



Brotherhood Synagogue בית

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Volume XLII Number IV

Tevet / Shevat 5783 January 2023

Pinky Pointing

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

The most common question I've recently been asked is a variant of *Why do you put your pinky finger up when the Torah is raised?*

If you come to the Brotherhood Synagogue on a morning when the Torah is read, you will witness a peculiar practice following the reading of the Torah. As is the common custom, an individual is called to raise the Torah (*Hagbah*) and turn it so that the congregation can see the writing of three columns of text. And then you'll see most congregants raise their pinky finger in the direction of the raised Torah.

Well, this is a perplexing custom to many a visitor—and frankly to myself, the first time I saw it here. But a *minhag* (custom) is a *minhag* and Judaism values these *minhagim* even if they are local to a particular community.

First, a little background on the raising of the Torah itself. Nachmanides (the *Ramban*) remarks that a literal understanding of the verse "accursed is the one who will not uphold the words of this Torah..." (Deuteronomy 27:26) is the source for the obligation to hold up the written text of the Torah to the whole congregation. The Code of Jewish Law (the *Shulchan Aruch*) states that it is a mitzvah for all men and women to see the written text of the Torah, to bow, and to say, "This is the Torah that Moses placed before the Children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 4:44).

While the *Shulchan Aruch* obligates reciting the above verse, it is also a *minhag* to append part of a second verse "according to the word of God through Moses." (Numbers 9:23). In his comprehensive anthology *Me'am Ló'ez*, Rabbi Yaakov Kuli expounds on this custom saying: "The combination of these two verses, though from different sections

of the Torah, alludes to the dual nature of Torah—a Written and an Oral Law, both stemming from a single Source."

The *Me'am Ló'ez* is also the first source that mentions the custom of pointing the pinky finger towards the text, adding that some have the custom to kiss the pinky after pointing.

Rabbi Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg gives the following explanation: The Torah lists the ten generations from Noah until Abraham (Genesis 10:26-29), including the name Yoktan, who established the largest number of families. Rashi notes that Yoktan merited establishing so many families due to his great humility, as his name indicates (from the root *katan*—"little"). Rabbi Scheinberg goes on to explain that when pointing at the Torah we take this lesson to heart, and we point with our smallest finger—the pinky—to indicate that we should reach out to try to gain understanding of the Torah with the utmost humility and thus merit to succeed in this aspiration.

The significance and the symbolism that our Sages attach to every finger and to each part of our body is also most instructive. Rabbeinu Bechaye discusses the utility of each organ and in particular the fingers, each of which serves to facilitate one of the five senses. The pinky finger is associated with the sense of hearing and we may conjecture that this too is related to the custom of pointing towards the Torah with the pinky. Thus, some explain that the pointing of the finger is meant to reflect the Jews' statement of *Na'aseh v'nishma*—"We will do and hear"—at the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. With this statement, we declared that we would follow the Torah even before we necessarily understood everything. 

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Jordan
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:30 PM
Bat Mitzvah of Jemma Brown

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 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

Adult Education Winter 2022 Announcement

Begin a Jewish study course!
Check out the Adult Ed page on the Brotherhood website
<https://brotherhoodsynagogue.org/adult-education.html>
to register for our newest class on ZOOM this month:

ART AS SACRED TEXT:
The Stories of an Italian Ketubah with Rabbi Sarah Berman.

See further details inside this bulletin.

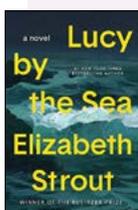
Life Goes On

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.

What a party! Our Hanukkah celebration was a great success, we all enjoyed the opportunity to hang out together, catch up, trade some jokes, exchange gifts, and eat a yummy dinner from Second Avenue Deli. Our gift giving game was quieter than usual, very few gifts stolen, some happily exchanged, thanks to everyone's generosity and willingness to play the game. Thank you Roberta Kahn for helping us complete our arrangements, even while you were sick with Covid!

We do not have a definite plan for a January outing yet, but several things are in the works. Everyone will be notified of the details as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we must and will have a wine and cheese "schmooze and booze" organizational meeting. *Life Goes On* needs new ideas, new people to help organize our meetings, new blood! Our members will be informed of the date and location soon, somewhat depending on how many people would like to attend—please let Agnes know right away if you're interested in doing some work and participating.

