



Brotherhood Synagogue בית

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Our 70th Anniversary and the Gift of a New Torah

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

This calendar year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Brotherhood Synagogue. 70 years is viewed as very significant in Jewish writings. The Sages state that at 70 one reaches the age of "fullness [of years]" (*Pirkei Avot 5:21*). It is therefore definitely appropriate to mark the occasion by expressing gratitude for having lived what the Rabbis consider a full life.

Each month this year at a Friday evening service we will have a congregant speak about the history of the synagogue from their perspective. The first speaker, on Friday February 9th, will be Judge Laura Ward who was the first Bat Mitzvah in our synagogue's existence.

In honor of our 70th anniversary, as a gift to ourselves, we have embarked on an exciting, once-in-a-generation project, by commissioning a scribe (*sofer*) to write a new Sefer Torah scroll. Not only is the synagogue in need of a new Torah, but it is a most fitting way to mark this milestone and will be treasured for generations. It affords us the opportunity to reconnect to our Torah and to fulfill the 613th and final mitzvah to participate in the writing of a Torah scroll.

I encourage you to attend the upcoming visit to the synagogue of Rabbi Zerach Greenfield, a *sofer*. He is a charismatic and thoughtful teacher. On Wednesday, February 7

at 5:15 pm, he will introduce us to the exacting art of writing a Sefer Torah which is a recording of our People's encounter with God and history.


For this is the story we tell about ourselves, to help us understand who we are, who God is and what we and God expect of each other: "In the beginning, God created heaven and earth..." And after a total of 304,805 letters, each written by a trained *sofer* on the hide of a kosher animal, we have a Sefer Torah in which we encounter God and, as a result, we have to live our lives differently.

The Torah is not only Holy Scriptures; it is our family album. The stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel are not just folk tales or Hebrew School lessons. They are stories about our ancestors. Similarly, the list of places at which the Israelites camped on the way to the Land of Israel is not just a page of trivia; it is like coming across a box of postcards sent to us by relatives on their travels.

The Torah is true. It is true even if one doesn't believe all the events described are historically accurate. For the Torah is not a history textbook or a science textbook; it is a moral text. The Torah speaks the truth about the human spirit and the needs of the human soul. No other book has done more to influence human society and to make people take note of the moral path.

Jews don't read the Torah for the plot, the way one reads a novel. You don't read it to see how it ends. Nor do you read it like a news article, skimming it to get the general idea. Jews traditionally read the Torah the way a person reads a love letter. You try to squeeze every last little bit of meaning out of every word and punctuation.

There are two key lessons from the Torah that we tell about ourselves: that God loves us, and that God needs us. God shows love for us by reaching out and inviting us into a covenant based on the precious Torah. And we, in turn, are called to do something for God and for the world.

Let's start by doing something for our synagogue and ourselves by performing the mitzvah of helping sponsor our new Torah scroll. 

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 6:30 PM
Followed by Dinner & Speakers:
Alana Newhouse and Jodi Rudoren
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Lebovitz

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 6:30 PM
Special Musical Shabbat Service
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Adam Fine

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

ADULT EDUCATION Winter 2022

Begin a Jewish study course!

Check out the [Adult Ed page on the Brotherhood website](#) to register for our newest class on ZOOM this month:

What Comes Next:
Jewish Philosophers on Life After Death



SAVE THE DATES!
Mondays: February 26 & March 4, 11, 18 at 7:00 pm on Zoom
NYU Professor Elisha Russ-Fishbane returns to teach in February:

Songs of the Soul:
Jewish Religious Poetry from Medieval Spain

Torah Scribe Visit to Launch the Writing of Our New Sefer Torah Scroll

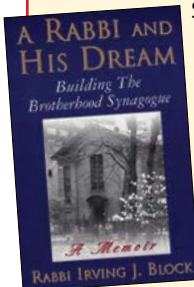
**Wednesday, February 7
5:15 – 6 pm in the Sanctuary**

All are invited to kick-off the celebration of Brotherhood Synagogue's 70th year when Rabbi Zerach Greenfield joins us to speak about the writing of our new Sefer Torah. There will be brief speeches and songs.



Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, January 18, 7:15 pm



Susan Halper will lead a discussion of *A Rabbi and His Dream: Building the Brotherhood Synagogue: A Memoir by Rabbi Irving J. Block*.

Please contact the synagogue office at 212.674-5750 if you'd like to borrow the book.

Please contact Gail Pierris abend@nyc.rr.com if you have any questions.

Shabbat Club

Phil Rothman will be our guest speaker on Saturday, January 13. Phil will help inaugurate the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Brotherhood Synagogue by sharing memories and thoughts of his years with the congregation. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting begins at 12:30pm in the 2nd floor reception room. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact [Deborah Newman](mailto:Deborah.Newman) with ideas for future meetings.

SAVE THE DATE: On February 3, Bob Wolf will discuss free speech/hate speech, and other issues relating to antisemitism on campus.

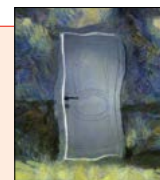


We celebrated Chanukah together well on Saturday, December 9 enjoying the fantastic music of the Eyal Vilner Big Band followed by our traditional vodkas and laktes!

