



Brotherhood Synagogue בית

28 Gramercy Park South
New York, NY 10003
Phone (212) 674-5750 Fax (212) 505-6707
www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org

Volume XLIV Number V

Shevat / Adar I 5784 February 2024

The Hostages

by Rabbi Daniel Alder

For the past several months, I have joined others from our synagogue and the downtown Jewish community in marching on behalf of the hostages being held in Gaza. Every Saturday afternoon at 2 pm we meet outside the NYU Bronfman Center, 7 East 10th Street, for an hour-long peaceful walk around Washington Square Park and Union Square. We carry signs bearing the names and images of individual hostages that have endured a hellish existence since October 7th. We don't respond to the occasional anti-Israel comment and we receive thanks from some passersby for keeping the plight of the hostages foremost in our thoughts.

Israel was created with a double identity, Jewish and democratic. That duality is mirrored by Israel's twin missions: to guarantee security to her citizens and to sanctify their lives. The IDF, accordingly, sent commandoes to rescue the hostages at Entebbe in 1976 and, five years later, fighter jets to blow up the Iraqi nuclear reactor. The same Israel that launched a pre-emptive strike against gathering Arab armies in 1967 airlifted Ethiopian Jews in the 1980s and 90s. For 75 years, Israel succeeded in pursuing both of its founding goals: safeguarding the land as well as its people.

On October 7th Zionism failed to keep its promise to the Jewish people. Hamas butchered, burnt, and raped 1,200 Israelis and took hundreds hostage while others cowered in shelters waiting over 20 hours before help came. Those first responders had to see things that they had only seen before in documentaries about the Holocaust. There is a tremendous sense of failure that now pervades Israel. The war is proving to be brutal, long, and not clearly winnable. Yet Israel has a fundamental need to get every hostage back while also establishing deterrence and returning more than 200,000 displaced Israelis to their homes.

This is Israel's present nightmarish dilemma. Israel must convince Iran and its proxies never to attack again and persuade additional Arab countries to make peace with an indomitable Jewish state. At the same time,

Israel has responsibilities to the hostages and their families and the soldiers dying in an attempt to redeem those captives. Either we accept an Israel that may well be rendered defenseless (Hamas being the least powerful of Iran's proxies) or an Israel that its citizens may no longer be eager to defend (by abandoning those held hostage).

There is a lot that we don't know, and this is not only because we are not privy to so much information. There is a lot the leaders of Israel's government and military also don't know about how things will turn out. But it is clear that Israel must win this war to reestablish deterrence against its enemies and strength for its would-be allies. We also need to hold in our hearts the suffering of the civilians in Gaza and the wreck that is Gaza now and following the war. So much is at stake and the hostages are a microcosm of the dilemmas that Israel faces.

At the conclusion of the Shabbat walk on behalf of the hostages, we gather just below Union Square to sing Hatikvah but first we offer a traditional prayer that has become the anthem of the hostages. It begins with the word "Acheinu" — "Our brothers": "As for our brothers, the whole house of Israel... May the

Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 6:30 PM
Guest Speaker: Ruth Messenger
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6:30 PM
70th Anniversary Speaker: Laura Ward
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Max Bijaoui

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 9:30 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 6:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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

Holy One be merciful to our fellow Jews who wander over sea and land, who suffer oppression and imprisonment. May God soon bring them relief from distress and deliver them from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption. And let us say: Amen." 

Brotherhood's 70th Anniversary

Please join us at these programs in February and beyond in celebration of our 70th anniversary:

Speaker at Services Series

Friday, February 9, 6:30 pm

Judge Laura Ward —
our first bat mitzvah!

March 1 | **Phil Rothman** on his early years at Brotherhood

April 5 | **Bob Wolf** on standing on the non-member Line for High Holiday Services

May 3 | **Sara Rothman** on growing up at Brotherhood starting with Shabbat Corner

More to come in the Fall!

Torah Project

Wednesday, February 7
5:15-6:00 pm

Visits from the Sofer: Zerach Greenfield

[Read here](#) about the new Sefer Torah being written for us in celebration of our 70th anniversary and how you can participate in the mitzvah.



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.

On **Wednesday, February 28 at 2pm**, the director of the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College (1 West 4th Street) will lead us on a private tour of their current exhibit, "Frank Stella: Had Gadya," and their upcoming exhibit "Haggadot: Old and New;" we will also visit their beautiful Chapel following the tour. **Please contact Paula Yeghiayan at pyeghiap1@gmail.com** if you would like to join us. The cost of the tour is \$20 per person which represents a donation from our group to the College. We will meet before the tour at noon to have lunch together; details will follow to tour participants. Many thanks to Gaby Kende for arranging the outing for our group and to Paula for keeping track of our tour participants and payments.