December book club meeting in Brotherhood's Library room, with Prof. Nick Birns, and our own member, author Sid Meltzer, was fantastic! Sid wrote a fascinating thriller, and we very much enjoyed discussing it with him and learning about his creative process. We all loved the book, hopefully the first of a series, and look forward to discussing Sid's next book together.



The first book club of 2023 is set for **Thursday, January 12**, we will be discussing *Lucy by the Sea*, by Elizabeth Strout. This meeting will be held **on Zoom, at 7pm**. Professor Margaret Birns will lead our discussion as usual, and the cost remains \$20 per person. **Please know that you must advise Agnes 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 agnemarton@gmail.com or call Roberta in the Synagogue office at 212.674.5750, email rkahn@brotherhoodsynagogue.org.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG

Sponsored by Brotherhood Special Events

Brotherhood member, Janet Heller, is offering another 4 session class on how to play Mah Jongg!

Wednesdays, January 18 and 25, February 1 and 8
Morning 10-12 am OR Evening 6:30 to 8:30 pm
12 PER CLASS MAXIMUM

We will learn how to play Mah Jongg using a hands on approach in this beginner's class. By the end of the series, you will be able to play at clubs around the city and beyond. You might even meet people in class and start a game in your home!

The different class times are to accommodate those who can only meet daytime and those who can only meet during the evening.

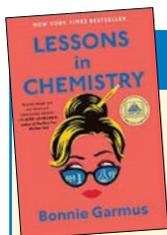
Cost per person is \$36

REGISTER HERE



Many thanks to our longtime member Janet Heller for teaching all our Mah Jongg classes!

Janet is a retired educator who has been playing Mah Jongg for over 10 years. She loves the game and wants to share it with others as it's a great way to keep the brain active and to meet people while having loads of fun.



Brotherhood Book Club

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm @ Brotherhood

Susan Halper will lead a discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All are welcome. Please contact Gail Pierris abend@nyc.rr.com if you are interested in joining.



The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis

We enter 2023 with excitement about our new project to support newly-arrived asylum-seeking families. Based on the model of our very successful pre-COVID **BCRIC UPDATE** monthly dinners for asylum-seekers who were living at nearby Seafarers International House, we plan to initiate monthly dinners for asylum-seeking families who are living in shelters and attending public schools in Chelsea. As of the writing of this article in mid-December, details are still being worked

out. We anticipate that BCRIC will work collaboratively with other Brotherhood committees and other nearby religious institutions. The first dinner will probably occur in February.

Also in February, BCRIC will participate in programming related to Refugee Shabbat, a weekend of activities under the auspices of HIAS. Look for announcements of programs that will take place the weekend of February 3-5.

If you would like more information or would like to help plan these projects, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.



WhyIsraelMatters with Ophir Tal



Brotherhood Israel Committee brings you Israel-related content directly from Ophir Tal, our connection in Israel. Continue to look for WhyIsrael Matters in upcoming publications and other events.

[Read Ophir's latest article](#) about why Israel isn't in 'crisis.'

**Wednesday, January 11, 4:00 pm
ON ZOOM**

"I'll Have What She's Having": The Jewish Deli

A virtual tour on Zoom from The NY Historical Society. This exhibit examines how Jewish immigrants, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, imported and adapted traditions to create a uniquely American restaurant and reveals how Jewish delicatessens became a cornerstone of American food culture.

\$10 per person

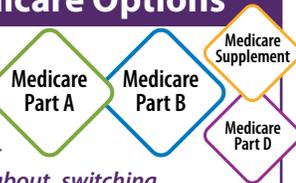
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Demystifying Your Medicare Options

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 pm

Do you know when to enroll in Medicare? Or, are you already a beneficiary but aren't clear about what Medicare covers, or need to know about switching plans? These and other areas of interest, including how the four different parts of Medicare interact, as well as deductibles, premiums, co-pays and co-insurance will be reviewed during a Medicare Educational Event, presented by Sanford Ellowitz, Brotherhood member and independent insurance agent. Open to all, including those approaching or already eligible for Medicare (or their family members). Sponsored by the Chessed Committee



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!



@ BROTHERHOOD FOOD PREP EVENT

Sunday, January 15, 11:00 am -12:30 pm



Brotherhood Synagogue's Interfaith Committee is once again seeking volunteers on **Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 am at Brotherhood** to help prepare brown bag meals for [New York Common Pantry](#), an organization that works toward the reduction of hunger and food insecurity.