Many, many thanks to **Alan Fell** and **Paul Hill**, co-chairs of the Israel Committee, for sponsoring and executing another great Chanukah party!

So What Happens Next?: Jewish Philosophers on Life After Death A Guide to Jewish Eschatology

Mondays, Jan 8, 15, 22 and Feb 5 on Zoom at 7 pm with Professor Daniel Rynhold



[Register here](#)

The idea of the afterlife looms large in many religious traditions. But what does Judaism actually have to say about what happens next, whether personally or more generally in "history"? In this course we will look at a selection of medieval and modern ideas on these issues that range from the supernatural to the natural, taking in the views of such thinkers as Saadia Gaon, Maimonides, and Spinoza.

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 Chanukah party was great fun! Everyone enjoyed dinner together and our gift-giving game was even better than usual! Somehow everyone had interesting new ideas for gifts and there was lots of lively conversation! Thank you Joyce, Susan, and Brenda for jumping in last minute and running the event so well.

We are going to the Jewish Museum's Chloe Exhibit for a private tour on **Thursday, January 25 at 11 am**, thanks to Brenda Pace. The exhibit has received raving reviews, stated: "here is a Jewish female entrepreneur in a fashion world where those three words rarely get acknowledged as going together." The cost of the tour is \$25 per person. We'll be enjoying lunch together after the tour, details to be sent to tour participants. The tour is limited, please make sure you contact Brenda bapace172@gmail.com as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

Thank you Gaby Kende for arranging a wonderful outing for us in February. On **Wednesday, February 28 at 2 pm**, the director of the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College, 1 West 4th Street, will be leading us on a private tour of their current exhibit, "Frank Stella: Had Gadya," their upcoming exhibit "Haggadot: Old and New;" and in addition will also take us to see their amazing Chapel, following the tour. Please contact Gaby at gaby.kende@gmail.com and Agnes at lagnesmarton@gmail.com, if you would like to join us. The cost of

the tour is \$20 per person, representing a donation from our group to the College. We will be meeting before the tour at noon to have lunch together; details will follow to everyone who is participating.

We have wonderful programs planned throughout the spring, further details will be sent to our members as we get closer. In March, we have an extraordinary opportunity—we will be visiting the New York City Public Design Commission's Archive, and will be guided through the most amazing public art and architecture projects of NYC by its senior archivist. Our plans for the May program are nearly complete as well—on **Wednesday, May 15 at noon** we are planning to tour Gracie Mansion; thank you Ruth Grossman.

Our December book club discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* inspired one of our most interesting discussions ever, spurred by the fascinating community that is described by a review as "Jewish, Black and immigrant folks bonded together by love and duty." Our January 2024 book club date is still to be set and will be forwarded to members as soon as available. Start reading *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett for the January meeting. Professor Margaret Birns will lead the discussion as usual, and the cost remains \$20 per person. Please know that you **must advise Agnes in advance if you plan to participate**.

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.

Many thanks to our wonderful member **Millie Fell** for her time, devotion, and energy in organizing and leading another Challah baking class in November! And to all who participated, happy challah baking!



Dinner and Speakers | Friday, January 12*An evening with***Alana Newhouse and Jodi Rudoren****Information And Disinformation
in a Post-October 7th World****A Conversation About the Critical Role of
Independent Jewish Journalism**

Alana Newhouse is the editor-in-chief of *Tablet*—the online magazine of Jewish culture, news and ideas—which she founded in 2009. Prior to that she spent 5 years as culture editor of *The Forward*. She is also a regular contributor to *The New York Times*, among other outlets, and serves on award juries for both the American Society of Magazine Editors and the Pulitzer Prizes.

Jodi Rudoren has been editor-in-chief of *The Forward* since September 2019. She is a veteran reporter, editor and digital innovator who spent more than two decades at *The New York Times*, including nearly 4 years as its Jerusalem bureau chief. Jodi is a sought-after public speaker and during the 2023 Israel-Hamas war has appeared on CNN, MSNBC and other news outlets.



This event has been supported by a generous gift from Dominick Porto and the Raymond and Gloria Naftali Foundation.

Members: \$45 | Nonmembers: \$50 | Children: \$25

6:30pm: Shabbat Services with Rabbi Alder and Cantor Yager

7:30 pm: Congregational Dinner for members and friends

8:30pm: Speakers -Alana Newhouse and Jodi Rudoren

9:15 pm: Oneg Shabbat Stay for dessert, coffee, and conversation.

Dinner RSVP by January 9

**MUSICAL Friday Evening Shabbat
Service for Congregants and Families****RETURNS!!****Friday, January 26, 6:30 pm**

On Friday evening, January 26 at 6:30 pm we invite all our congregants, their children, their grandchildren and their friends to join us at a very special **Musical Friday Evening Shabbat Service**. Long-time Brotherhood educators and world class musicians **Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane will join Cantor Yager and Rabbi Alder** in the main Sanctuary Shabbat service for an evening of enhanced musical worship. Saskia and Daphna will be accompanied by some of their talented musician friends for a service which will include both familiar and new melodies. Come ready to pray and sway and sing and swing along! This is a **FAMILY FRIENDLY** service and we invite all of our Brotherhood children to join us with their families in the Sanctuary!

