rituals in our tradition. There is also a list of bereavement groups to connect with others finding their way through bereavement. Visit:

<https://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/chesed-committee.html>

https://images.shulcloud.com/14480/uploads/Chesed/bereavement_2022.pdf

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

YAHREZITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

June 3-9

Irving Abraham^, Rosalie Berger Ruth Bergman, Hyman Berkowitz*, Rose Bernstone^, Eleanore Breier, Pauline Cagen*, Ellen Doherty, Julius Field*, Israel Finder^, Manny Fox^, Morton Geller^*, Wilhelm Goldreich^, Dona Gracia Nasi, Lena Green^, Lena Green^, Charlotte Hamburger*, Jacob Hill, Seymour Hoffman, Freda Hofstetter, Lena Elias Israel*, Herman Larry Kasman, Bernard Kaufman, Harold Klein*, Rose Korach, Ruth Labiner^, Mrs. Susan Levin, Ana Ottilie Lourie*, Kate Markovitz, Harold Merkelson^, Sam Miller, Isador Moed, Rhoda Moed, Mr. Robert Nelson, Elliott Perlman, Harry Ralston*, Emily Rich, Shirley Rosen, Melvin Rudoltz, David G. Schorr, Mrs. Marcia Helfano Schwartz, Patricia Greenhouse Seaman^*, Harold John Shaine*, Hinde Shragowitz, Shirley Speer, Ruby Strauss, Ezra Strong^, Arthur Weiss, Henry Wolfson*, Harry Zolick^, Samuel Zolick^, Rose Zonon

June 10-16

Larry Allen, Sydel Alper, Herman Asnas^, Diana Balaber, Sylvia Braun, Lillian Lee Dursht^, Eli Bodie Enzer, Samuel Arthur Epstein, Leon Epstein, Rose Glickman Farland*, Lillian Feinstein, Arthur Feitell^, Martin Finegold, Morris Fradin^, Elsie Frommer, Rose Goldman*, Elizabeth S. Goldschmidt^, Tillie Goldstein*, Charlotte Gothelf, David Greenleaf, Julia Jacobs^, Sima Kislak Jelin^, Alter Michael Kaplan^, Leisel Kaye^, Helen Klein, Julian Koenig, Faye Kuhne^, Eugene Labiner^, Sally Leatherrman, Abraham Levine, Ruth Lockett, Irwin Magerfield, Dora Magerfield*, Harold Mait, Betty Mald*, David Moses*, Nathan Neidich^*, Dafna Ost Haber, Jean Pauker*, Irving Plutzer, Fred R. Profeta, William Raskin^, Norman Redlich^, Helen Rubenstein*, Frank Savits, Anna Schaffer^, Regina Schlanger*, Gertrude Schorr, Sadie Schwartz, Frances Schwartz, Fannie Schwartz*, Ruth Schwartzberg, Ira Sollar^, Mary Sonnenfeld, Morris Steinberg^, Jacob Weisman^, Elias Werner*, Dorothy Wolf^, Lili Wolf^, Gloria Younger, Audrey Zollman^, Seth Zucker^, Rose H. Zweibach*^

June 17-23

George Z. Abrams^, Sidney Altman*, Esther Ashkenazi, Lillian Benardo^, Celia Bersoff, Mary Blum^, Sylvia Brumberg, Florence Burrell^,

Leon Cohen, Samuel Coppersmith^, J. Howard Denny*, Jennie Douglass^, Sadie Elson*, Annafay Bayuk Franklin^*, Samuel Friedwald*, Morris Glusband, Arthur Gold, Gerry Goldberg^, Martha Golden^, Aaron Gottlieb^, Harold Green, Frank Scott Green^, Martin Greenbaum, Max Greenberg^, Ellen Greenleaf, Philip Haim^, David S. Hocky^, Mildred Hofstetter^, Ruth Holzberg^, Marika Brown Kaplan, Ivor Lederer, Victoria Leffel, Sidney Levin, Gregory Litwack, Dora Lowy*, Mrs. Sue Machlin^, Julius Marke^, Fay Markel*, Victoria Menashy, Aileen Osofsky, Rosalind Pesiri^, Pauline Pessar^, Maurice Pine, Morton Pollak, Dr. William Reisner^, Molly Rosenblum^, William Shalof*, Beatrice Posner Siegel^, William Spielberger, Rose Storick, Jeff Sugarman^, William Tricanowicz, Henry Unterweiser*