The timing of this event provides the Brotherhood community a way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through assisting those who are less fortunate in the greater community.

Also, we encourage and welcome family participation in this worthwhile event.

To help cover the cost of the meals we will be preparing—we are also seeking donations of \$15 per individual and \$30 per family from those who are volunteering.

[Please email Roberta to volunteer!](#)

You can [make a donation online](#) here and select "Interfaith Programming" in the drop down menu or bring cash or a check (payable to Brotherhood Synagogue) the day of the event.

If you are unable to participate, we would welcome your support in any amount!

Monday, January 23, 7:00 pm | ON ZOOM

ART AS SACRED TEXT: The Stories of an Italian Ketubah with Rabbi Sarah Berman

We Jews have spent centuries refining our methods of studying text. We pull it apart, interrogate it, and find its messages in our lives today. Join Rabbi Sarah Berman of Central Synagogue to apply the same techniques to Jewish art. Together with Rabbi Berman, we will study an Italian ketubah, seeking its layers of meaning, and finding the stories it tells us today.



Rabbi Sarah Berman joined Central Synagogue as Rabbi and Director of Adult Education in the summer of 2020 after serving the community for two years as a rabbinic intern. Her teaching focuses on Jewish art, history, and material culture, as well as on text and prayer. She earned her bachelor's and master's in archaeology and art history at Brown University and is a recipient of fellowships from ARZA, the UJA-Federation of New York, and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, as well as the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Tisch Fellowship. She is a docent at the Museum at Eldridge Street in New York City, and has worked with the Women's Prison Association Hopper Home and Hour Children, organizations serving women transitioning from incarceration.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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. [Please visit our website](#) and designate your contributions as a gift to "Adult Education" in the dropdown menu.

Shabbat Club

Saturday, January 21, 12:30 pm

Our speaker will be Gali Rabin, the Jewish Agency for Israel Upper West Side Shlichah (Israel Emissary). She will bring an overview of a few different groups in Israeli society (including the Haredi, the Druse, and the Ethiopian communities). Gali, who grew up in a kibbutz, has an MBA from Ben-Gurion University and is also a group facilitator and coordinator. She worked at Gesher (Bridge), an organization that works with youth, the IDF, societal leaders, and opinion-shapers to create a society in Israel where diverse groups can live together side-by-side. Gali also served as a Shlichah to the Jewish community in Turin, Italy; worked for several years in the Jewish Agency for Israel; and was the head of an Israeli gap year (Mechinah) in Jaffa.

We will meet in the 2nd floor reception room. All are welcome, refreshments provided. Masking is suggested. Please contact Deborah Newman (debd.newman@gmail.com) with ideas for future Shabbat Club speakers or topics.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Robert and Anyika Jordan on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Elijah Jordan**. Elijah, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate his simcha with his older sister, **Aliyah**.

Loren Brown and Moran Eizenberger on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Jemma Brown**. Jemma, a student at Spence, will celebrate her simcha with her older sister, **Elle**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Naomi Abramowitz and Neil Cooper on the birth of their grandson, **Auden Reid Cooper**, born to **Lauren Goldberg Cooper** and **Jeremy Cooper**.

Jessica and Oren Sapirstein on the birth of their son, **Dylan Austin Sapirstein**; and to older brother, **Aiden**.

Bonnie Franklin on the birth of her grandson, **Reuben Berel Kramer**, born to **Tammy Rosen** and **Alex Kramer**.

Condolences to:

Lissa Perlman on the passing of her mother, **Anita Perlman**.

Stuart Marton on the passing of his father, **Herbert Marton**.

Sandra Shebitz on the passing of her mother, **Britt-Marie Holm**.

Malcolm Davis on the passing of his brother, **Mark Davis**.

Bruce Brown on the passing of his sister, **Joyce Brown**.

Social Action



Wheel It Forward Collection

We had a hugely successful November drive for *Wheel it Forward!* All thanks to **Lisa Brandes** for spearheading this important effort!

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!