**Mood of the Moment: Gaby Aghion
and the House of Chloé****A Docent Led Tour at the Jewish Museum****Thursday, January 18, 4:45 pm**

The first museum exhibition to honor the visionary Jewish entrepreneur Gaby Aghion (1921-2014) and her legacy as the founder of the French fashion house Chloé, casts a new light on the label's 70-year history. With nearly 150 garments as well as never-before-exhibited sketches and documents, the exhibition showcases Aghion as a leader who altered the course of the global fashion industry and pioneered the emergence of luxury ready-to-wear.

The exhibition will explore the ways in which each subsequent creative director after Aghion uniquely interpreted the Chloé ethos and echoed the needs of their time, from the development of ready-to-wear to embracing sustainable practices in fashion.

Our group will gather 15 minutes before the tour at 4:30pm in the museum lobby. Please leave enough time to pass through the security station and coat check just prior.

Group size is limited to 20 | \$20 per person

Only a few spots left! Register here

In collaboration with the Anne Frank Center, Brotherhood's Racial Justice, Social Action and Interfaith Committees present a special performance of the stage play,

Letters from Anne and Martin**Sunday, February 4, 11:00 am @ Brotherhood**

Letters from Anne and Martin combines the iconic voices of Anne Frank and Martin Luther King Jr. both of whom were born in 1929, yet seemingly represent drastically different times and cultures. Despite being faced with unfair persecution, he in the Jim Crow South and she in Nazi-occupied Holland, the African American Civil Rights Movement leader and the Jewish Holocaust victim believed in fairness and justice for all.



Developed from excerpts from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," the performance evokes the important messages from these legendary figures. This roughly 40-minute performance is followed by a talkback with the audience to answer questions and discuss the parallels between the two and how we can learn from their examples to combat intolerance today. Intended for adults and young people.

Bagels and coffee will be served.

This program was made possible through a generous donation from the Hikida family.

Register here

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Scott and Fran Lebovitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jacob Lebovitz**. Jacob, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate his simcha with his younger sisters, **Dylan** and **Jordan**.

David and Jackie Fine on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Adam Fine**. Adam, a student at Clinton, will celebrate his simcha with his older sister, **Isabel**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Maia Karo and **Daniel Meron** on the birth of their daughter, **Noga Meron Karo**.

Condolences to:

Jill Kern on the passing of her father, **Stephen Rothleder**.

Louise Dankberg on the passing of her husband, and our member and Honorary Trustee, **Jay Dankberg**.

Linda Bledstein on the passing of her husband, and our member, **Mark Bledstein**.



Shabbat Table

We are starting a new program to match up people who would like to share a Shabbat evening dinner together, a great way to celebrate Shabbat and get to know more people in the synagogue.

Due to scheduling issues, our first dinner event is being postponed to early Spring so the form to register will be sent out after February.

Meanwhile, if you are willing to be a host or have any questions, please contact Daniel Marcus (damarcus99@gmail.com), Rabbi Alder, or Roberta Kahn.

Social Action

Backpacks for the Street Collection

Thanks to all who made donations to our *December Backpacks for the Street* collection. We collected many bags of winter clothing and accessories for the homeless of New York City. Special thanks to **Cindy Menell** of the Social Action Committee for spearheading this drive!

Project Cicero During the Month of February

Please start putting aside your books for under-resourced NYC schools. We will be collecting new and gently used books during the month of February for K-12 graders.

President's Post by Seth Hulkower



Brotherhood Synagogue has been the heart of a thriving downtown Jewish community for seventy years and the Board of Trustees is focused on what we need to do to set the stage for the next seventy years. In late 2022 we formed a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) that has been co-chaired by Pamela Chisling and Debra Pearlstein. The SPC is comprised of fifteen members—a mix of long-time members and people who have recently joined—along with Rabbi Alder, Cantor Yager, our Executive Director Alisha Goodman and a few members of the Board. Very intentionally the committee was designed to have a diversity of backgrounds and views to make sure that we didn't exist in our own echo chamber, and we asked questions of our members to understand what matters to them and how Brotherhood may continue to serve their needs.

Over the past year, the SPC has collected and analyzed historical data, conducted surveys (more than 250 responses), held a series of community conversations (attended by over 100 members), and formed task forces focused on specific topics (over 70 members and staff served on the task forces). The Mission and Vision for Brotherhood were reviewed and revised and can be found here and on our website. Most recently, a presentation was delivered at a Town Hall at the end of November to mark our progress and to solicit additional comments. A copy of that presentation may be found here and on our website.

A report summarizing the work of the Strategic Planning Committee is now being prepared and will be presented to the Board later this month. There are seven task forces: Membership and Engagement; Fiscal Responsibility; Religious Engagement; Families with Children to Age 5; Families with Children Age 5 to 18; Affinity Groups; and Communications and Marketing and each task force identified strategies to help us do a better job meeting our members' needs, improve the operation of the synagogue, and ensure that Brotherhood remains vital and relevant.

The next step for the Board is to implement the strategies outlined by the task forces by setting priorities, assigning responsibilities to staff and members, and then hold ourselves accountable to GET IT DONE.