June 24-30

Joseph Alster^, Sylvia Altman^, Samuel Ash*, Norman Block, Milton Bloom^, Fannie Chizner*, Abraham Cooperman*, Joseph Cosnow^, Elaine Davidorf^, Irwin Diamond^, Stephen Ellin, Morris Feinstein, Heinrich Gelber*, Seymour Gerstenhaber, Barney A. Goldman*, Jack Harrison Gorta*, Mollie Green^, Michael Greenspan, Enid Guttman, Bonita Davis, Herman Louis Himmell^, Lewis J. Honekman^, Charles Kalisky, Deborah Sue Kornblatt, Dr. Leo J. Koven^, Ruth Lewis, Jacques Lieberman, Nicholas Lowy*, Mr. Saul Magram^, Lillian Mandel, Elizabeth Meyerowitz, Janet Miltenberg, Nathan Natilson*, Robert David Newman, Doris Perlman^, Carl Rosner*, Rose Rothchild*, Ethel Rubinstein^, Sam Sagman, Frances M. Schechter^, Jacob H. Schlager*, Celia Shorin^, Harry Siegel^, Joseph Silver, Dorothy J. Sims*, George Singer^, Murray Sirkin*, Samuel Sosnen*, Morton Usdan^, Benjamin L. Wasserman^, Miriam Weber, Debora Weinstein, Irene Weiss, Thomas Werner, Mark Werner*

The Brotherhood Synagogue



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Fax: (212) 505-6707

www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

RABBI DANIEL ALDER

CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK^z D.D.: Founding Rabbi

RUSSELL KOHN: President

ALISHA GOODMAN:

Executive Director

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:

Executive Director Emeritus



Congregation founded in 1954

Historic Landmark Building erected in 1859

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Our High School Graduates:

Grace Bober on her graduation from Brooklyn Tech and her acceptance to the University of Wisconsin.

Chloe Cohen on her graduation from Chapin and her acceptance to William and Mary College.

Carson Davis on his graduation from Brooklyn Tech and his acceptance to the University of Southern California.

Michael Feeney on his graduation from Packer Collegiate and his acceptance to Rice University.

Julia Goldberg on her graduation from Baruch College High School and her acceptance to Emory University.

Leah Hart on her graduation from Eleanor Roosevelt and her acceptance to New York University.

Sivan Koen on her graduation from Clinton and her acceptance to Binghamton University.

Blake Levine on his graduation from Baruch College High School and his acceptance to the University of Michigan.

Ryan Lidsky on his graduation from Packer Collegiate and his acceptance to Tulane University.

Angelina Lieberman on her graduation from the Brooks School and her acceptance to Brown University.

Noemi Maller on her graduation from NEST+M and her acceptance to Connecticut College.

Anna Mintzer on her graduation from Beacon and her acceptance to Johns Hopkins University.

Eden Monk on her graduation NYCi School and her acceptance to Pitzer College.

Lucas Nelson on his graduation from Friends Seminary and his acceptance to the University of Michigan.

Mae Neuman on her graduation from LaGuardia and her acceptance to Syracuse.

Ariel Ofri-Akman on her graduation from Bronx Science and her acceptance to East Stroudsburg University.

Alexander Paroff on his graduation from LREI and his acceptance to the University of Miami.

Max Paster on his graduation from Friends Seminary and his acceptance to University of Wisconsin.

David Simon on his graduation from Trevor and his acceptance to Syracuse.

Caroline Taylor on her graduation from Urban Academy and her acceptance to the Savannah College of Art and Design

Benjamin Wagener on his graduation from Bard and his acceptance to Virginia Tech.

Sarah Weber on her graduation from Grace Church School and her acceptance to Muhlenberg College.

Our College Graduates:

Zachary Davis on his graduation from the University of Wisconsin, Madison (Economics).

Alexander Z Diamond on his graduation from Drexel University (Computer Engineering).

Sarah Gold on her graduation from Colby College (Sociology and Science, Technology, & Society).

Anna Greenleaf on her graduation from Duke University (Psychology).

Leo Greenleaf on his graduation from the University of Michigan (Mechanical Engineering).

Dorie Levine on her graduation from Indiana University (Political Science).

Jane Loy on her graduation from Boston University (Hospitality).

Rachel Miltenberg on her graduation from Flagler University (Journalism).

Dora Neiden on her graduation from Oberlin College (Math and Cinema Studies).

Jasmine Niang on her graduation from Binghamton University (English).

Naava Ofri-Akman on her graduation from Northern Illinois University (Acting).

Lila Podgainsky on her graduation from Grinnell College (Anthropology).

Michael Prizant on his graduation from Stevens Institute of Technology (Business and Technology).