BIG BAND VODKAS LATKES



Many, many thanks to **Paul Hill** and **Alan Fell**, co-Chairs of Brotherhood's Israel Committee, for bringing back one of our FAVORITE Brotherhood events last month—Big Band and Latkes & Vodka with the Eyal Vilner Big Band—to help kick off our Chanukah celebrations! Kudos and thanks to **Debra Salzman Hill**, **Alba Dwass** and **Alisha Goodman** for expertly handling the box office, to **Gail Pierris** and **Alisha Goodman** for tending bar so well, to our WONDERFUL building staff for all their help at this and all Brotherhood events, and very special thanks to our master impresario, **Paul Hill!**



President's Post by Russell Kohn



One of my favorite December traditions is the annual reflection on what happened in the past year. It seems like every topic gets its own yearly highlights: The New York Times shares the best things its critic ate in 2022. Spotify will provide far too much data on what you listened to. Want to know the top ten subway stations for NYC in 2022? I'll bet there's a list for that. But the distilled instant gratification of these lists feels a bit shallow when we take stock of the significant changes in our lives in the past year.

If the High Holy Days are an opportunity to take a spiritual inventory of our mitzvot and our misdeeds, perhaps the end of the secular year can be an opportunity to examine the events of the past year, how we contributed to them and what we can do differently in the coming year. And if we're going to create top ten lists for ourselves, I hope we can take a moment to consider the full range of impact each item on the list has had and will have on our lives.

What were some of the highlights of the past year for me? I had the good fortune to celebrate my father's wedding this past summer. My wife and I enjoyed a wonderful international trip in the spring. I made some fantastic new friendships and deepened relationships with people who I would have only described as acquaintances a year ago.

And, of course, there were also some painful times. My step-father passed away this past spring, as I wrote about earlier in the year. The business environment has been challenging in many ways. I have not managed to complete several projects I embarked on at the beginning of the year. I spent less time than I would like visiting with and talking to some family members.

Each of those items on the list, though, is just a shorthand for a multitude of emotions and relationships that have reverberations throughout my life. As we start the new year, I hope we can each take a moment to reflect with more than just a passing glance on the important events in our lives this past year and think about how they'll change us for the coming year.

At Brotherhood too, we have experienced changes and opportunities for reflection. We have seen more people in the building for our regular programming, increased attendance at High Holidays both in person and on-line, and an increasingly busy calendar of events. I also have one upcoming staff change to share. **Ron Epstein**, our Director of Development and Member Engagement, will be leaving us in early January to take on a new role. We have greatly appreciated Ron's contribution to our community over the past year and wish him all the best in his next endeavor.

Warmly,
Russell Kohn



YAHARZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

January 7-13

Sasson Abada, Tessie Adler^, Meyer Antell^*, Edgar Baurer, Ida Berkowitz^, Philip Block*, Harry Blum^, Yosef Chaim Borochoy, Lennie Brass*, Mrs. Galina Bronshteyn, Beatrice Chernick, Stella Cooper, Orkin Herman Diamond, Meyer Ellenbogen*, Ben Farland*, Yale Fendel, Rachel Finebaum*, Lisa Fisher, Irving Flax, Anna Frankel*, Mark Geller^, Vicki Germaine*, Howard Goldin^, H. Mark Goldschlag*^, Jerome Goldstein^, Stephen Gottlieb, Abraham Gross*, Clara Gross*, Daniel Halpern^*, Daniel Halpern^*, George Hirschfeld*, Bernice Hoffeld^, Jack Hollander^, Neil R. Kaplan, Burton Kassap, Anna Kosakofsky, Victor Kramer, Isaias Lerner, Harold Lindenauer, Mace Mason, Dora Mayer, Leonard Miltenberg, Marie Myhrberg-Blomgren, Fay Nelson^, Joseph Nobel, Barbara Okanes^, Barbara Okanes^, Gertrude Riff, Belle Rose Robinove*, Herbert D. Roistacher^, Herbert D. Roistacher^, Samuel I. Rosenfeld, Philip Rutkin, Fred Schultz, Edward Schwartz^, Charles D. Seeman^, Sandy Seidman, Leonard Seigelstein, Julian Silbiger, Edward L. Silverstein, Stanley Simon, Sharon Slavin, Sylvia Wasserstrom, Solomon^, Jack Stark^, Clara Tepner, Samuel A. Valentine^, Samuel Warfman*, William Warmbrand^, Adolf Watty, Phyllis Weinstein^