The task forces identified numerous areas for focus and we're already moving ahead with some opportunities while the SPC completes its work. A great example was bringing more musical programming into the Sanctuary for our members and families and on Friday, October 27, we held a Musical Friday Night Shabbat Service with two of the amazing professional musicians who are on the Brotherhood teaching staff. Members and children were literally dancing in the aisles! Everyone was so moved by the musical service that we are having an encore Musical Shabbat Friday Night service with Daphna Mor and Saskia Lane this month on Friday, January 26 at 6:30.

I won't try to capture all the ideas identified during the SPC process but here are some areas where we know we can do better:

- Brotherhood is a wonderful community, but sometimes it's hard for a new member to find ways to connect with that community. The Member Engagement Task Force has suggested several paths forward including a comprehensive approach to "on-boarding" new members and families. Part of this will include matching new members with existing members and we will be looking for volunteers to participate in that program.
- Our Early Childhood programs are a gateway into Brotherhood and those programs don't require membership, though the connections that get built in these programs often lead to greater involvement and membership. We will be looking for ways to expand these offerings and integrate them more with all the other things going on at Brotherhood and we will be looking for ambassadors to help us make these connections.
- Brotherhood Synagogue might be the best kept secret in downtown Jewish life. It's amazing how many people don't realize we're here even though we're the largest downtown congregation. While that stems from the modesty and humility that we try to practice, the Communication and Marketing Task Force has suggestions for raising our visibility through consistent messaging and branding throughout our print and electronic communications. And we will be looking for writers and members with expertise in digital media to help us bring this to fruition.

If you're interested in volunteering to help out with implementing any of our proposed programs or projects, please contact me through the office or by email at president@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

Warmly, Seth Hulkower



Our November collection of supplies for Israeli reservists arrived in Israel and is making its way to the soldiers. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort!



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

Our first dinner for asylum-seeker families jointly sponsored with East End Temple and Middle Collegiate Church was a huge success. Eight volunteers and Rabbi Alder from Brotherhood joined in welcoming ten families with children ranging from 4-10 years old. Brotherhood was responsible for children's art activities and games. We also donated Metro Cards so families could travel from and back to shelters where they live. The next dinner is scheduled for a Sunday in late January or early February. If you would like to greet guests (Spanish-speaking volunteers only), participate in children's activities, or donate Metro Cards, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

This month we are highlighting an opportunity to share children's clothing with refugee and asylum-seeker families. New Neighbors Partnership matches refugee families with local NYC families who have older children and can pass along hand-me-downs from season to season. This is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to form a lasting connection with a refugee family, while doing something meaningful with their children's clothing. For more information, go to newneighborspartnership.org. (If you decide to participate, please let New Neighbors Partnership know that you were referred by Brotherhood Synagogue.)

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW...



Chesed is often translated as "loving-kindness," and Brotherhood offers a great many opportunities through which we can channel our unique capacities to show kindness. If you have a few free hours, please consider volunteering for any of the many Brotherhood programs—whether it's to bring a synagogue member to a doctor's appointment, assisting with an event, or suggesting another way to share Chesed. Sometimes it's the best thing when our sadness is deepest.

*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.

January 6-12

Tessie Adler[^], Herman Alshan^{*}, Fred Bayroff[^], Bernie Berger, Frances Berger[^], Cylla Berke[^], J. Jerome Cohen, M.D., Roberta Cummings[^] May Lipton Cummins[^], Steven Derris, Ben Farland^{*}, Rachel Finebaum^{*}, Lisa Fisher, Paula Franklin, Hanie Friedman^{*}, Vicki Germaine^{*}, Norman Goldfinger, Joseph D. Goldreich[^], H. Mark Goldschlag^{**}, H. Mark Goldschlag[^], Jerome Goldstein[^], Stephen Gottlieb, Minnie Gross^{*}, Daniel Halpern[^], Sarah Handler^{*}, Judith Hayeem, George Hirschfeld^{*}, Bessie Honig^{*}, Goldy Hushansky, Aaron Bernard Israel^{*}, Edith R. Karban^{*}, Jack Kasman, Estelle Lasser, Sarah Lederman[^], Rita Lennard, Isaias Lerner, Arthur Levitz, Joel Levitz, Harold Lindenauer, Marie Myhrberg-Blomgren, Gilbert Naftalis^{*}, Max Neiden, Florence Newfield^{*}, David Newman[^], Stella Orkin Cooper, Irene Pessar, Bernice Puterman, Theodore Rabb, Mr. Lawrence Raizman, Dr. Thomas Robitscher, Leroy S. Rosenbaum^{*}, Schiffray Rosenblum, Henry Rosenblum[^], Harry Satosky^{*}, Charles D. Seeman[^], Jeannette Mildred Seinfeld[^], Abba Settle[^], Pauline Shapiro, Edward L. Silverstein, Hyman Slotnick, Evelyn K. Sussman[^], Nathan Tucker, William Tudor[^], Samuel A. Valentine[^], Maurice Volk[^], Samuel Warfman^{*}, Phyllis Weinstein[^], Louis Jeffery Wolfson