On **Wednesday, March 13 at 2pm**, our group will have the extraordinary opportunity to visit the Archives of New York City's Public Design Commission! All construction and art that is erected on public land in our city has to be examined and approved by the Public Design Commission. We will be guided through some of the extraordinary public art and architecture projects of New York City by its senior archivist. Our group is limited to 15 people, so **please contact Agnes** right away if you would like to attend. Lunch together will precede the tour with details to be sent to participants.

In April, we will celebrate spring by touring either Central Park's cherry blossoms or the Habitat Garden on the Hudson River—or perhaps both! Details as we get closer...

On **Wednesday, May 15 at noon**, LGO members will tour Gracie Mansion—with thanks to Ruth Grossman for organizing the outing! We are limited to 30 attendees, at the cost of \$10 voluntary donation per person. Further details will follow, as we get closer to the date.

Our members will be advised of the **February LGO Book Club** date and our book selection as soon as it is available. 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**—we can not reserve Professor Birns' time without a sufficient number of participants.

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

RUTH MESSINGER

Speaker at Services:

"Immigration: New York City's Challenge and Opportunity"

Friday February 2, 6:30 pm

We are honored that Ruth Messinger will return as guest speaker for Refugee Shabbat on February 2. Her topic will be "Immigration: New York City's Challenge and Opportunity." Ruth will speak about the current state of immigration within the context of NYC's history of immigration, including important information about what is really happening with the arrivals of immigrants and asylum-seekers and about policies such as the 60-day rule that will evict families from shelters and force children to change schools mid-year. Her advocacy in favor of more supportive policies for immigrants and asylum-seekers and her activism in organizing volunteers to offer support through Team TLC's *Little Shop of Kindness* will inspire us to better understand and take action based on the Jewish value of welcoming the stranger.

Ruth W. Messinger is the Global Ambassador for American Jewish World Service, an international human rights organization which she ran from 1998-2016. Additionally she does social justice work at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Meyerson JCC of

Manhattan, and is the instructor/facilitator for Jewish women social justice entrepreneurs selected by the Jewish Women's Foundation of New York. For more than a year, she has been a volunteer for Team TLC, welcoming our newest New Yorkers, helping set up the *Little Shop of Kindness* and joining with others to find a new location when its free clothing shop was flooded.

A trained social worker, Ruth previously had a twenty-year career in elected office in NYC. She serves on several boards including the Interfaith Center of NY, and is a 50+ year member of SAJ-Judaism that Stands for All, the original Reconstructionist synagogue. She recently celebrated her second Bat Mitzvah, and was honored by the *NY Times* as one of "Six New Yorkers Who Made the City a Better, Cooler, Fairer Place in 2023" She is married to an educator and has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.

Sponsored by BCRIC (The Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis)



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

Brotherhood Synagogue will be joining hundreds of synagogues and other Jewish organizations around the country in celebrating HIAS Refugee Shabbat on the weekend of February 2-4. We are honored that Ruth Messinger will return as our guest speaker at Friday evening services on February 2. We expect that, one again, Ruth will inspire us to better understand the intricacy of NYC's response to migrants and to take action based on the Jewish value of welcoming the stranger. Following services, there will be an opportunity to chat with Ruth and ask questions during the Oneg. For more information, see the information above.

BCRIC's partnership with East End Temple and Middle Collegiate Church is

expanding as we discover new ways that we can support New New Yorker (migrant) families from Children's Workshop School. On January 28, we held our second dinner. Brotherhood's role at the dinners is to organize arts and crafts activities for children, provide Metro cards, and bring desserts. Brotherhood volunteers also join congregants from the other two partners in chatting with families and serving food. In response to expressed needs of some of the families, we are also exploring ways to work as a "welcome circle," providing support and accompaniment for challenges such as going to medical appointments. We welcome new volunteers and donors. For more information, contact Barbara Stern at blee50@verizon.net.

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. (*This play is intended for preteens and above*).

Bagels and coffee to follow.

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

[RSVP HERE](#)

BROTHERHOOD FILM SERIES

Sponsored by the Special Events Committee

Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 pm

THE CONSPIRACY

(2022 | 90 minutes)

Q&A after the screening with Director Maxim Pozdorovkin



Please join us in the sanctuary at Brotherhood on Wednesday evening February 7 at 7:00 pm for a screening of *The Conspiracy*, the first film of the 2024 Brotherhood Film Series.