January 14-20

Isaac Alhadeff, Herman Alshan*, Harold Altman^, Michael Barr, Fred Bayroff^, Bernie Berger, Cylka Berke^, Henry Biegeleisen*, Phyllis Block, Rae Brumberg, Sidney Burack, Nathan Cheshes, Beatrice Chizner*, Marion Cooper, Beth Cosnow^, May Lipton Cummins^, Julius Dolitsky*, Benjamin Dymn*, Pierre Eilian, Milton M. Enzer, F. Joyce Feitell^, Fannie Feldman*, George Fraenkel*, Faye Frankel*, Rabbi Moses Fried*, Shaynii K. Gadsden^, Abraham Glasser, Liza Gleizer^, George Goldberg, Joseph D. Goldreich^, Irving Goodman*, Minnie Gross*, Ilse Hammerstein, Sarah Handler*, Ilse Jacobson, Henry Yaakov, Michele Hirsch^, Sophie Hoffman^, Goldy Hushansky, Aaron Bernard Israel*, Edith R. Karban*, Charlotte Chernoble Klein*, Leon Krentzman^, Estelle Lasser, Mr. Paul Levitan^, Dr. Ralph Lusskin, Gilbert Naftalis*, Max Neiden, Florence Newfield*, David Newman^, Esther Nirenberg, Shirley Pearlstein, Irene Pessar, Murray Pfeffer*, Hannah Pressman, Phillip Raffae, Mr. Lawrence Raizman, Howard Topol Roberts^,

Natalie Simon Rosenfeld^, Sylvia Rubinstein, Charlotte Hope Saltzman, Sophia Savits, Isabelle P. P. Schechter*, Isidore Schneider, Jeannette Mildred Seinfeld^, Lily Seregi, Abba Settle^, Pauline Shapiro, Theresa Rena Sidran^, Larry Siegel, George Silver, Miriam B. Singer, Carol Sommers, Barry N. Spilkin, Rose Strong^, Evelyn K. Sussman^, Bea Topal*, Larry Toporek*, Nathan Tucker, William Tudor^, Isaac Versh*, Maurice Volk^, Celia L. Warmbrand^*, Gertrude Weiner^, Lloyd Weiss, Joseph Zalkind*, Mr. Marc Zeitlin

January 21-27

Mary Abbey^, Lazar Agababayev, Rose Alster^, Barbara Altman^, Jack Azizo, Jossie Barcelona, Molly Baron, Abraham Block, Edward H. Breiterman*, Barbara Frischer, Brooks Morris Brown, Ira Cirker, Herman Cohen*, J. Jerome Cohen, M.D., Sandra Colbert, Louis Diamond^, Mary Diamond^, Irvin Fisher^, Jennie Fox^, Tamara Fradin^, Tamara Fradin^, Paula Franklin, Morris Friedman, Hanie Friedman*, Rose Schlamowitz Glass^, Lisa Goldberg, Norman Goldfinger, Gertrude Goldschmidt^, Julia Greenbaum, Lillian R. Hayt*, Bessie Honig*, Pinkas Isaak, Joseph Israel^, Dora Jaffe^, David Janow^, Lawrence Janow^, Cecelia Josselson^, Jack Kasman, Lee Kohn, Bea Kramer*, Joel Krupnik, Sarah Lederman^, Walter Lese^, Arthur Levitz, Joel Levitz, Aaron Machlin, Lillian Manischewitz, Joseph Meyers*, Susan Jane Miller, Lydell Miller, Jean Miller^, Frieda Pearl*, Herbert Plaut^*, Eva Posner Post*, Bernice Putterman, Theodore Rabb, Frieda Rauch, Edward Renstrom, Dr. Thomas Robitscher, Lillian Roniss^, Schiffy Rosenblum, Henry Rosenblum^, Irving Rubenstein, Koula Saba, Harry Satosky*, Monroe I. Schechter*, Milton Schupak, Adam Siegal*, Hyman Slotnick, Edna Steinberg^, Sari Orovan Steiner^, Leo Teviovitz, Honor Hess Ward^, Manya Weg, Louis Jeffery Wolfson, Jimmie Yee

January 28-February 3

Dr. Bernat Abraham^, Blume Alter, Beatrice Babitz, Clara S. Benjamin, Joel Bernstein, Pauline Birnbach^, Phyllis Block, Mr. Siegfried Blum, Alice Blumenthal^, Temma H. Bohrer*, Abraham Chizner*, Claire Klaitz Cohen, Bertha Cooperman, Camillo de Benedetti, Elliot Domow, Gladys Drimmer^, Helen Elkin*, David B. Fener, Soi Settle Fink^, Cyril Freed^, Charles Samuel Ginsburg^, Sophie Gipsman, Paul Glimcher, Hattie Gold^,

