



Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ח

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What This War Is About, Part II

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

The challenge for observers to this conflict is to sympathize with the innocents suffering on both sides, without obscuring the difference between Israel and Hamas. For the dead and wounded among Gaza's civilians, it obviously makes no difference that Israel didn't intend to harm them. But intent is the difference between war as tragedy and war as barbarism.

For Israeli policy-makers, the precedent for destroying Hamas is the war on ISIS, which resulted in massive destruction, dislocation and civilian deaths. Destroying Hamas is no less a moral imperative than destroying ISIS, especially when that threat lives next door to you.

Many around the world—and not only Israel-haters—are raising the argument that the occupation drives Palestinians to terrorism. But the reverse is no less true: Terrorism has reinforced the occupation, by convincing Israelis that withdrawal from the West Bank would turn it into another Gaza.

A major miscalculation of Israel's enemies is that they mistake Israel for a rootless colonial project that will go away. Inflict enough atrocities and the Jews will flee "back to Poland," as if the Jews were ever truly home in Poland and the Poles would want the Jews back. Interestingly, as Yossi Klein Halevi points out, Palestinian apologists never say, "back to Iraq, back to North Africa," which is where a majority of Israeli Jews come from.

A colonialist state would have long since become fatally demoralized and surrendered to relentless terrorism and war and siege. But enmity has only made Israel stronger, because its people are home. Now Israel's enemies have united her—this time, inducing in a single day the turn-around of a nation so divided that it seemed on the verge of civil war, to a nation defined once again by shared purpose and effort.

Israelis have never gone to war so lacking in faith in their leaders. Astonishingly but not surprisingly, the government's abandonment of the Israeli south persisted even after the massacre. The state has been

largely ineffective in dealing with the basic needs of the survivors. That incompetence is a direct result of this government undoing decades of reform in civil service. Responsibility for the survivors was assumed by the activists of the democratic protest movement—those whom the government labeled as traitors.

This is a war of a leaderless people taking responsibility for itself. In the aftermath of the massacre, we witnessed the amazing way that Israeli society, entirely motivated from the bottom up, effectively mobilized itself. Many reservists didn't wait to be called up; civilians overwhelmed the blood banks with donations. Says Halevi: "The paradox of this war is that, while the distrust and contempt for our leaders has never been higher, neither has our morale, our love of country, our readiness to sacrifice, even our ability to unite."

Israelis have reacted as they always do to existential threat. Close to 200,000 Israelis have flown back home since the massacre, many to join their reservist units. The demand was so high that El Al allowed passengers who couldn't book seats to sit on the floor of returning flights. The failure of the Palestinian national movement, in all its factions, to understand that it is facing not a colonialist entity but a re-indigenized

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:30 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4:00 PM

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hendricks

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6:30 PM

Shabbat Hanukkah

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah of Theodore Haymes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 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

people whose story is unique in history is the main reason why this conflict has been insoluble. Until that perception changes, even Israelis who see a two-state solution as an existential necessity for Israel will also see it as an existential threat. 🌊



Shabbat Table

We are starting a new program to match up people who would like to share a Shabbat evening dinner together. This is a great way to celebrate Shabbat and get to know more people in the synagogue. Let's build more bonds between us by sharing a meal and breaking challah together.

Our first Shabbat Table evening will take place on Friday, February 2, 2024. In January we'll have a form to register interest and communicate preferences/restrictions. Guests are asked to bring a bottle of wine. Hosts are expected to serve either a kosher meat meal or a fish/dairy meal. Due to the timing of the gathering, dinner may preclude attending services that evening.

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

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.

At our November event we had the extraordinary opportunity to tour the Library and Rare Book Room of the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Library opened recently, containing an exceptional collection of rare materials, including the world's largest collection of early Hebrew manuscripts. Thank you Lucia Zoercher for arranging the tour for us!

If it's December, it's Chanukah party time! We are having our **traditional Chanukah party in Brotherhood Synagogue's 2nd Floor Reception Room on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm**. We will begin with

dinner together and enjoy the Second Avenue Deli's wonderful sandwiches and salads with a glass of wine. Then, on to playing our traditional gift giving game while sharing desserts together. No need to worry; the game is very simple, inexpensive, and a great deal of fun—details will be sent to those members that will be attending. The cost of the dinner will be shared, with the pricing to be sent to everyone as we get closer and know how many people will attend. **Please contact Agnes (lagnesmarton@gmail.com) right away and let her know you will be there!**

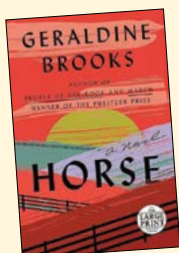
Our November book club meeting was even better than usual—*All the King's Men* provided great material for a heated discussion, not only about the book but about our political system and those who take advantage of it unfairly.