This startling animated documentary addresses the biggest lie ever told: Jews are plotting to take over the world. A host of talented voice actors including *Mayim Bialik*, *Liev Schreiber*, *Jason Alexander*, and *Ben Shenkman* connect the dots of hate and fear, through the story of three families—the Dreyfuses, Warburgs, and Bronsteins.

This film is also a must see for any teenagers interested in animation techniques or the history of these families. We're excited to make the screening **free to anyone in middle or high school**. (*The film is intended for teens and above*).

TICKETS: \$10 | TEENS: FREE

[Purchase tickets in advance here](#) or pay at the door.

WINTER 2024 ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Songs of the Soul: Jewish Religious Poetry from Medieval Spain

Mondays, February 26, March 4, 11, 18
@ 7:00 pm | on ZOOM
with Elisha Russ-Fishbane

What is the place of personal spiritual experience within the context of communal prayer? How does Jewish worship balance the collective voice of Israel and the individual religious quest? This class explores these questions through the lens of the rich tradition of Sephardic spiritual poetry from medieval al-Andalus (Muslim Spain). Join us as Professor Elisha Russ-Fishbane of NYU gives us a guided tour of this literary heritage, focusing on the emergence of personal and contemplative religious poetry among the Jews of medieval Spain. We will read and reflect on the poetry, using English translations but with reference to the Hebrew original.



Elisha Russ-Fishbane, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, is a historian of Jewish culture in the medieval Islamic world and a scholar of medieval Jewish thought, law, and literature.

[Register here](#)

Kindly consider a donation of \$36 or more to help cover the cost of this no-fee class and other programs brought to you by Brotherhood Adult Education.

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

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

Everyone is 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.



Beginning Conversational Hebrew

LEVEL 2 | Instructor: Orly Farhi-Haley

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 & March 5, 12, 19, 26
In person at Brotherhood



Some previous knowledge of Hebrew is required as this is Level 2 of Beginners Hebrew.

Our Israeli method of teaching is for all Hebrew language skills: speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing.

Cost: \$75 Members | \$100 Non-Members

[Register here](#)

Happenings in Our Kehilah

B'nai Mitzvah, Mazal Tov to:

Michael Bijaoui and **Sara Gubins** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Max Bijaoui**. Max, a student at the Quad Preparatory School, will celebrate his simcha with his older brother, **Benjamin**; and to Max's grandparents, **Samuel** and **Eleanor Gubins**; and to Max's aunt, **Tamar Gubins**.

Births, Mazal Tov to:

Kim and **Raph Osnoss** on the birth of their daughter, **Naomi Lake Osnoss**; and to older brothers, **Sam** and **Ben**.

Condolences to:

Tobey Hartman on the passing of her mother, **Cecile Hartman**.

Andrey Tsetlin on the passing of his brother, **Misha Tsetlin**.

Norman Borden on the passing of his brother, **Lester Borden**.

Shabbat Club

Saturday, February 3, 12:30 pm

Topic: "Free Speech vs. Hate Speech on Our College Campuses: Where Do We Draw the Line?"

Bob Wolf, long-time congregant and a practicing lawyer, will lead a discussion on the current tension in our society between free speech and hate speech. In particular, this tension has come to the fore on our college campuses in connection with the protests and rallies in reaction to the Israeli-Hamas war. We will explore to what extent the principle of free speech on a college campus should yield to restrictions on what is deemed hateful rhetoric.

All are welcome to attend in the second floor reception room. Refreshments will be available. Please contact [Deborah Newman](#) with ideas for future meetings.

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD! The need for blood is constant for accident victims, cancer patients, and even newborn babies.

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

President's Post by Seth Hulkower



A glance at the calendar on the last page of this bulletin always reminds me of the level of activity and engagement in our congregation and this month I'm focusing on a few of the committees and people who make these things happen. As you read about these upcoming programs, I also invite you to think about getting involved with these committees to help plan future programs and make them a success.

Torah Project – 70th Anniversary Special Events Committee

On **February 7 at 5:15 pm**, Zerach Greenfield, a *sofer*, will first be speaking about the project of writing a new Torah for our congregation. Rabbi Alder has written movingly of the significance of this once-in-a-generation project that we have undertaken, and you will have the opportunity to hear from Rabbi Greenfield himself as he talks about the work of lettering a Torah. Later in the year, members will have the chance to share in the writing of our Torah. That is an event which stays with you for a lifetime—I remember doing this at my parent's synagogue when I was a teenager. This event is being organized by the Special Events Committee, which is co-chaired by Debra Aaron and Susan Halper.