Harold H. Goldberg, Marty Goldstone, Roger Gomby^, Anna Gottlieb, Charlotte Grabisch, Sabina Graetzer*^, Henrietta P. Green^, Fred Greenberg*, Sally Grossman, Kurt Natan Grubler, Norman Halper, Yetta Halpern^, Susanne Hikida, Esther Ir, Mildred Kassap, Philip Kimmel^, Jennie B. Klein*^, Clarice Lefkowitz, Beatrice Levine*, Elayne Lieberman, Elayne Lieberman, Sidney Liebowitz*, Hyman Lipkis, Mollie Meadow, Solomon Novom^, Michael Remba^, Rabbi Andrew J. Robins, Stanley Rosenthal^, George Schwartz^, Hannah Shemtov^, Robert Silverman, David Milton Solomon^, Fritz A. Sontag^, Lena Steinberg^, Rose Stopler^, Alice Teviovitz, Augusta Toby*, Alice E. Warfman*, Shirley Weinman^, Seymour Weinstein, Leo E. Williams*^, Herbert S. Winn, Solomon Yaker^, Rachel Leah Zacks



Rabbi Alder lighting the menorah in Gramercy Park at the Community Menorah Lighting on December 19th.

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Distressed by holiday pounds?

Members who struggle with disordered eating or who simply wish to improve their relationship with food or body image can reach out to Devora Jaye (djaye@jbfc.org), who directs Jewish Community Services Recovery Programming, including a disordered eating group.

*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.

The Brotherhood Synagogue



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RABBI DANIEL ALDER
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²¹ 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

Hebrew School News

by Tess Neider, Hebrew School Principal

Jewish customs and traditions are built to create communities of Jews who live, work, and pray together. Many of our holidays as well as lifecycle events require others to not only be present but also to participate. It would be very difficult and maybe even impossible to live as a Jew in a vacuum with no one else to help and support us. Brotherhood is a thriving community, and the Hebrew School at Brotherhood is a vibrant and fun filled example of learning and growing together with friends and family. Our students can dive into complicated and complex ideas in a safe group of supportive and caring peers and teachers. In 2023 we will be reintroducing a program that ran in the Hebrew School for decades and we are excited to bring back in person again. This program is called Mishpacha which means family. For these special Mishpacha days students will be encouraged to invite a family member or caretaker to join them in their learning. When we learn together with our families both biological and chosen, we can gain a deeper insight and understanding

of who we are and where we come from. It helps us to explore what is important to us as an individual, a household, and a community. For the administration and teachers this is also a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know our students better and give those outside of our classroom a sneak peek inside. We are very excited to be running these programs again and look forward to the many special guests that will be learning with us in this new year!

SHABBAT
 FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES FOR
 HEBREW SCHOOL FAMILIES
 JOIN US AT 5:30PM
 JANUARY 27TH
 TWO AGE APPROPRIATE
 OPTIONS:
 GRADES K-2
 GRADES 3-6
 FOLLOWING FAMILY
 SHABBAT SERVICES WE WILL
 BE HOSTING
 A DINNER FOR GRADES K-2

Chanukah Family Celebration

Thanks to Tess Neider for organizing a fabulous **Family Chanukah Celebration** for Brotherhood kids & families on Sunday, December 18! Saskia Lane, Daphna Mor & Daniel Freedman entertained us all with their amazing musical talents during the Chanukah concert portion!



January Classes with the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program



Understanding Arab Culture - Understanding Ourselves

Tuesday January 3, 3:30 pm
with Dr. David Mendelsohn

THURSDAY SERIES History & Philosophy of Islam

Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19 & 26
1:00 pm

- [1/5: Jahiliyyah – Arabia before Islam](#)
- [1/12: Muhammad and His Visions](#)
- [1/19: Aisha, Fatima and the Sunni-Shia Split](#)
- [1/26: The Hajj - The Pilgrimage to End All Pilgrimages](#)



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 January!

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

DEMYSTIFYING HISTORY Why Study History

Sundays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29
7:00 pm | with Professor Stephen Berk

- [1/8: A Tale of Two Popes: Pope Pius XII and John Paul II](#)
- [1/15: FDR and the Holocaust](#)
- [1/22: Our People Are Your People: American Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights](#)
- [1/29: Putin, Ukraine and the Jews](#)

To support our ongoing programs in the area of Adult Education please visit our website and designate your contributions as a gift to "Adult Education" in the dropdown menu.