December book club will take place on **Monday, December 18 at 6:45pm** in the Library. We will be discussing *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Professor Margaret Birns will lead our book club 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 cannot 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, December 21, 7:00 pm



Linda Kates will lead a discussion of *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

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

Shabbat Club | Saturday, December 9, 12:30 pm

Join us on Saturday, December 9 as we welcome Michael Mantell to Shabbat Club where he will be speaking about cultivating Jewish pride and combating antisemitism. Michael is a psychotherapist and educator and teaches a variety of subjects in Brotherhood's Hebrew School including Modern Jewish History, the Mitzvah Project class, and Building Your Family Tree (Ancestry Research). He hosts online and in-person Holocaust Education programs and has been featured on local news programming and panels and has co-written and contributed to articles about efforts to combat Jew-hatred, antisemitism, and anti-Zionism in general and on college campuses.

We will meet in the Reception Room on the 2nd floor and refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to join us. Please email [Deborah Newman](mailto:Deborah.Newman) with ideas for Shabbat Club or if you have any questions.

December 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 these online classes during December!

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

The Dark and the Surreal World of Etgar Keret

Tuesday, December 5 | 3:30 pm

Jesus: Back By Popular Demand

Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28

7 pm | Prof. Marc Michael Epstein

12/7: *The Lay of the Land*

12/14: "If it Bothers You, Don't Do it to Others." What Is a Rabbi? What Was a Rabbi? Was Jesus a Rabbi?

12/21: *Jesus, Paul, Christians, and the Torah*

12/28: *Siblings? Rivalry?*



Artist Spotlight Series: Heritage, Tech, and Tradition / Part 3 - Karny Rivlin Vorona - "LeDor VaDor: Illumination as Interpretation"

Tuesday, December 19

1:00 pm

Karny Rivlin Vorona with Shirel Horovitz

Brotherhood Synagogue continues to offer Adult Education classes 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.

Hiddur Mitzvah: A Journey Through Jewish Ritual Art

Sunday, December 10

1:00 pm

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller



MAH JONGG @ BROTHERHOOD!!

By popular demand, we are adding another Beginners Mah Jongg class!

Janet will teach an evening class on the following dates: **Wednesdays Dec 6, 13, 20 & January 3, 10 & 17**

6:30 – 8:30 pm

12 per class maximum

Cost per person is \$90

Register here

Mah Jongg Game Nights @ Brotherhood

We hold Mah Jongg games at Brotherhood most

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm!

To join a game, please email Janet @ jheller711@gmail.com

BIG BAND

EYAL VILNER'S 16-PIECE SWING BAND!

BIG LATKES LOTS'A VODKAS

ADMISSION: \$20

DECEMBER 9

8:00 PM

Doors Open at 7:30 pm | Music at 8:00 pm
Latkes & Vodka at 9:15 pm | [Pay in advance here](#)



A Community Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah in Gramercy Park

Wednesday, December 13
5:30 – 6:00 pm

Please join us for the lighting of the seventh candle of the Chanukah menorah in Gramercy Park and join in for some Chanukah songs with the Brotherhood congregational choir, **Harmoni-AH!**
Sufganiyot to follow at Brotherhood!

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 7:00 pm
with Professor Daniel Rynhold

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.



Professor Daniel Rynhold is Dean at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University in New York City where he has worked since August 2007. He became the Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto's Centre for Jewish Studies in 2019.

[Register here](#)

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 from the Chloé Archive. Highlighting Aghion's vision of effortless, luxurious fashion, and the work of iconic designers who began their careers with the brand, including Karl Lagerfeld, Stella McCartney, and Phoebe Philo, the exhibition showcases Aghion as a leader whose work altered the course of the global fashion industry in liberating women's bodies from the restrictive attitudes and styles of the time, as well as pioneering 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

[Register here](#)



SAVE THE DATE! Shabbaton Dinner and Speaker Friday, January 12

Information and Disinformation in a Post-October 7th World



Tablet Editor-in-Chief **Alana Newhouse** joins **Forward** Editor-in-Chief **Jodi Rudoren** in conversation about the critical role of independent Jewish journalism.
Details to follow in upcoming Weekly Emails and other communications.

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Jared and Jenna Hendricks on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Lily Hendricks**. Lily, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate her simcha with her younger brother, **Brody**.