Cameron Schneider on his graduation from SUNY-Buffalo (Communications).

Lucy Stone on her graduation from Cornell University (English).

Max Stone on his graduation from Northwestern University (Computer Science).

Sydney Tepner on her graduation from the University of Wisconsin, Madison (Human Development & Family Studies).

Remy Tepner on her graduation from the College of Charleston (English and Jewish Studies).

And to:

Jonathan Berk on his graduation from the New School with a PhD in Philosophy.

Rob Ascher on his graduation from the University of Iowa with an MFA in Theater (Dramaturgy).

Alexa M. Nicolas on her graduation from the University of California, Berkeley with a PhD in Microbiology.

Jenny R. Nicolas on her graduation from the University of California, San Diego with a Masters of Science in Materials Science and Engineering.

If we've omitted any graduate please let Rabbi Alder know and we will include their information next month.



for 8th - 12th Graders

Looking for a fun way to meet other Jewish teens in our community and make new friends?!

Check out Union BBYO's upcoming Thursday night programs!

Thursday, June 1 - Union BBYO
Maccabiah Games

Thursday, June 8 - Union BBYO
Chapter Elections

Questions!? Contact:

Daphne Brown, Union BBYO Chapter President, daphnebrown06@gmail.com

Aliya Cohen, Manhattan BBYO Associate Regional Director, agottehrercohen@bbyo.org

BBYO is a teen-led Jewish youth movement for any Jewish teens in grades 8-12, and Union BBYO is one of 7 chapters in Manhattan Region. Follow [@unionbbyo](https://www.instagram.com/unionbbyo) on Instagram to connect with the chapter and learn about their upcoming events! You can also contact the chapter president, Daphne, [by email](mailto:by_email) at or BBYO Manhattan Staff Emmy, at egoodman@bbyo.org, to learn more and add your email to our mailing list. Make sure to check out Union BBYO's website to access the most up-to-date information and any other resources you may need!



Nursery School News: Not Quite An Ending

by Susan Azizo

My son, William, has always been a social butterfly. From the day he was born, when no less than 20 family members came to the hospital to see him, through his first 18 months of life. Aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and friends were always coming in and out of our home on the daily. He loved waving at, talking to, interacting with everyone from strangers on the street to our doormen who he would greet happily upon leaving and returning home each day. He loved his mommy and me classes, hanging with other kids at the playground, playdates with his best friend who lived just a few floors below us. I just knew my little extrovert was going to thrive at nursery school when he would start in September of 2020.

Then, March of 2020 happened. William's busy life full of people became one of isolation; our once busy home was now quiet. I slowly began to realize that life was not getting back to normal anytime soon, and likely not by September. My husband, David, and I made the hard decision to keep William home from his 2s program. It broke my heart.

I tried to make up for the loss of this milestone with "mama school." We had ball pits, play tents, tons of outdoor time and trips out of the city to visit family. But nothing could make up for his lack of interaction and socialization with peers.

So when summer of 2021 rolled around and it was clear that this virus was here to stay, David and I decided that William needed to start school regardless of the state of Covid. We didn't think the preschool we had originally enrolled him in was the right fit in this post-mid-pandemic world we were still in. So we reached out to Brotherhood, where William had gone to ECP (Early Childhood classes with Daphna) classes before the world fell apart.

I was nervous that day in September 2021. Was I supposed to just hand off my child to these masked strangers? How would William react to being thrust into this new place with all these new people? Would these children accept him? Would my social little boy emerge again? Or would he shrink back in fear? In true William fashion, he let go of my hand and walked right up to his teachers with not so much as a glance back.

When I came to pick him up later that day, I realized I had nothing to worry about. He had found his peeps. He declared that he now had 14 best friends. And it was true. They really all were best friends. They spent that year learning and growing together, their bond getting stronger with each passing day. There was a love and respect between these 15 children, which was stronger than I could have ever hoped for.

Now, two years later, 11 of these children will "graduate" from the Blue Room in a few weeks. While I am sad that they will all be going their separate ways for Kindergarten, I know that a piece of BSNS, and each other, will be with each of them as they go. And William does too.

As I sat down and began writing this evening, William came up to me wondering what I was doing, and as per usual, offered to help. When I told him what I was writing, he wanted to contribute as well. So I will leave you with the heartfelt words of William Shapiro: "I love you, Annie and Laurie, and all ten friends. I'm going to miss you when I'm at Kindergarten, but I know I'll see my friends again."