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis

On **Friday, February 2** Ruth Messinger will be the speaker at Shabbat services. Her topic will be "Immigration: New York City's Challenge and Opportunity." As a trained social worker, former Manhattan Boro President, and former President and CEO of the American Jewish World Service, Ms. Messinger is uniquely qualified to speak on this pressing issue. This program is sponsored by the Brotherhood Committee on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis, which is chaired by Barbara Stern.

Project Cicero Book Drive Social Action Committee

The month of **February** is dedicated to collecting books for Project Cicero. The project collects new and gently used books for children

and young adults through book drives and Brotherhood Synagogue has participated for over fifteen years. The books collected go to under-resourced public schools throughout New York City. Please look through your bookshelves with your children to find some books that you can part with and bring them to Brotherhood where there will be a donation bin. This event is being organized by the Social Action Committee, which is co-chaired by Beth Barry, Abby Goldstein, and Helaine Teperman.

Letters from Anne and Martin Racial Justice, Social Action, and Interfaith Committees

On **Sunday, February 4 at 11:00am** the Racial Justice, Social Action and Interfaith Committees, in collaboration with the Anne Frank Center, will be co-sponsoring a special performance stage play. The play combines the voices of Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr. using excerpts from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and is intended for adults and young people. The Racial Justice committee is co-chaired by Beth Barry and Helaine Teperman. The Interfaith Committee is co-chaired by Jeffrey Ross, Ellie Wertheim, and Bob Wolf.

Passover Food Drive Social Action Committee

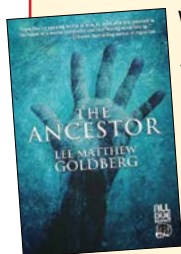
In **April** the Social Action Committee will be working with City Harvest to run a food drive for Passover. In addition to donations brought to the synagogue, volunteers will be needed to help sort through and then pack the donations. Keep an eye on the weekly email announcements for more details as this develops.

This is a small sampling of upcoming activities at Brotherhood and the people who help make our synagogue a vibrant and exciting place. Please join us for these programs. I hope you'll see some committees and projects that draw your interest and that you'll get involved with them. You can connect with the committee members at the events, by contacting the [office](#), or via email on the [Program Committees](#) web page.

Warmly, Seth Hulkower

Brotherhood Book Club

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 pm



We will discuss *The Ancestor* by Lee Matthew Goldberg. The author will be present at the meeting and will lead the discussion. Lee is the son of Brotherhood member, Sue Goldberg.

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

The Chesed* Committee WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

Our volunteers can assist members in getting to and from their doctors' appointments safely. In addition, if you're hospitalized or in a rehabilitation facility and you would like to receive visits, telephone calls or otherwise need help, please let the office know. You can reach us at chesed@brotherhoodsynagogue.org or call the Synagogue office, 212 674-5750.

*The Chesed Committee provides help and compassion to Brotherhood members in times of need.

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS



Are you caring for a friend or loved one with an illness? Are you in need of support, understanding, and companionship on your caregiving journey?

Give yourself the gift of support and understanding. Let's navigate this path of caregiving together.

We are here to support you.

This group provides a safe and non-judgmental space where caregivers can come together to share their experiences, learn from one another, and find solace in the company of like-minded individuals sharing similar experiences.

Starting Early Spring 2024!

This group will be held over Zoom, weekly for 12 weeks.

For more information or to register, please contact JCSsupport@jbcfs.org or call 212-632-4790.

In partnership with Vaad Refuah




Social Action News

During the month of February we are collecting new and gently used books appropriate for kindergarten-high school age children for **Project Cicero**, a non-profit organization which provides books to under resourced NYC schools. The Project Cicero mission is to enable children to build a love for reading by ensuring that each classroom has a viable library.


Kindly bring your new or gently used hardcover or paperback books suitable for children and young adults to the collection box in the lobby.

Picture books, early readers, reference books, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies are welcome.

Please NO textbooks, library discards, or reference books more than five years old.

High school aged students may fulfill school community service requirements by volunteering to help with this project.

For more information, contact Linda Yee Kaleko through the synagogue office.