Evan Haymes and Regina Haymes on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Theodore Haymes**. Teddy, a student at Friends Seminary, will celebrate his simcha with his older sister, **Esme**.

Weddings, Mazal Tov to:

Sara Rothman on her engagement to **Matthew Edelman**; and to Sara's parents, **Phil Rothman** and **Michele Teichner**.

Louis Susser on his engagement to **Emily Ellison**; and to Louis's parents, **Rhona** and **Larry Susser**; and to Louis's brother, **Philip Susser**.

Philip Susser on his engagement to **Carly Hirshon**; and to Philip's parents, **Rhona** and **Larry Susser**; and to Philip's brother, **Louis**.

Beth Barry and Daniel Sussman on the engagement of their son, **Jake Sussman** to **Julia Klepner**; and to Jake's brother, **Matthew Sussman**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Mara and Jonathan Blum on the birth of their grandson, **Dylan Blum**, born to **Sharon** and **Benjamin Blum**; and to older brothers, **Liam** and **Adam**.

Dina and Leon Telis on the birth of their daughter, **Isla Georgina Telis**; and to older sister, **Adelle**.

Peri and David Seshens on the birth of their daughter, **Billie Paige Seshens**; and to older brother, **Harry**.

Condolences to:

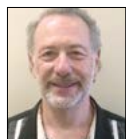
David Kirsch on the passing of his mother, **Helen Kirsch**.

Jared Itkowitz on the passing of his father, **Edward Itkowitz**.

Marilyn Berkman on the passing of her husband, **Robert Contant**.

Caleb Esrig on the passing of his grandfather, **Sheldon Lobel**.

President's Post by Seth Hulkower



Jewish education is central to the mission of Brotherhood Synagogue. In August I sent a [letter about our Hebrew School](#) and last month's column focused on programs for our youngest children, our Early Childhood Program and the Brotherhood Nursery School. This month I'm going to share with you details of our vibrant and exciting Adult Education program.

Lifelong learning is invaluable, fostering flexibility in the mind and opening doors to new ideas and concepts. Moreover, it's a chance to forge connections and strengthen our sense of community. Engaging with Adult Education at Brotherhood not only broadens your knowledge but also expands your circle of friends and acquaintances, creating a richer communal experience.

Heading our Adult Education committee is Trudi Bartow, a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees and former Brotherhood President, along with a passionate committee of learners. This dynamic team spends significant time researching topics and professors, ensuring the program remains intellectually stimulating and relevant to our community's needs. Their approach is inspiration from the community's needs, questions, and insights gained by constant communication with members and being aware of trends in the broader learning community.

Our Adult Education offerings are diverse, spanning both in-person and online sessions. Listings for all these options can be found on our website and in this Bulletin.

In Person Classes

There's nothing quite like sitting with a teacher you respect and admire (and nowhere to hide if you're feeling sleepy). Some of the in person offerings Brotherhood provided this year include:

Learning with Rabbi Alder Provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with our Rabbi in a setting that enriches the learning experience. In October, Rabbi Alder led an engaging exploration of "The World's First Murder: A Closer Look at the Cain and

Abel Story," leaving a lasting impression on all participants. Don't miss the chance to join him in an immersive learning experience. Stay tuned for upcoming bulletins to discover the next captivating topic he'll explore.

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Yager Focused on the current parasha (weekly portion), the Cantor's lunch time sessions have become the place to be on a Thursday afternoon. Fostering rich discussions that lead to lively debate and conversation these sessions are always welcome to students to drop in for one class or the entire semester.

Beginning Conversational Hebrew with Orly Farhi-Haley Our outstanding Hebrew School teacher showcases her teaching prowess as she guides adults through a program of reading, writing, and speaking Hebrew. This program was such a hit that the students demanded a second session start immediately after the first session ended.

Online Classes

The pandemic prompted us to expand our educational offerings from the physical classroom to the virtual Zoom room, allowing us to connect with teachers from around the world and the convenience of learning wherever our students are. This year our community has been blessed to have an outstanding line up of classes including studying the art of an Italian ketubah, the history of Ancient Judean Coins, the history of Sephardic Jewry, a course on the philosophy of faith, and a study of modern Anti-Semitism.

There's something for everyone with the range of in person and online courses and the Adult Education Committee is hard at work setting up programs for 2024, launching in January with Dean of Yeshiva University, Daniel Rynhold, teaching a thought provoking class on Jewish Eschatology (the philosophical study of the afterlife). Come check out a course online, come to the building to attend a course. And if you've got an idea for a course—or even better, know a teacher, drop us a note and we'll follow up.