January 13-19

Rose Alster[^], Blume Alter, Harold Altman[^], Jack Azizo, Molly Baron, Henry Biegeleisen^{*}, Pauline Birnbach[^], Abraham Block, Barbara Frischer Brooks, Phil Brunell, Nathan Cheshes, Beatrice Chizner^{*}, Ira Cirker, Bertha Cooperman, Beth Cosnow[^], Louis Diamond[^], Mary Diamond[^], Gladys Drimmer[^], Benjamin Dymn^{*}, Milton M. Enzer, F. Joyce Feitell[^], David B. Fener, Jennie Fox[^], George Fraenkel^{*}, Rabbi Moses Fried^{*}, Charles Samuel Ginsburg[^], Sophie Gipsman, Rose Schlamowitz Glass[^], Paul Glimcher, Harold H. Goldberg, Gertrude Goldschmidt[^], Marty Goldstone, Roger Gomby[^], Irving Goodman^{*}, Anna Gottlieb, Sabina Graetzer^{**}, Henrietta P. Green[^], Norman Halper, Yetta Halpern[^], Ilse Jacobson, Henry Sophie Hoffman[^], Joseph Israel[^], Philip Kimmel[^], Clarice Lefkowitz, Walter Lese[^], Beatrice

YAHREZEITS

[^]Garden of Remembrance ^{*}Book of Remembrance

Levine^{*}, Barney Levine[^], Mr. Paul Levitan[^], Elayne Lieberman, Sidney Liebowitz^{*}, Dr. Ralph Lusskin, Lydell Miller, Solomon Novom[^], Gertrude Riff, Howard Topol Roberts[^], Natalie Simon Rosenfeld[^], Isabelle P.P. Schechter^{*}, Milton Schupak, George Schwartz[^], Lily Seregi, George Silver, David Milton Solomon[^], Lena Steinberg[^], Sari Orovian Steiner[^], Isaac Versh^{*}, Honor Hess Ward[^], Manya Weg, Gertrude Weiner[^], Seymour Weinstein, Lloyd Weiss, Herbert S. Winn, Solomon Yaker[^], Jimmie Yee, Rachel Leah Zacks, Joseph Zalkind^{*}

January 20-26

Mary Abbey[^], Dr. Bernat Abraham[^], Lee Abramson, Barbara Altman[^], Ruth Appelbaum[^], Beatrice Babitz, Lilian Bachrach^{*}, Jossie Barcelona, Alice Blumenthal[^], Temma H. Bohrer^{*}, Edward H. Breiterman^{*}, Morris Brown, Sidney Burack, Claire Klaitz Cohen, Lorraine Cohen, Herman Cohen^{*}, Lia Dinerstein, Elliot Domow, Soi Settle Fink[^], Irvin Fisher[^], Tamara Fradin[^], Faye Franke^{*}, Morris Friedman, Liza Gleizer[^], Lisa Goldberg, Ethel Gostin, Julia Greenbaum, Solomon Greenberg, Daniel Franklin Greenhouse^{**}, Rose Gross^{*}, Louis Gross^{**}, Ilse Hammerstein, Irving Handler[^], Lillian R. Hayt^{*}, Fritz Herz, Esther Ir, David Janow[^], Lawrence Janow[^], Moshe Josephson^{*}, Cecelia Josselson[^], Mildred Kassap, Rose Katz^{*}, Lee Kohn, Bea Kramer^{*}, Betty Lampert^{*}, Rose Levine, Morris Levine^{*}, Alice Lichter, Sarah Liebowitz, Florence Liebowitz^{*}, Hyman Lipkis, Aaron Machlin, Frieda Belkowitz Maloff, Ruth Weichman Mantel[^], Joseph Meyers^{*}, Susan Jane Miller, Jean Miller[^], Edzia Esther Oblegorski, Isidore Olsfanger, Frieda Pearl^{*}, Helen Philipps, Herbert Plaut^{*}, Renee Pollack^{*}, Eva Posner Post[^], Phillip Raffe, Edward Renstrom, Rose Schindel Rich[^], Irving Rubenstein, Koula Saba, Philip Satonoff[^], Monroe I. Schechter^{*}, Selma Schechter, Adam Siegal^{*}, Brenda Silver, Rose Teitelbaum[^], Leo Teviovitz, Augusta Toby^{*}, Bea Topal^{*}, Helene Vassil, Jonas Weintraub^{**}, David Weissman, Murray Zenkel

January 27 - February 2

Gustave Altman, Clara S. Benjamin, Mr. Siegfried Blum, Leon Blumenthal, Eve Cassell[^], Abraham Chizner^{*}, Sandra Colbert, Camillo de Benedetti, Harold Dessler, Helen Elkin^{*}, Howard Feinstein, Robert Feuer, Rose M. Finneman^{*}, Cyril Freed[^], Judith Friedjung, Sylvia Glassman[^], Allan Glick, Hattie Gold[^], Fred Greenberg^{*}, Sally Grossman, Mimi Herbst, Susanne Hikida, Bertha Hoffman, Dora Jaffe[^], Judith Kaleko, Arthur Kantor, Jennie B. Klein^{**}, Ephraim Komar, Mollie Kronenberg[^], Joel Krupnik, Flora Landsman[^], Anna Levine[^], Martin Licht, Melvin Lipp[^], Herbert Magram[^], Gail Ann Lowe Maidman[^], Lawrence Maloff, Lillian Manischewitz, Adolf Markovitz, Mollie Meadow, Fanny Nathan[^], Louis Nudelman^{*}, Miriam Olken, Belle Plutzer, Michael Remba[^], Frances Herald, Remba[^], Lillian Roniss[^], Stanley Rosenthal[^], Bertha Russ[^], Louis Schiffman, Dinah Simila, Chaya Schumer[^], Sam Shapiro, Hannah Shemtov[^], Phyllis Siegel[^], Ann H. Silberberg[^], Robert Silverman, Fritz A. Sontag[^], Edna Steinberg[^], Rose Stopler[^], Alice Teviovitz, Shirley Weinman[^], Michael Weiss[^], Ida Robinove Weller^{*}, Leo E. Williams^{**}, Blanche Wind[^]