Volunteer for PROJECT CICERO

Sunday, March 10, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Social Action Committee is organizing a group to volunteer with Project Cicero to help sort and distribute books on Sunday, March 10. **Minimum age for volunteers is 6th grade—sorry no younger children allowed.** Please [REGISTER HERE](#) if you would like to volunteer as part of the Brotherhood group from 10-11 am, 11am-12 pm or for the full two hours. Volunteering takes place at 601 West 26 Street (the Starrett-Lehigh Building between 11th and 12th Avenues).

February 3-9

Helen Belle Aaronson*, Steven Mark Berkowitz*, Harriet Bernstein, Joel Bernstein, Lilian Blye*, Sara Borochoy, Lillian Cantor*, Solomon Cohen*, Yetta Dienstag*, Sarah Eisenberg, Carole Epstein, Stanley J. Esratz, Emanuel Evans, Joan Norma Farrell*, Aaron Fassler*, Sarah Lerner Feldman*, Charles Fell, Eva Glimcher, Charlotte Grabisch, Morris Greene*, Felicia Greene*, Harry Gross*, Kurt Natan Grubler, Nelly Guggenheim, Klara Halpern, Selma Hochhauser*, Alan Jordan, Richard Stuart Karasik*, Marc Lashley*, Cary Leeds, Samuel Lubell*, Mr. David Mitchell Manischewitz*, David Miller, Max Miller, Sara Miller*, Gerald Moore, Jeanne C. Moskowitz*, Bessie Potell, Beverly Frank Rosen, Benjamin Rosenberg*, Rebecca Rubinoff*, Alice Rubinstein*, Ina Safran*, Marilyn Shapiro, Albert Shear*, Hannah Schwartz Shemtov, Tessie Sklar, Daniel Lev Stacher, Emma Stahl*, Ethel Statsinger*, Calvert Stein, Sylvia Tint*, Judd A Weinberg, Esther Wolf, Morris Zelmanowicz*

February 10-16

Paul Abramson, Nathan Barry, Stan Berger, Chaim Berglas~*, Mel Berk, Celia Berkowitz*, Claire Manischewitz Bernstein, Jack Blum*, Benjamin Braff, Mae Caplan*, Linda Chernick, Harry L. Cohen*, Rosalind Nadelstein Donziger, Anna Eidelberg*, Myrtle Feinsilber, David Fox*, Evelyn Fox*, Eleanor Gimán, Sally F. Gold*, Morris Goldstein*, Paul Goldstein*, Helen Green*, Henry Greenbaum*, Felicia Cooper Grubler, Dora Haber, Ethel Haber*, Max Hamburger*, Jane Deborah Hansen*, Beatrice Harper, Shirley Helfant, Benjamin Janow*, Sandra Jelin Plouffe*, Hannah Kirshbaum*, Joan Cummings Koven*, Stanley Lennard, Judith Levenstein*, Anna Levins, Abraham Lewinstein*, Dr. Paul Pincus Lippman*, Frances Mann*, Morton Harrison, Maxwell Herbert Mindlin, Bob Moran, Katie Naftalis*, Ilse Nussbaum, Peter Philipps, Sadie Primack, George W. Rabinoff*, Gerald Charles, Randolph Lee, Avram Rapapport*, Carole Reiff*, Jeanne Richman*,

YAHREZEITS

^Garden of Remembrance *Book of Remembrance

Daniel Riemer*, Murray Rockower, Aaron Rosenbloom, David Ross, Irving Roth, Dorothy Rubin, Cynthia Scheffris, Dr. Louis Scheib, Frieda Schindel*, Ruth Sherman, Jack Silverman*, Evelyn Singer*, Alvin Slone*, Jeanette Spira, Judge Sidney Squire, William Stutzel*, David Sussman, Susan Tabor, Shirley Warren, Florence Yarkow, Bessie Zacks*, Paula Zweibach*

February 17-23

Altagracia Alvarez, Gussie Bardack*, Paula Berenstein, Lauretta Berkman, Herbert Blye*, Herb Carp, Rita Cohen, Rose Cohen*, Mildred M. Cohen*, Selim Eliahu Cohen*, Frances Cohen*, Mildred M. Cohen*, Alice Feldschreiber Dick*, Arlene Ellant, David Frommer, Anne Goldsmith*, Mary J. Goldstein*, Rachel Greenhouse^*, Sid Grossman, Marl Hendel*, Lillian Hoffman*, Jack Hollander*, Jack Janal*, David Janow*, Hyman Kampel, Sydelle Karasyk, J. Lawrence Katz, Rosalind Kaufman, Ilene Korach, Fred "Gedalya" Krupnik*, Victor Kuhne*, A. Harry Kupersmith*, Jerome Lande*, Michael Lasser*, Abe Lebewohl^*, Rose Levine*, Anna Jelosnik Levine*, Rose Levine*, Harold Abraham Levine*, Pearl Memling, Robert Mines, Hyman Nemser*, M.E. Reckson*, Seymour Rokito, Tillie Rosenbaum*, Elizabeth Rossman^*, Catharine Roth*, Sydney Schulman, Rae Shulman, Dorothy Silverman, Louis H. Solomon*, Sidney Meyer Spielvogel, Abraham Straus, Kate Taormina*, Mr. Bernard Trocker*, Mr. Bernard Trocker*, Clara Tucker*, Lillian Turteltaub*, Fannie Weisman*, Emanuel Weissler, William Werner*, Margo Wolff*