Warmly, Seth Hulkower

Social Action

December Drive for *Backpacks for the Street*

Helping feed, house, and supply New York City's homeless has long been a priority at Brotherhood Synagogue. The **Social Action Committee** is once again holding a winter gear drive to benefit *Backpacks for the Street*, an organization that brings compassion, dignity and hope to the unsheltered throughout NYC.

We are seeking **donations of ADULT SIZE handmade hats and scarves as well as NEW or GENTLY USED coats, gloves, sweaters, shoes**. Please bring your donations to the collection box in the lobby during the month of December.



Thanks to Social Action Committee co-chair, **Abby Goldstein**, for taking the lead on packing up the 500 lbs of food we collected for City Harvest during the month of October!



December 2-8

Matthew Arnoff, Sam Barkan, Rachel Leah Berglas~, Benjamin Bernstein, Ann Bledstein, Philip Blinder^, Murray Borden, Calvin Breit^, Irving A. Browner*, Susan Capaldo^, Irwin Cassell^, Tessie Consumano, Mildred Dorman^, Robert Edlitz, Murray Finkelstein, Orene Moskow Fisher^, Isaiah Gellman, Flora Goldin^, Julius Goldstein, Dorothy Goldstein, Abraham Goldstein*, Leon Wilfred Graham*, Lou Hacker, Fritz Hahn^, Anne Hayt^, Lillian Hurowitz, Shango Bahati Kakawanna, Michael Kaplan, Alice Kenner^, Frances Lebon*, Florence Levine, Gussie Levine*, Sadie Maisel**, Ruth Mandell, Sylvia Mayo^, Pearl Miller, Sheldon Moskowitz^, Sidney Palew^, Edward Perlstein^, Mr. Louis Richkin, Linda Ripinsky^, Pearl Rosenstock, Joseph Rothenberg^, Sol Russon, Anna Schlager*, David Schlanger*, David Schumann, Pearl Schwam, David Shainberg, Eric Silberberg, David Silver, Jr., Mr. Marc Lee Sloane^, Louis Slotnick, Matthew Solomon*, Louis Stutzel^, Ben-Zion Toback, Hannah Toby*, Rose Fogelhood Unterweiser*, Herbert Vogel^, Murray Weinstein, Richard Zeitlin^

December 9-15

Ronald Abitbol, Rose Antell^*, Gabriel Ascher, Mrs. Hermine Bauer, Dorothy Bergman, Joseph Berlowitz*, Harry Bernstein, Evelyn K. Borden^, Selma Carp, Helen Seinfeld Chodos^, Abner

YAHREZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

Cohen, Molly D. Cummings^, Roselle DeMarais*, Wally Dobelis, Rita Domow, Benjamin Eisenstadt^, Marion Flash, Arlene Ford, Bessie Fradin^, Alan J. Freedman^, Elsa Friedman, I. Edward Ginsburg^, David Goldbrenner, Gilda L. Goldstein, Samuel Goldstein^, Rosalie Gordon, Willard Gourse*, Rosalind Halper, Kenneth Halpern^*, Benjamin Hayeem, Hayeem Benjamin Hayeem, David Hochbaum, Billy Jacobson, Bernard Jurysta, Frances Karasick, Miriam Kramer, Evelyn Kreloff, Herman E. Kurland^, Betty Landino^, Dr. Isidore J. Landsman^*, Gerald Barry Lascher, Eugenia Lauterpacht, Donald Learner^, Sophie Leifschutz^, Eric Morse, Irene C. Powell^, Renee Goode Rigby, Sylvia Ringler*, Rev. Saul Roselle*, Martin Salzman, Sarah Schlanger*, Celia Schneider, Daniel Schwartz, Bill Seregi, Allan Shafer*, Lena Shargel, Dr. Stephen Silverman, James Slater^, Sol Sloan, Eliezer Slotnick, Mildred Steckler*, Edward Stempel, Miriam Sussman, Rita Swedlow^, Joseph Teperman^, Richard Turkheimer^, Rose Cooperman Wallach*, Lillian F. Weiss^, Arthur Ziff, Seth Zuckerman

December 16-22

Tess Abramowitz, Mr. Daniel Altman^, Frieda Rinder Antler^, Max Balaber, Donna Barnett,