And I know he will too. 🐣

Fall 2023 Early Childhood Programs at Brotherhood

Early Childhood Programs (ECP) at Brotherhood Synagogue help our community's youngest children grow and flourish in an atmosphere where Jewish life, learning, values, and traditions are nurtured and celebrated. Cognitive skills along with social, emotional, and physical development are encouraged through music, movement, theater arts, storytelling, learning activities, play, and arts & crafts with a special focus on Shabbat, holidays, and Hebrew language. Our weekly classes emphasize joyful Jewish experiences and a connection to community in a safe and fun learning environment. We are offering the following classes this Fall:

- **Baby Class** (3 - 12 months)
- **Pre-Toddler Class** (12 - 18 months)
- **Toddler Class** (18 months - 3 years)
- **Thursday Corner** (3 - 5 years)

[Visit the Early Childhood Programs page on the Brotherhood website to register.](#)

Class sizes are limited and are filled on a first come, first served basis so register EARLY!

[Please email Roberta](#) if you have any questions about ECP at Brotherhood.



♪ Cantor's Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

One of the best methods to learn about a particular subject is to teach it. Through teaching, one is forced to become acquainted with a subject or an idea in such a way that requires broad understanding. And even if one has limited understanding of a subject, communicating with others the meaning of that subject strengthens one's ability to understand it wholeheartedly. An idea or concept cannot make sense to the student unless it makes sense to the teacher. And sometimes it's okay when the teacher doesn't know the answer. I was a Hebrew school instructor throughout cantorial school, and admittedly, sometimes my students' questions forced me to question my own authority. I recall several instances where, in between classes, I would rush to the privacy of the bathroom stall to consult with Rabbi Google on my phone when I couldn't remember the exact reason for why we eat dairy on Shavuot or the difference between the Mishnah and a Midrash. Baruch Hashem for Rabbi Google, that's all I can say. Today, I'm still continuing to learn and wrestle with new ideas and concepts that are foreign to me. But ultimately, acknowledging and embracing this complexity is the beauty of Judaism, and more specifically, an integral part to the art of studying Torah. In leading Lunch and Learn and our conversion program for the past year, I have been able to build my own knowledge of Torah and Judaism in ways not possible had I not been teaching it to others. I still have questions and difficulty understanding certain ideas and concepts, but these intricacies are addressed in class, and with the help of others, we are able to learn from each other. I have discovered that this reciprocal process is at the heart of all meaningful Jewish learning. And if all else fails, our synagogue has beautiful bathroom stalls and a stellar internet connection. 🐣

As part of our effort to reduce our community's carbon footprint and "go green," we are changing our practice around thank you letters and will no longer be sending letters for donations under \$180. While we are grateful for every gift, we would like to save the trees and also stamps. You will continue to receive email acknowledgments for your gifts in addition to a year-end tax statement that issues each January.

If you would like to receive thank you letters by mail, please contact [Jennifer Rosenberger](#), Director of Development and Member Engagement.



Brotherhood Synagogue



Sivan / Tammuz 5783
June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Harmoni-AH!	31 6:30 pm: Dinner for Asylum-Seeking Families	1 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 6:30: BBYO Maccabiah Games	2 8:04 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	3 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Rose Doniger NASSO
4 11 am: Year End Concert & Celebration for Children 5 & Under 4 pm: First Annual Cantor Herman and Evelyn Diamond z"l Memorial Concert	5 7 pm: The Audacity of Faith	6 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 5:40 pm: Minyan	7 2 pm: Life Goes On 5:30 pm: Mah Jongg	8 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 6 pm: Cantor Herman Diamond Whisky Tasting 6:30 pm: BBYO Chapter Elections	9 8:08 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	10 9:30 am: Services Bat Mitzvah of Jack Sobel BEHA'ALOTCHA
11	12 7 pm: The Audacity of Faith	13 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 5:30 pm: BBQ 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Annual Congregational Meeting	14	15 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	16 8:11 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	17 9:30 am: Services 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club SHELACH
18	19 11 am: Bat Mitzvah of Maybelle Krasna 7 pm: The Audacity of Faith JUNETEENTH OFFICE CLOSED ROSH CHODESH	20 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 5:40 pm: Minyan 7 pm: Life Goes On Book Club ROSH CHODESH	21 5:30 pm: Mah Jongg	22 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:30 am: Baby Class	23 8:13 pm: Candles 6:30 pm Services	24 9:30 am: Services KORACH
25	26	27 5:40 pm: Minyan	28 5:30 pm: Mah Jongg	29	30 8:13 pm: Candles 6:30 pm Services	1 9:30 am: Services CHUKAT/BALAK

*Mazal tov to the
entire cast and crew of
Little Shop of Horrors!*