February 24-March 1

Sylvia Alpren*, Shirley Barkan, Morris Bernstein*, Solomon Bersoff, Martin Brown, Fredrick Bryan, Lillian Burack, Benjamin Cohen, Irvin Cohen, Rebecca Davis Flather, George Evans, Marta Bermann Falkenstein*,

Burton Farland*, Benjamin Feinsilber, Michael Irwin Fenner*, Sam Friedes, Edward Friedman*, Irene Friedman*, Morton Globus*, Vivian Goldreich*, Sadie Goldwasser*, George Gostin, Ross Gottlieb, Beth Greenhouse*, Taube bat Ha Levi, Jenniel Harrison, Anne Altman Herbst*, Sonia Himmell*, Mildred Kaminer, Leo Kaye*, Alex Knopf*, Fannie (Phillips) Kurland*, Isaac Lazoff*, Sol Marks*, Louis H. Martus*, Dr. I.J. Mayo*, Harry Mesibov*, Jack Muskat*, Bertha Naftalis*, Sam Olken, Philip Paone*, Rose Patiky*, Mr. Ronald Ragovin, Theresa Rogoff, Mr. Max Rosenbach, Andrew Rothstein, Sam Rothstein*, Charlotte Rubin, Ella Sandler*, Ida Schiffman, Isidore Schneider*, Jacob Schwartzberg, Irving Silberstang*, Jacob L. Slotnick*, Dixie Spielberger, Meyer Steinberg*, Isadore Tevelow*, Simon Toby*, Abe Jay Treu*, Harriet Van Blerkom, Mr. David Waldman, Florence Ward*, Louis Warmbrand*, Hyman Werner*, Pauline Werner*, Benjamin Wine

The Brotherhood Synagogue

28 Gramercy Park South, New York, N.Y. 10003
Phone: (212) 674-5750 | Fax: (212) 505-6707
www.brotherhoodsynagogue.org



RABBI DANIEL ALDER
CANTOR ISAAC YAGER

RABBI IRVING J. BLOCK²¹ 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

by Tess Neider, Hebrew School Principal

I am thrilled to be back from leave and am so happy to be in the office again. There are some amazing events and programs lined up over the next few months of Hebrew School and we are excited to share them with you!

Here are a few highlights to look forward to. We hope everyone will save the dates to join us!!

Look out for students selling chocolate for the annual Passover Candy Sale.

We will be having a weekly Teen Volunteer Night for the synagogue Homeless Shelter.

We will be hosting the Book Fair from February 26th to February 29th. Stop by to purchase a book and bring a book to donate to Project Cicero as well.

March 23rd is the Purim Carnival. Truly one of the most fun and festive events we host each year. Get your costumes ready!

New this year we will be having an Interfaith Teen Seder on April 8th.

May 15th and 16th will be the two performances of the Hebrew School Musical. This year the production will be the Sound of Music. Playbill ads and tickets will be available soon.

If you or your student are interested in volunteering for or participating in any of these events please reach out!

Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program

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

Featuring Prof. Howard Lupovitch

Please visit occsp.net/current-online-events/ for a full list of courses being offered this month and to register.

Jews on the Silver Screen

February 6, 13, 20 & 27 | 1:00pm

2/6: Dumbing Down Literature:
The Chosen as Novel and Movie

2/13: Spielberg before Schindler:
How Jewish?