Esther Brickman^, Isidor Diamond^, Ethel Edelstein*, Lazar Ente^, Ethel Epstein^, Rose Epstein^, Leo Farland*, Rae Feld^, Barry Fishman, Jack Friedman*, Mimi Gettinger, Alden Getz, Sarah Glickstein, Dacia Glusband, Stanley Goldberg, Blanche Greenhouse^*, William Greenleaf, Lewis Gross*, Harry Haberman, Jack Herman, Isadore Kasman, Gertrude Kaufman, Clara Kaufman^, Abraham Kitt, Marvin Levy^*, Anne Lindenauer, Anna Meisler^, Rita Morrison, Marjorie Nadler, Lena Presser*, Leonard Pressman, Sheldon Putterman, Ismar Cohn Reiser^, Ruth Rooney, Paul Rose, Estelle Rosenthal, Rebecca Segal, Doris Gordon, Selkowitz^, Alan Shapiro, Joseph Silberberg, Fred Sirkin*, Leila Sloane^, Esther Stutzel^, Anita Talmas, Doris Watty, Michael Weintraub, Renee Wexer, Moishe Wigdor, Melvin A. Wool, Roslyn Zimmerman

December 23-29

Meyer Antell^*, Edgar Baurer, Saul Berkman, Ida Berkowitz^, Harry Blum^, Harry Bohrer, Beatrice Chernick, Yetta Chizner*, Leon Dankberg^, Herman Diamond, Morris Esrig^, Evelyn Fisher, Irving Flax, Louis Philip Foster^, Anna Frankel*, Chester B. Franklin^*, Paula Glass^, Howard Goldin^, Morris Goldstein*, Edward Greenberg, Abraham Gross*, Clara Gross*, Alan Hardy, Anne Soloway Hayt^, Robert Hikida, Bernice Hoffeld^, Dr. Ronald Kaplansky, David Kitover, Israel Klonsky^, Edna Larkin, Nachama Rachel Lewinstein*, Mace Mason, Dora Mayer, Joseph Michael*, Leonard Miltenberg, Estelle Moskowitz, Fay Nelson^, Joseph Nobel, Barbara Okanes^, Irvin David Rafkin, Eric Renstrom, Herbert D. Roistacher^, Phillip Rosen, Dianne Rubenfeld^, Philip Rutkin, Bertha Scheiner*, Murray J. Schneider^, Fred Schultz, Betty Siskind*, Sharon Slavin, Laura Sonneberg, Jack Stark^, Clara Tepner, Meryl Ruth Tobin, Edward Weiss^, Marguerite Wimer, Anna Wisgordinski, Jack Wishnie

December 30, 2023-January 5, 2024

Isaac Alhadeff, Michael Barr, Selma Berman, Phyllis Block, Philip Block*, Stanley Bobb, Yosef Chaim Borochoy, Lennie Brass*, Mrs. Galina Bronshteyn, Rae Brumberg,

Continued on next page

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW

The recently completed DOROT program called "Aging Alone, Together" offered a great opportunity for Brotherhood participants to develop and share their thinking about the challenges of aging solo. We know some of you could not join in the program with other Brotherhood members, so we encourage anyone who is interested in learning about how to participate in the future to reach out to DOROT at agingalonetogether@dorotusa.org.

*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 Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis

We are kicking off our new season of dinners for asylum-seeker families on Sunday December 3 from 5-7pm. Jointly **|BCRIC UPDATE|** sponsored with East End Temple and Middle Collegiate Church, the dinner will be held at East End Temple. There will also be a range of children's activities, including arts and crafts, games, and books. Additional dinners will be scheduled after the new year. For each dinner, we are looking for volunteers to prepare non-meat, cold dishes, and other volunteers to interact with adults and lead children's activities (For volunteers interacting with adults, priority will be given to Spanish speakers.)

This month we are highlighting another volunteer opportunity, focused on assisting migrants with the applications they must complete to get asylum or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Volunteers and translators are needed for regularly-scheduled clinic sessions at Congregation Rodeph Shalom. For more information, contact Tracey Kitzman at legalteamtlcnyc@gmail.com or 917.270.1023.

It's time for us to start planning Brotherhood's participation in HIAS's annual Refugee Shabbat weekend, scheduled for February 2-3, 2024. In the past, we have had guest speakers, including Ruth Messinger. Please share any ideas you might have for observing Refugee Shabbat.

If you would like more information about any of the above, please contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

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



Hebrew School News

As we settle into the shortest days of the year, Chanukah arrives to remind us that the smallest spark of light is enough to drive away

darkness. This year, when the world can feel especially dark, we are called to be that light for one another. During November, our Hebrew School students continued to bring light to their teachers, classmates, and the entire world with their enthusiasm for Jewish learning and their commitment to acts of tzedakah and tikkun olam, including collecting funds and supplies for communities and troops in Israel. On November 12, our teens enlightened themselves and their peers by learning important, potentially lifesaving CPR skills and discussing the rise in antisemitism on college campuses and other academic settings. And on November 17, our 3rd and 4th grade families joined together—more than 40 individuals!—to welcome Shabbat and spend time in community.