Psychedelics & The Future of Judaism

Wednesday, January 10 | 3:30 pm
with Zac Kamenetz



A Visit to the Heart of the Ancient Silk Road: The Jews of Uzbekistan

Tuesday, January 17 | 3:30 pm
with Evgenia Kempinski

The Radical Responsibility of Rabbi Sacks: The Problem of Evil as a Call to Action

Tuesday, January 31
1:00 pm
with Dr. Tanya White



Nursery School News: It's So Hard to Say Goodbye

by Debbie Newman

Cue the pomp and circumstance. This year, my daughter (who started here in the Yellow Room, then continued onto the Purple Room) will be graduating from the Blue Room, and unfortunately there are simply no more primary or secondary colors left to explore at Brotherhood.

Saying goodbye to the school we love will be a challenge for us both. We've spent the past several months attending admissions tours/interviews and applying to kindergarten programs across the city. I come away from these appointments dazzled by the shiny sales pitches, winded from the flights of stairs, and in awe of the organic and locally sourced meals being served in the Michelin-caliber cafeterias. In turn, my daughter comes back from each formal assessment informal playgroup with a new favorite book, some age-appropriate school swag, and lingering questions about why she cannot just "have Teacher Annie and Teacher Laurie again" next year.

I can still remember my daughter's first day in the Yellow Room, watching her toddle over to the teachers, baby-like and bewildered, and worrying how she'd make it all the way til pickup—a measly 1.5 hours away. By the end of the year, she's become best friends (for life?) with the other four kids in her class, perfected the art of the potty, and learned to wear her mask 24/7 and sing approximately ten different songs about shabbat. The Purple Room built her confidence and her stride,

the Blue Room shaped her into a miniature version of the person she was destined to become: playful, curious, strong-willed, trusting, and kind, with just the teensiest hint of mischief behind her smile.

Some of the new schools' applications ask us what we're looking for in an ideal educational environment. I answer their questions truthfully while resisting the urge to point out that we will, in all likelihood, never find a place that feels quite so safe, so nurturing, so gentle, and so heartwarmingly sweet as where we are right now.

Thanks to our good-natured security staff, my daughter starts every day off with an affectionate greeting. She skips importantly into Merrill and Sara's office in search of emergency pretzels and basks in the power of her classroom job. She thinks of the rabbi as a bonafide campus celebrity and as her special (albeit slightly-more-famous) friend. Under her teachers' loving care, my child feels supported and seen. She equates learning with laughing and school with joyful exuberance. She returns home each afternoon, pigtails swinging, reassured that her thoughts and feelings matter.

I don't know where my little girl will end up, but I do know that she will be ready to set out on her next big adventure. So this is our fond farewell to Brotherhood—the first school we've ever loved. Thank you for making it all so easy (except, of course, for this goodbye.) 🌊

♪ Cantor's Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

My daughter has a complex relationship with Santa Claus. Inundated with his friendly presence in some of her favorite shows and on every street corner, she has understandably grown quite affectionate towards this rebbe look-a-like. My Jewish clergy powers are no match for the most magical time of the year; the Christmas season has infiltrated my Jewish baby. The truth is, I get it. I too was always mesmerized by the holiday season. The twinkling lights and upbeat Christmas music playing in every store doesn't faze me. In fact, I kind of love it. Apparently my daughter feels the same way. On a recent morning walk to school, I heard singing coming from the passenger seat of the stroller. Though the soprano's diction was a little garbled, there was no doubt that I was hearing a beautiful rendition of "Deck the Halls," especially since the "fa-la-la-laahs" were particularly on point. So what is a cantor to do in this situation? My first inclination

was to lay down some cold hard truths. I began the complicated conversation with my daughter that Santa Claus is not a real person. That idea was quickly shot down by my wife who reminded me of the trauma that discovery would cause if our daughter shared it with her Christmas celebrating cousins. So I decided to share a second hard truth; we do not celebrate Christmas. But instead of denying the existence of good old Kris Kringle, I simply tell my daughter that Santa only visits Texas where her cousins live and where we usually spend the Chag. This seems to suffice. And just for the record, my soprano also sings a fiery rendition of "Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah." So on the last night of the Festival of Lights, which happens to be Christmas this year, Hazel can inundate her Texas cousins with the same upbeat, slightly more Semitic, holiday music from her side of the testament. And in her first effort to reduce lashon hara, she'll keep the Santa talk to a minimum. 🌊

Family

Shabbat
for Young Children*

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

Friday, January 6 &

Friday, January 20

5:30-6:00 pm

with Daphna & Saskia

in the Community Room at Brotherhood

*For children 4 and under. Older sibs welcome!

