



CONGREGATION
SHEARITH ISRAEL
YOUR INTOWN SYNAGOGUE

2023 Sisterhood Shabbat

JANUARY 21, 2023

28 Tevet 5783

PARASHAT

VA'ERA:

"And I appeared."

Today we celebrate the women of Shearith Israel and the many ways that Sisterhood appears and enriches our community, both in and outside the walls of the synagogue.

Yasher Koach to the more than 65 women and girls appearing in today's service — some performing that role for the very first time.
Shabbat Shalom!

SHEARITH ISRAEL
SISTERHOOD

2023 Sisterhood Shabbat♥

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT 2023 CO-CHAIRS

Erin Chernow
Jaime Sherman Wender

GREETERS

Laurel Brodkorb
Pia Koslow Frank
Jen Heller
Joanna Kobylivker
Lindy Miller
Boni Powell
Sarah Silverman

THE ONLY MEN ON THE BIMAH

Rabbi Ari Kaiman
Rabbi David Helfand

SHAMASH

Robin Rosen

PSUKEI D'ZIMRA

Rebekah Johnston

SHACHARIT

Betsy Stein

TORAH SERVICE/PROCESSIONAL

Heidi Einhorn

OPEN/CLOSE THE ARK

Sara Duke
Robin Rosenberg

REMOVE TORAH FROM ARK

Pia Koslow Frank

INTRODUCING TODAY'S TORAH PORTION: VA'ERA

*Written and Directed by
Erin Chernow & Jaime Sherman Wender*

Amalia Kaiman
Ellie Kaiman
Maayan Kaiman
Kol Salzberg
Liora Silverman

GABBAI RISHON

Renée Stein

GABBAI SHEINI

Nancy Seifert Gorod

ALIYOT

- 1 • Michele Marill *Bat Kohain*
 - 2 • Shoshana Siegel *Bat Levi*
 - 3 • Esther Graff-Radford
 - 4 • Tina Arbes
 - 5 • Katie Greene
 - 6 • Annette Hazan
 - 7 • Chidera Etoumbe
- Maftir* • Amy Trotz

TORAH READERS

- 1 • Sarah Popowski
 - 2 • Martha Berlin
 - 3 • Jenna Chaiken
 - 4 • Rebecca Kolesky
 - 5 • Ghila Sanders
 - 6 • Marcie-jo Sedacca
 - 7 • Devorah Rosner
- Maftir* • Dawn Schakett

MISHEBERACH • *Prayer for Healing*

Laurel Brodkorb
Adina Rudisch

HAGBAH • *Lifting the Torah*

Julie Zeff

GELILAH • *Binding the Torah*

Paula Grad

INTRODUCING THE HAFTARAH

Mara Block

HAFTARAH

Amy Trotz

YEKUM PURKAN

Natalie Kirsh

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Simone Graff

PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Sivan Ben-Moshe

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Melanie A. Levs
Abby Levs

PRAYER FOR A NEW MONTH

Emily Kaiman

ASHREI

Susie Lazega

TORAH RECESSIONAL

Noa Rudisch
Joined by her fellow 12th graders

OPEN/CLOSE THE ARK

Faith Levy
Vicky Pasmanick

RETURN TORAH TO ARK

Pia Koslow Frank

MUSAF

Emily Kaiman

D'VAR TORAH

Erin Chernow
Jaime Sherman Wender

REMARKS FROM OUR SISTERHOOD CO-PRESIDENT

Adina Rudisch

EIN KELOHEINU & ALEINU

All Teen Girls (post-Bat Mitzvah)

MOURNER'S KADDISH

Sarah Silverman

ADON OLAM

All Girls (pre-Bat Mitzvah)

KIDDUSH & HAMOTZI

*Sisterhood Presidents,
past and present, including:*

Helaine Brill
Erin Chernow
Randy Faigin David
Laura Greenberg
Cindy Jaret
Susie Lazega
Lorrie Nadler
Vicky Pasmanick
Boni Powell
Adina Rudisch
Faye Siegel
Amy Trotz
Ronnie Zandman

We look forward to rebooting our successful **SISTERHOOD SIMCHAS** program and used today's kiddush luncheon as a test run. Thanks to Sarah Silverman and Adina Rudisch for coordinating!