2/20: Jewish Women in Movies

2/30: Visible and Invisible Jewishness



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

Shabbat Shalom



Friday Family Shabbat Dates 2024

February 9th

March 8th

April 12th

May 17th

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

SHABBAT DINNER

for 5th and 6th grades following family services

February 9, 7:30 pm

[Register here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TEENS

MONDAY NIGHTS
HOMELESS SHELTER

2/4 LETTERS FROM ANNE AND
MARTIN

2/7 CONSPIRACY FILM
SCREENING

3/24 PURIM CARNIVAL

4/8 TEEN INTERFAITH SEDER

ONGOING PROGRAM:
WORK OR VOLUNTEER IN
THE HEBREW SCHOOL
BBYO

Nursery School Thoughts: Keeping My Faith Alive

by Nicole Mandel

The night our son, Henry, was born my husband started applying to New York City synagogues. We wanted to send Henry to nursery school at a synagogue primarily to encourage us to actively participate in Jewish traditions and instill Jewish values in our son. Given everything we had heard about the New York City preschool application process we felt a sense of urgency. Luckily, we discovered a quaint, welcoming synagogue right in our new neighborhood.

Our experience with Brotherhood Synagogue began with Saskia's toddler class. Henry immediately took to the music and especially the Challah! We submitted Henry's application for the 2023/2024 Yellow Room in November and anxiously awaited to hear back in March. We were elated upon Henry's acceptance and Andrew walked the check over that day! We were looking forward to meeting new families and for Henry to begin his education.

As the school year unfolded our family was participating in events at the synagogue and celebrating Shabbat. Henry started to learn the prayers and Jewish songs I had sung as a child. I was excited that we were on our way to establishing more religion in our lives.

Then the terrorist attack in Israel on October 7th happened and life as a Jew changed. I felt immense sadness, fear and, perhaps oddly, prouder to be Jewish than ever before. I felt proud because I know Jews are incredibly resilient and against all odds will continue to prevail.

As the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, I was raised to know the importance of keeping Jewish traditions alive and passing them on to the next generation. That it was a small way to honor those that did not survive. After October 7th I felt this obligation in a new way—from a personal place of outrage at what happened and resistance to those that sought to destroy the Jewish homeland. It was no longer just about honoring those that died in the Holocaust, but about what I could do to ensure Judaism's survival.

After the attack, Jews across the world united in grief, and also in our commitment to survive as our ancestors had throughout history. In our community here in New York, many of us attended shabbat with our children, donated to support the IDF and victims of the terrorist attack, rallied in Washington DC, amongst countless other initiatives.

Despite the threats and my fear, I sent Henry to school. I reached out to other parents and felt comforted to know they were feeling the same way. I am eternally grateful for the nursery school staff and teachers for their courage to show up with a smile; and teach my child with no indication that the world as we knew it was no longer the same.

Andrew and I started the school year optimistic we'd meet nice people and practice Judaism more as a family. While only halfway through our first year, I am happy to say we got that and so much more. I feel a sense of security in our school community unlike what I presume I'd experience in a secular school in this atmosphere. I also have confidence in the quality of education—not just academic—but that he is learning Jewish values, especially resilience.

While Henry does not know about the terrorist attack and subsequent explosion of antisemitism, he does see examples of Jewish resilience both in school and at home. This may not have been the lesson I expected him to learn so early on in his life, but I am thankful that we are navigating this complicated time with a like-minded and supportive community. 🌈

♪ Cantor's Notes ♪

by Cantor Isaac Yager

My twelfth floor bedroom window is situated between two major hospitals and offers a clear view of First Avenue, the East River, and the medical examiner's office. It's an unusual perspective, simultaneously providing incredible sunrises and constant flashing lights from emergency vehicles. One of the most stirring views takes place whenever a police officer or firefighter dies in the line of duty. Their colleagues line up in uniform along the street as an ambulance delivers the departed to the coroner's office. It's a sobering vantage point, filled with natural beauty and tender human interaction. Given this diversity, it seems fitting that several hundred people would organize a Free Palestine protest march up First Avenue directly in front of my window. The protestors held a Palestinian flag approximately the size of a semi-truck as they made their way up towards the UN. My one-and-half-year-old son, perched above the windowsill, giggled at the commotion below. There were signs that read "Stop the Genocide" and "Genocide Joe Has Got To Go," as well as my personal favorite, "NYC Workers for Palestine" which included an image of the

Palestinian flag and the Communist hammer and sickle together; a pretty random combo if you ask me. And even from high above, my wife was able to spot some familiar attire in the red, white, and green mass. The black hats of the Neturei Karta sect were unmistakably present, no doubt offering a confusing photo opportunity for unknowledgeable spectators.