Friday Family Shabbat

5:30 pm family services for K-6 grade

December 15 | 6:30 pm

Shabbat dinner for 7th grade families

This month, in addition to the annual Family Chanukah Party on December 10th and Chanukah Gift Sale December 4th, 5th, and

6th, we'll also welcome our 7th grade families for a special Shabbat dinner following services on December 15.

There's lots to look forward to in 2024 as well, including the Hebrew School play (to be announced soon!), more grade-level Shabbat gatherings, and the candy sale. Of course, Tess Neider will return from her maternity leave in January as well! I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to spend the past few months with the wonderful Brotherhood community. Wishing you a joyful and light-filled Chanukah celebration, and a happy and healthy start to everything in 2024.

L'Shalom,
Caryn Roman
Interim Hebrew School Principal

Chanukah Shop

December 4th, 5th & 6th

STOP BY OUR TABLE IN THE LOBBY TO PURCHASE HOLIDAY ITEMS INCLUDING CANDLES, DRIEDELs, TOYS, GELT, AND MORE...

ITEMS FROM \$2-\$10

TABLE WILL BE STAFFED 3-6PM PURCHASES CAN BE MADE IN THE 3RD FLOOR OFFICE AT OTHER TIMES

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SHOP ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HEBREW SCHOOL

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

JOIN US FOR SUFGANIYOT, LATKES, CRAFTS, AND GAMES AT OUR

family chanukah celebration

Sunday December 10th

11 am - 12 pm

12 pm - 1 pm

snacks & crafts

performance by

Tkiya Music

all are welcome!
rsvp on shulcloud
suggested donation \$18



Union BBYO for 8th-12th Graders

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 December – January Chapter Programs

- Hannukah Party with Chaverut BBYO: Thursday, December 14
- New Member Murder Mystery Event: Thursday, January 4

- Chapter Ice Skating Program: Thursday, January 26

Upcoming Regional Programs:

- Regional Overnight Convention: Friday, December 15 – Sunday, December 17

This convention will feature numerous programs, speakers, and guests centered around Israel. Jewish teens grades 9-12 welcome! Membership is required to attend. [Become a member here](#) & [register for convention here!!](#)

Interested? Follow [@UnionBBYO](#) on Instagram for live calendar updates, reach out to Lily Pace, Chapter President, at lilynp07@gmail.com, or Associate Regional Director, Aliya Cohen, at agottehrercohen@bbyo.org for more info!

Shabbat Shalom



Friday Family Shabbat Dates 2024

January 19th

February 9th

March 8th

April 12th

May 17th

at 5:30pm age appropriate family services for students K-6 grade

Yahrzeits, continued from page 4

Marion Cooper, Henry H. Daniel, Jack Davis[^], Julius Dolitsky^{*}, Florence Eichner, Pierre Eilian, Meyer Ellenbogen^{*}, Isaac Epstein, Fritz Falkenstein[^], Fannie Feldman^{*}, Yale Fendel, Libby Fried^{*}, Shaynii K. Gadsden[^], Mark Geller[^], Abraham Glasser, Josepha Gold, George Goldberg, Yaakov Michele Hirsch[^], Jack Hollander[^], Neil R. Kaplan, Burton Kassap,

Alexander Kaufman[^], Benjamin Klein, Charlotte Chernoble Klein^{*}, Mr. Samuel Kleinhaut[^], Victor Kramer, Leon Krentzman[^], Gertrude Krupen[^], Gail Levine, Ilsa Karger Levy[^], Claude Markel^{*}, Anna Meyers^{*}, Muriel Meyers[^], Resi Hamburger Nachman[^], Esther Nirenberg, Shirley Pearlstein, Murray Pfeffer^{*}, Hannah Pressman, Ruth Reagan, Belle Rose Robinove^{*}, Esther Rosenberg[^], Samuel I. Rosenfeld, Sylvia Rubinstein, Charlotte Hope Saltzman, Nathan

Scher, Isidore Schneider, Edward Schwartz[^], Sandy Seidman, Leonard Seigelstein, Joseph M. Sepersky^{*}, Theresa Rena Sidran[^], Julian Silbiger, Stanley Simon, Miriam B. Singer, Muriel Siragher, Rose K. Solomon^{*}, Sylvia Wasserstrom Solomon[^], Carol Sommers, Barry N. Spilkin, Rose Strong[^], Larry Toporek^{*}, William Warmbrand[^], Celia L. Warmbrand[^], Adolf Watty, Hannah Weiner[^], Abraham Weiss^{*}, Annie Weprin, Mildred Wishnie, Mr. Marc Zeitlin