The Brotherhood Synagogue

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www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org



RABBI DANIEL ALDER
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK[^] D.D.: Founding Rabbi

SETH HULKOWER: President

ALISHA GOODMAN:

Executive Director

PHILLIP ROTHMAN:

Executive Director Emeritus

Congregation founded in 1954
Historic Landmark Building
erected in 1859





Conversation and Pizza for Brotherhood College Students with Rabbi Alder

Friday, January 5 at 7:30 pm

Do you have a college student home on winter break? We invite them to join us for a special Friday night conversation and pizza dinner following 6:30 pm Shabbat services with Rabbi Alder to share their post-October 7 campus experiences with other Brotherhood students. Kindly share this invitation with your child/ren and **have them RSVP here**.

So far this school year we have been in touch in a number of ways with our college students who were registered by their parents. We've sent Rosh Hashanah greetings and honey, a message from Rabbi Alder following the October 7 attack, we mailed them Noa Tishby's book on Israel and sent packages with Chanukah greetings including dreidels and gelt. It's not too late to sign up for our college students mailing list! Please send contact info/address to Rabbi@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.

We look forward to seeing the students on that Shabbat and hearing from them. Again, please have them **RSVP here!**

Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program

From Stage To Screen: The Jewish Contribution to American Music, Television & Cinema

Featuring Prof. Howard Lupovitch

Please click on the class titles for full description and to register or go to occcsp.net/current-online-events/.

SUNDAY SERIES

Jews on the Small Screen

January 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 1:00 pm

1/7: **From Absent to Invisible:**
Mainstreaming Jews on Television

1/14: **Criminalizing Antisemitism**

1/21: **Laughing at Jews, Laughing with Jews**

1/28: **Beyond the Yiddishe Mama**



TUESDAY SERIES

Jews on the Silver Screen

January 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 1:00 pm

1/9: **Entrepreneurs with a Vision**

1/16: **The "Heston Effect": Bible Stories for a Hollywood Audience**

1/23: **Unmaking/Remaking Stereotypes: Jewish Gangsters as Heroes and Villains**

1/30: **Exposing and Healing the Ills of Society**



Brotherhood continues to offer Adult Education classes with the help of your kind donations. Please consider making a donation of \$36 or more to help cover the cost of these important education programs. [Visit our website](#) and choose "Adult Education" in the dropdown menu.

Hebrew School News

While events in our city and country and around the world brought many days of darkness to the final months of 2023, we were also blessed with moments of light, gladness and celebration, especially during the festival of Chanukah! In the lead-up to the holiday, our Hebrew School classes were full of excited preparations. Some of our youngest students spent several weeks creating these beautiful hand-made Chanukiyot with teacher Mira Shaar:



In early December we also held the annual Chanukah Shop, which raised \$700 in support of the Hebrew School through the sale of candles, gelt, dreidels and other small gifts. Many thanks to our parent and teen volunteers who helped staff the table on school days!

January 5 | 7:30 pm
Shabbat dinner for 7th grade families
January 19
Friday Family Shabbat
5:30 pm family services for K-6 grade
5:30 pm
Shabbat dinner for K-2 families

Of course, the real Chanukah highlights were our family celebration on Sunday, December 10, and the community candle lighting in Gramercy Park on Wednesday, December 13. Each of these events gathered more than 100 community members of all ages together for singing, dancing, and plenty of latkes and sufganiot for everyone!

A very large thank you to our Interim Director Caryn Roman who made sure that everything ran smoothly in Tess's absence. She completed her work with us in December 2023, and we are grateful for her leadership throughout the Fall.

As we begin 2024, there's so much to look forward to, including the return of Tess, our Hebrew School Director. Welcome back Tess!

Also in January, Hebrew School returns on Monday, January 8. Our regular Friday night K-6 Family Service returns on January 19 at 5:30 pm. That night we also have our Shabbat dinner for grades K-2 following the service. You can register [here](#). We resume Saturday youth services (Shabbat Corner, Alef-Bet Club and Jr. Congregation) on Saturday, January 20.



Union BBYO @
Brotherhood

BBYO Manhattan is the fastest-growing Jewish teen program in Manhattan! Open to all Jewish teens in grades 8 through 12, BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement in North America offering a place for teens to grow as individuals and be part of something larger than themselves. A full array of activities—social, community service, and leadership development—are part of BBYO in Manhattan, all with teens in charge! Brotherhood is home to our downtown chapter, Union BBYO, that meets for programming every other Thursday from 6:30 pm – 8 pm.

Upcoming January Programs

- **Mystery Event:**
Thursday, January 11
- **Chapter Program:**
Thursday, January 25

Interested? Follow [@UnionBBYO](#) on Instagram for live calendar updates, reach out to Lily Pace, Chapter President, at lilyp07@gmail.com, or Associate Regional Director, Aliya Cohen, at ag-ottehrercohen@bbyo.org for more info!



for Young Children*

Please join us to welcome Shabbat together with stories and song!