Please check the Weekly Mail for other Brotherhood Family Programs.

THE TIKVAH PROGRAM

Brotherhood's Hebrew school program for children with special needs since 1994 has openings for Winter/Spring 2023



We serve children starting at age 8 on Sunday mornings.

We provide a Jewish education taught by certified Special Education teachers. Our classes emphasize our students' strengths to help imbue a love of Judaism along with traditional Hebrew school curriculum, art and music.

This program is tuition-free and families do not have to be members of Brotherhood to attend.

For further information contact:

Myra Hushansky

(mhushansky@nyc.rr.com)

or Brotherhood Synagogue

212-674-5750

or go to our website:

www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Brotherhood Synagogue



Tevet / Shevat 5783
January 2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 Minyan	4 4 pm: Hebrew School	5 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn	6 4:11 pm: Candles 2:30 pm: Tikvah 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 4 & under 6:30 pm: Services	7 ☆ 9:30 am: Services VAYECHI
8 9 am: Tikvah	9 4 pm: Hebrew School	10 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 Minyan	11 4 pm: Hebrew School 4 pm: I'll Have What She's Having Virtual Tour	12 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 7 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> Book Club 6:30: BBYO	13 4:10 pm: Candles 2:30 pm: Tikvah 6:30 pm: Services	14 ☆ 9:30 am: Services SHEMOT
15 9 am: Tikvah 11 am: NY Common Pantry Food Prep Event	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED	17 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 Minyan 7 pm: Board Meeting	18 4 pm: Hebrew School 10 am: Mah Jongg 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg	19 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II 6:30: BBYO 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	20 4:11 pm: Candles 2:30 pm: Tikvah 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 4 & under 6:30 pm: Services	21 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Jordan 5:30 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Jemma Brown 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club VAYERA
22 9 am: Tikvah	23 7:30 am: Minyan 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Art as Sacred Text ROSH CHODESH	24 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 Minyan 7 pm: Demystifying Your Medicare Options	25 10 am: Mah Jongg 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg	26 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II	27 4:19 pm: Candles 2:30 pm: Tikvah 5:30 pm: Hebrew School Family Shabbat 6:30 pm: Dinner Grades K-2 6:30 pm: Services	28 ☆ 9:30 am: Services BO
29 9 am: Tikvah 10 am: BBYO Regional Event	30 4 pm: Hebrew School	31 9:30 am: Toddler Class I 10:30 am: Toddler Class II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 Minyan	1 10 am: Mah Jongg 4 pm: Hebrew School 6 pm: Family Program 4th Grade 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg	2 9:30 am: Pre Toddler Class 10:30 am: Toddler Class III 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Baby Class 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II	3 4:25 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	4 ☆ 9:30 am: Services BESHALACH

Coming in February — Save the Dates!

The Afro-Semitic Experience

Sunday, February 5, 4:00 pm at Brotherhood



Co-founded by African-American jazz pianist Warren Byrd, and Jewish-American jazz bassist David Chevan in 1998, *The Afro-Semitic Experience* is a band with a simple message: Unity in the Community. This is a band beyond category—performing an intricate tapestry of spiritual, world-beat, funk, jazz, cantorial, gospel, salsa, swing... soul-driven music. Their music has been heard around the United States at festivals, in churches, synagogues, colleges, and wherever people come together to share their love and respect for community.

Ticket Price: \$10 per person in advance, \$15 at the door.

Our programming is made possible thanks to your generosity so any amount above that would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Sponsored by Brotherhood Synagogue, in partnership with East End Temple and Town & Village Synagogue

Understanding Antisemitism

February 6, 13, and 20, 7:00 pm | on ZOOM

The Brotherhood Adult Education Committee presents an important 3-part series on Understanding Anti-Semitism. Lead by Mark Weitzman, COO of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, this series will cover not just the root of antisemitism from antiquity through the Holocaust, but will also critically examine Modern anti-Semitism and the various forms it takes, particularly in the US. Discussions of Holocaust denial and distortion and responses to antisemitism from both the Jewish and non-Jewish perspectives will be discussed.



Check the weekly email for more detailed class description and to register as we get closer to the class.