Nursery School Thoughts: Yachad, Together by Amelia Gross

In 2020, our nation witnessed the murder of innocent black lives. I remember the wave of pain, outrage and sadness that we felt. These murders were an unacceptable atrocity. People posted black boxes on their Instagram feed and stood shoulder to shoulder, beside our black friends. I felt sad for the families of the dead and I felt frustrated and disappointed with the division of our country. But looking back, I was just that, sad. I slept at night, I was focused at work, and I was present at home. I felt the pain of the nation when I was out in the world, but my home felt different. At home, we were safe.

On October 7, when the attack on Israel unfolded, that all changed. Raised a conservative Jew, I was one of a handful of Jewish people in my school with my closest friends all being Catholic. I never felt the 'sense of place' or a 'common identity' with the people around me. I learned about the Holocaust, pogroms, the Spanish inquisition, but the underlying fear and the stories of atrocities to Jews were just that, stories. My Dad left Egypt with his family in 1958 when they faced religious persecution and had to start over in New York. But that was also just a story. And maybe I made it that way to help make sense of it. But this. This is different. And that 'privilege' I had of restful nights and 'turning it off' at the end of the day; that privilege is over.

The fear and despair that I've felt since that Saturday is deep. The innocent children, the young men and women with so much life left to live, the grandparents. Their vulnerability and the pain they suffered, all for being Jewish. I could have been them. I can't make sense of it. The Tuesday after, I went to the vigil at Brotherhood. We sang 'Yerushalayim Shel Zahav', we heard the words of the rabbi and we prayed for the wounded, the dead, and the hostages. As I quietly sang the words of Hatikvah, I wept, tears I didn't realize had been building up inside of me. Later that week, in an act of psychological terrorism, rumor spread that Friday was declared 'the day of mobilization.' On Thursday I awoke to messages from fellow parents—are we sending our children to school tomorrow? Would our kids be safe? And especially at a Jewish school? If innocent children aren't off limits, who is to think we couldn't be next?

In our own act of peaceful defiance, my husband and I took a deep breath and sent our two sons to school that day. I partnered with our wonderful Brotherhood teachers to invite all our nursery school families to join their children in the sanctuary to celebrate Shabbat. In my four years at the nursery school, having all families together during the school day was a first. The rabbi welcomed everyone, and the room was full of smiles and pure, innocent joy. The Rabbi

and the Cantor led us in singing 'Hineh Mah Tov', and as the chills ran down my spine, in that moment—looking at our brave and passionate Jewish educators, our steadfast clergy and our community of loving families, I knew the translation of that song was the exact antidote that I needed, 'how good and how pleasant it is for people to be together.'

We have a long road ahead of us, both in Israel and fighting antisemitism here at home—but Brotherhood reminded me, when we are together with our community, we can get through it all. 🌈

Family Shabbat for Young Children*

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

**Friday, December 1 &
followed by Pasta Shabbat
Friday, December 15
5:30-6:00 pm
with Daphna & Saskia
in the Community Room
at Brotherhood**

*For children 5 and under. Older sibs welcome!

PASTA SHABBAT Friday, December 1

Family Shabbat 5:30 – 6:00 pm
Pasta & Salad Dinner 6:00 pm
Adults \$20, Children \$10

**REGISTER HERE FOR
PASTA SHABBAT!**



Brotherhood Synagogue Early Childhood Programs (ECP) 2024 Winter/Spring Registration is NOW OPEN!

We are offering the following classes:

- Baby Class 0–12 months
- Pre-Toddler Class 12–18 months
- Toddler Class 18 months–3 years
- Thursday Corner 3–5 years

Please visit [Early Childhood Programs at Brotherhood](#) to learn more and register or [email Roberta](#) if you have questions.