The protest leader walked backwards in front of the group with a microphone, shouting indiscernible taglines in a call and response with her cohorts. Even though it was hard to make out what they were saying, we got the point. It feels very New York to have this type of view, one that offers the variety of the Fourth of July fireworks and a peaceful mob calling for the not-so-subtle abolishment of our homeland. And while I internally seethe as I witness the en masse cluelessness on display one hundred feet from where I sleep, I'm grateful that we live in a country where this type of objection can be exercised freely and openly. Ironically, the protestors would be less likely to have the same privileges in the land they are so committed to free. 🌈



for Young Children*

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

Friday, February 2 & 16

5:30-6:00 pm

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

at Brotherhood

*** For children 5 and under.
Older sibs welcome!**

If you are receiving a printed copy of the Monthly Bulletin, PLEASE RECONSIDER!!

You can help Brotherhood save on printing and postage costs by unsubscribing from the printed bulletin and reading it online. **The online edition is even better than the printed version! It contains live links to things that may be of interest to you.** Please call 212.674.5750 or email Manda to unsubscribe.

Brotherhood Synagogue



Shevat / Adar I
February 2024

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

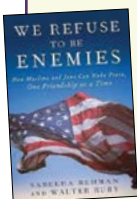
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 28 9 am: Tikvah | 29 4 pm: Hebrew School | 30 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2 | 31 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night | 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 | 2 4:57 pm: Candles 2 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 5 & under 6:30 pm: Services HIAS Refugee Shabbat Speaker: Ruth Messinger | 3 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club |
| | | | | PROJECT CICERO | | YITRO |
| 4 9 am: Tikvah 11 am: Letters from Anne and Martin | 5 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: What Happens Next? Jewish Philosophers on Life after Death | 6 9:30 am: Toddlers 10:30 am: Toddlers 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2 | 7 4 pm: Hebrew School 5:15 pm: Sefer Torah Launch with Zerach Greenfield 6:30 pm: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night 7 pm: Film - Conspiracy | 8 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 | 9 5:05 pm: Candles 2 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Services-Speaker: Laura Ward 7:30 pm: 5th & 6th Grade Shabbat Dinner | 10 ☆ 9:30 am: Services Bar Mitzvah of Max Bijaoui |
| PROJECT CICERO | | | | | ROSH CHODESH | ROSH CHODESH MISHPATIM |
| 11 9 am: Tikvah | 12 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: What Happens Next? Jewish Philosophers on Life after Death | 13 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 | 14 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night | 15 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 | 16 5:14 pm: Candles 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 5 & under 6:30 pm: Services | 17 9:30 am: Services 12:30 pm: Shabbat Club |
| PROJECT CICERO | | | | | | TERUMAH |
| 18 | 19 PRESIDENTS DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 20 5:40 pm: Minyan 6:30 pm: Conversational Hebrew Level 2 | 21 6:30 pm: Conversion Class 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night | 22 12:30 pm: Lunch & Learn | 23 5:22 pm: Candles 2 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 6:30 pm: Services | 24 9:30 am: Services |
| PROJECT CICERO | | | | | | TETZAVEH |
| 25 9 am: Tikvah | 26 4 pm: Hebrew School 7 pm: Songs of the Soul | 27 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: Brotherhood Book Club | 28 2 pm: Life Goes On 4 pm: Hebrew School 6:30 pm: Mah Jongg Game Night | 29 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 | 1 5:30 pm: Candles 2 pm: Tikvah 4 pm: Knitting Circle 5:30 pm: Family Shabbat for Children 5 & under 6:30 pm: Services-Speaker: Phil Rothman | 2 ☆ 9:30 am: Services 5:30 pm: Services Bar Mitzvah of Eli Korpus |
| PROJECT CICERO | | BOOK FAIR | | | | KITISA |

SHABBATON DINNER | FRIDAY, MARCH 8

SAVE THE DATE

We Refuse To Be Enemies:
How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace,
One Friendship at a Time

A conversation with Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby



Concerned with the rise of intolerance and bigotry in our country, Rehman and Ruby have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among the Muslim and Jewish communities. They have learned that through face-to-face encounters people of all backgrounds can come to know the Other as a fellow human being and turn her or him into a trusted friend. In their co-authored book, *We Refuse to Be Enemies*, they share their vision for reconciliation, offering concrete principles for building an alliance in support of religious freedom and human rights.

PLAY MAH JONGG!!

We are adding another Beginners Mah Jongg class!

Janet Heller will teach an evening class on
Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10
6:30 to 8:30 pm

Cost \$90

Register here

MAH JONGG GAME NIGHTS

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Cost per session: \$11

payable **IN CASH AT THE DOOR** | All levels welcome!**
To join a game, please email Janet: jheller711@gmail.com