Friday, January 5

Followed by **Pizza Shabbat**

Friday, January 26

5:30-6:00 pm

with **Daphna & Saskia**
in the **Community Room**
at **Brotherhood**

* For children 5 and under.
Older sibs welcome!

PIZZA SHABBAT & PIZZA4MOMS SHABBAT

Friday, January 5 | 6:00 pm



In solidarity with families in Israel, we invite you to join us again for a simple Shabbat dinner—pizza and salad—following Friday Family Shabbat for Young Children.

Pizza4moms.com was conceived to help take one thing off the plates of moms in Israel whose husbands have been serving in the IDF since October 7 by sending these families a pizza dinner.

We are asking that above your dinner registration cost, you make a donation to Pizza4moms to help further this special cause.

Family Shabbat 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Pizza & Salad Dinner 6:00 pm

REGISTER FOR DINNER

\$20 Adults/\$10 Children

Make a Donation to Pizza4moms
Or you can Venmo your donation to
@tamara-brodsky
(Searchable as Tamara Brodsky Lerer)
for forwarding.

Nursery School Thoughts: How to Raise a Mensch

by Michelle Abraham

I've heard it said that it takes a lot of work to raise a mensch. Yes, we want our children to be smart and accomplish things, but I very much want my daughter to be a kind and gracious human.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote "our greatness lies not in what we have, but in what we give." Our greatness is in how much assistance or compassion we give to each other. That is how we can make a positive difference in the world. I am by no means saying that the only way to instill this in our children is to enroll them in a Jewish nursery school, but it helps. My husband and I were/have been members of Brotherhood for years before Petra was born. We were just looking for a synagogue and found a community. It is where I share joys and sorrows. The Brotherhood community is one that I believe emphasizes the things that are important: togetherness, support, kindness, and compassion. All of our kids are in environments where they are being enriched, surrounded by educated people who love them, so

they all are likely to succeed in life but the question for me is how we attempt to create a mensch.

When Petra and I met Merrill, and she spoke to me about Brotherhood's nursery school being a place focusing on a value-based education that registered and made me really want to enroll Petra. Let's be honest, the fact that we live a block and a half away didn't hurt either, but it was mainly a value-based thing. When the teacher in the Aleph Bet club asked everyone what they were grateful for, and Petra said "for my mommy" I first thought she was buttering me up so I would let her have more cookies but after that initial skeptical idea I thought that the fact that Petra has a concept of gratefulness and can verbalize it is all about where she is going to school.

Maybe none of this will help make her a mensch. Maybe middle school will come, and I will have no idea what happened to my sweet, wonderful child. I do, however, think I'm off to a good start. 🌊

🎵 Cantor's Notes 🎵 by Cantor Isaac Yager

My daughter has developed a habit of announcing to new friends (and sometimes strangers) that she's Jewish. Her introduction to others at the playground begins with the standard declaration of her name, and more recently, has been followed with "I'm Jewish! So Jewish! We go to synagogue!" And if I'm within a close enough distance, she looks towards me for an affirmation of her very truthful claim. "Right, Daddy?" she asks even though she knows the answer. "Yes, my girl," I respond, laughing at my daughter's transparency, "We go to the synagogue, and we're so Jewish." As a child, I did not possess the same forthrightness as my daughter when it came to my Jewish identity. And while my first real memories of Jewish self-awareness are from an older age than my four year old, I can already tell that she relates to this part of her identity differently than I did. As a child, that aspect of my character always felt more private to the outside world. Perhaps this was because I was often the only Jew in my class. From first through eighth grade, I went to a school where I was well known as the resident Jew. And even though some of my classmates were sort of Jewish, I

was the only one without a Christmas tree in my home. It was my family that would bring in the latkes during Hanukkah; it was my grandmother who would share her story of survival in the Holocaust with my class, and I would be the one missing class on Jewish holidays when school was still open. I was the Jewish delegate whether I liked it or not. Ultimately, I think being put in this position of responsibility at a young age turned me off towards Jewish ambassadorship. And while my religion was clearly on display and well known to my peers, I still felt it necessary to retain a part of this identity for myself and not broadcast it to everyone with whom I came into contact. My daughter is young, and her aggressive openness regarding her Jewish identity will likely develop over time. But I can already recognize the incredible effect of raising her within our synagogue where she is certainly not the resident Jew, but part of a larger Jewish community where she can choose to engage with her identity as she pleases. And for now, if that means announcing to the world that she's so Jewish, then I can think of no greater source of pride in this day and age. 🌊