♪ Cantor's Notes ♪ by Cantor Isaac Yager

On my last day in Israel, after having spent the academic year studying in Jerusalem, my cousin and I stopped at my neighborhood bakery for some last minute bourekas. My cousin mentioned to the baker that I was returning home to New York that afternoon. The baker looked at me, puzzled. "Why?" she asked, "You are home." For the majority of my life, I had never felt a particular draw towards Israel. I was always an American Jew who understood Israel's importance to the Jewish people, but beyond that, it was a foreign land and not really my own. When the baker said this to me on my last day in the Holy Land, I chalked it up to the same Israeli sassiness I experienced when I cancelled my international cell phone coverage. "Why would you want to do that?" the Israeli customer service agent asked me over the phone with the same surprised tone as the baker. The first time I went to Israel on a Birthright trip I did marvel at the way in which the majority of those around me were Jewish. Not being in the minority was a new and surprisingly exciting feeling in that foreign, yet warmly familiar environment. Though I have always felt comfortable in Israel,

even after a year of steadfast patronage to my local boureka spot, I was still ready to go home to the life I knew on the other side of the world. Today, while I am still a diaspora Jew, the baker's response to my departure resonates with me differently now than it did ten years ago. Things have a way of becoming more important to us when our fragility is exposed. The aftermath of October 7th demonstrated not just the brutality and horrific mindset of the terrorists, but perhaps more importantly, it revealed the extent to which anti-Semitism is still frighteningly commonplace in the world. And while being critical of Israel is acceptable and not always anti-Semitic, hearing people brazenly shout "death to Jews" at pro-Palestine marches across the world is something I did not expect to experience in my lifetime. I guess I shouldn't be surprised, some things never change. But I have changed, and in this new era of bearing witness to the global prejudice that still exists, so has my relationship and sense of responsibility towards my homeland. I might not ever permanently live there, but the baker was right; Israel is my home. 🌈

Brotherhood Synagogue



Kislev / Tevet
December 2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:30 am: Tikvah DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET	27 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Bad Girls of the Bible	28 9:30 am: Toddlers I 10:30 am: Toddlers II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	29 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night	30 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11:15 am: Lunch & Learn 11:30 am: Babies 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II 6:30 pm: Union BBYO 7 pm: Town Hall	1 4:11 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 3 & under 6 pm: Pasta Shabbat 6:30 pm: Services	2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 4 pm: Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hendricks VAYISHLACH
3 9:30 am: Tikvah 10 am: Visit to the Hebrew Home in Riverdale	4 4 pm: Hebrew School	5 9:30 am: Toddlers I 10:30 am: Toddlers II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	6 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	7 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers III 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II	8 4:10 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Services	9 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Teddy Haymes 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club 9 pm: Big Band, Big Latkes, Lots'a Vodka
DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET	CHANUKAH STORE			EREV CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH	VAYESHEV
10 9:30 am: Tikvah 11 am: Chanukah Party & Concert for Kids CHANUKAH	11 4 pm: Hebrew School CHANUKAH	12 9:30 am: Toddlers I 10:30 am: Toddlers II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2 7 pm: Board Meeting	13 7:30 am: Minyan 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:30 pm: Menorah Lighting in Gramercy Park 6:30: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	14 9:30 am: Pretoddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 11:30 am: Babies 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 3:10 pm: Thursday Corner I 4:20 pm: Thursday Corner II 6 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> 6:30 pm: Union BBYO	15 4:11 pm: Candles 3 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 3 & under 5:30 pm: Family Friday Service Grades K-6 6:30 pm: Services 7:30 pm: Hebrew School 7th Grade Shabbat Dinner	16 ☆ 9:30 am: Services
DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET		CHANUKAH	ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH	CHANUKAH	MIKEITZ
17 9:30 am: Tikvah	18 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:45 pm: <i>Life Goes On</i> Book Club	19 9:30 am: Toddlers I 10:30 am: Toddlers II 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6 pm: Harmoni-AH! 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2	20 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Class & Game Night	21 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn 7 pm: Brotherhood Book Club	22 4:14 pm: Candles 6:30 pm: Services	23 ☆ 9:30 am: Services
DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET			DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET		VAYIGASH	VAYIGASH
24	25	26 5:40 pm: Minyan	27	28	29 6:30 pm: Services	30 9:30 am: Services
DECEMBER DRIVE FOR BACKPACKS FOR THE STREET						VAYECHI
31						



Knowledge for College

We had a terrific panel of students from CUNY/Baruch speak to our community about Antisemitism on Campus on Sunday, November 12 in our first *Knowledge for College* event of the year. Thank you Gloria Zimmerman, second from right, for all of your efforts putting our panel together and to the rest of the Antisemitism Task Force (ASTF). A huge thank you again to Dominick Porto and the Naftali Foundation for making this and other ASTF programming possible. If you are interested in joining ASTF and helping with future programs, please [email Roberta](#).



Brotherhood's Knitting Group is off and knitting! If you're interested in joining our group of knitters/crocheters or learning how to knit on Friday afternoons at 4pm, please email [Cindy](#) or [Roberta](#).