Brotherhood Synagogue



Tevet / Shevat
January 2024

☆ Shabbat Corner: 10 am | Aleph Bet Club: 11 am | Junior Congregation: 10 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 5:40 pm: Minyan	3 6:30: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	4	5 4:25 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 5 & under 6 pm: Pizza Shabbat 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Hebrew School 7th Grade Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm: Conversation and Pizza for Brotherhood College Students	6 9:30 am: Services SHEMOT
7 9:30 am: Tikvah	8 7 pm: What Happens Next? Jewish Philosophers on Life after Death	9 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	10 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	11 7:30 am: Minyan 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner 6:30 pm: Union BBYO Mystery Event ROSH CHODESH	12 4:32 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Shabbaton Dinner-Speakers Alana Newhouse & Jodi Rudoren	13 9:30 am: Services 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club VAYERA
14 9:30 am: Tikvah	15 7 pm: What Happens Next? Jewish Philosophers on Life after Death MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED	16 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2 7 pm: Board Meeting	17 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	18 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner 4:45 pm: Museum Tour: Gaby Aghion and the House of Chloé 7: 15 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	19 4:40 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Friday Service Grades K-6 5:30 pm: Hebrew School K-2 Shabbat Dinner 6:30 pm: Services	20 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Lebovitz BO
21 9:30 am: Tikvah	22 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: What Happens Next? Jewish Philosophers on Life after Death	23 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	24 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30: Conversion Class	25 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11 am: <i>Life Goes On</i> 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner 6:30 pm: Union BBYO	26 4:48 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 5 & under 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Special Musical Shabbat Service	27 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Adam Fine BESHALACH
28 9:30 am: Tikvah	29 4 pm: Hebrew School	30 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	31 4 pm: Hebrew School	1 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner 6:30 pm: Union BBYO	2 4:57 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Services	3 ☆ 9:30 am: Services YITRO

Brotherhood Volunteerism



Close to 60 members and friends (and kids!) helped prepare over 400 brown back lunches for NY Common Pantry in October. Thanks to everyone who attended or supported this event and to the **Interfaith Committee** for sponsoring.



Thanks to all our congregants who volunteered to deliver a Thanksgiving meal to a senior when the SAC partnered with DOROT in November 19. The Brotherhood cohort is pictured along with SAC co-Chair, **Helaine Teperman**.



Thanks to the wonderful congregants who made our visit to the Hebrew Home in December so special. Thanks to **Josh Stein** for playing his ukulele and to **Dennis Diamond** for donating his sculptures! Thank you SAC co-chair, **Beth Barry**, for organizing!

Brotherhood Synagogue's
**70th Anniversary
Torah Project**

*"God has put these words in
my mouth. I wrote them
with ink in a book."*

– Book of Jeremiah



*"Turn the Torah, and turn it again,
for all things are in it."*

– Ethics of the Sages

"The Torah Illuminates."

— Book of Proverbs

Throughout our history, the Jewish people have been known as *Ahm HaSefer* — the People of the Book. That book is the Torah, the ancient scrolls that records our stories, laws, and customs, and defines the very core of Jewish life.

The Torah's last command, the 613th Mitzvah, requires that every Jew participate in the writing of a Torah scroll. Fulfilling this ultimate commandment ensures that we will pass on our sacred traditions to future generations.

To celebrate Brotherhood Synagogue's 70th anniversary, we have commissioned the writing of a new Sefer Torah. This Sefer Torah project allows Brotherhood's members and our extended community a way to celebrate this milestone in the life of our congregation, as well as to participate in a mitzvah of unequal importance.



*"So now, write this song for yourselves,
and teach it to the children of Israel."*

– Book of Deuteronomy

Our new Torah is being written in Israel's ancient community of B'nei Brak under the supervision of renowned scribe Rabbi Zerach Greenfield. Zerach will visit Brotherhood Synagogue over the course of the year to introduce the project and provide progress reports.

The writing of a Sefer Torah is a mystical event. The scribe, or *sofer*, uses the same tools that have been used for centuries: the highest-grade parchment, ink created from carbon, gallnuts, and honey. Each letter (and there are 304,805 of them) is painstakingly written with the use of a quill pen and style of calligraphy known in Hebrew as the "exalted script." The scribe must have a printed copy of the Torah before him and must pronounce each word when writing to keep his mind from wandering and to prevent errors in spelling. These exacting standards ensure that the Torah produced is both accurate and sacred.



Rabbi Daniel Alder with Zoey Abramson preparing for her Bat Mitzvah.

Participate in the Mitzvah

Every congregant has the opportunity to endow the writing of our Torah. Whether we choose to endow a letter, a word, a parasha or an entire book, our participation will further the work of the Brotherhood Synagogue. There may be parasha (Bar/Bat Mitzvah), passage or name that has special meaning to you. All contributors will have their names inscribed in the Sefer Torah Project album and will receive a certificate confirming their endowment.

Endowment Opportunities

Sefer (Book):	\$10,000+
Parasha (Torah Portion):	\$5,000
Special Passage:	\$2,500
Maftir Aliya:	\$1,000
Aliyah:	\$500
Pasuk (Verse):	\$360
Shem (Specific Name):	\$180
Milah (Word):	\$100
Letter	\$54
Letter (for 13-21 years of age):	\$36
Letter (for children under 13):	\$18

Endowment Selection _____

Sponsored by _____
(as you would like your name to appear on the certificate)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Please note any special sections of the Torah that you wish to include in your sponsorship:

Name		Phone

Address		

City	State	Zip

Please make checks payable to Brotherhood Synagogue or [pay online](#).

Funds raised for the Torah Project will be used towards the purchase of the Torah and all of its adornments, the repair of our existing Torahs and events associated with this project. Excess funds raised will be spent on other Brotherhood projects and needs as directed by the Board of Trustees.