TODAY'S KIDDUSH CREW: Mara Block, Laurel Brodkorb, Evin Galang, Katie Goldberg, Paula Grad, Fay Kaufman, Joanna Kobylivker, Jodi Mansbach, Rebecca Rudich, Dawn Schakett, and Betsy Stein

Thinking about Sisterhood Shabbat 2023, “*Va’Era: And I Appeared*,” describe a time when you appeared at a Sisterhood program that was especially memorable. Or a way in which Sisterhood appeared within our Shearith Israel community that has made a lasting impact.

DEBRA GOODMAN HALPERN:

Back in the day, I was one of a few volunteers who shopped, prepared, and delivered the shiva meal (*seudat havara’ah*) to our Shearith Israel families after the funeral of a loved one. This program was particularly memorable and meaningful to me, knowing Sisterhood was supporting our families in their time of need. Our meals appeared, even though discreetly, providing the mourners with their first meal of recovery, letting them know they are not alone in their grief.

DAWN SCHAKETT:

From the very beginning of our time at Shearith Israel, the women of Sisterhood have been welcoming. I remember being surprised the first time I was asked if I would like an aliyah honor. No one had ever asked me that. I felt included. This past December, my youngest son had his Bar Mitzvah. I am not sure how this idea came about, but I felt empowered enough to wonder if I could read a Torah portion. It seemed like an impossible thing for me, a Deaf woman, to do. I recall Erin mentioning that she tutors Sisterhood members who want to learn. I started to wonder if maybe I COULD read a Torah portion. Read, not sing. During my own Bat Mitzvah eons ago, I was too nervous and self-conscious about the sound of my voice to chant my Haftarah and after much debate, they allowed me to read it. I had a very hard time working with the tutors when I was 11 and 12 years old. Back to present, I reached out to Erin with trepidation. Would it be like when I was younger?? Working with Erin was so much fun. Now I understand why Emily Kaiman called her the Mary Poppins of tutors. She made learning a breeze, unlike my own Bat Mitzvah tutoring. A month or so into tutoring, Erin asked if I would like to read Torah at Sisterhood Shabbat. What?! Really?? Talk about being seen. Appreciated. Visible. As if I have appeared.

RENÉE STEIN:

I attended the Sisterhood tallit-making workshop in 2019 with my mother-in-law, Roberta, who was visiting from Florida. I so enjoyed experiencing the program with her, sharing the learning, creativity, and friendship among generations of “sisters.” We finished tying the *tzitzit* together at home, and Roberta wore her beautiful tallit for Sam’s bar mitzvah the next year, when she had an *aliyah* over Zoom. I am delighted that Roberta is here with me for Sisterhood Shabbat today!

PIA KOSLOW FRANK:

I recall when I was in college, Sisterhood put on a Mother’s Day program where we shared favorite memories of mom. I flew in from D.C. and surprised my mom, who might have been found eating leftovers directly from the fridge at 6:30 am, and I shared my favorite childhood memories at the program later in the day. Another memory — hysterical laughter at programs led by Laura Greenberg. I recall watching my mom lovingly painting a huge banner that was put up to celebrate Gertrude Krick, before she moved out of state. Through the years I have learned oh so many things from Sisterhood members. I treasure the intergenerational connections. Most meaningful are the casual conversations that take place at events, and I am grateful for all the love and nurture I have received from our special community of sisters. Each time I “appear” at a program, I walk away richer for the experience.

SUSIE MACKLER:

For several years, I helped lead our wonderful Sisterhood Simchas, along with several other amazing women. Together we helped create a beautiful kiddush for our Shearith families as they celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs. Although the end goal was a beautiful and delicious kiddush meal, the work of creating it allowed so many of us to come together in the synagogue kitchen, late on Thursday nights, as we talked, laughed, shared about our kids, our spouse, our parents, our work, our lives. We made new friends, reconnected with old friends, gave advice on all things bar and bat mitzvah, all while making kugel and tuna salad. Sisterhood Simchas allowed us to care for and support each other while creating a beautiful community. Unfortunately COVID put an end to Sisterhood Simchas, but I hope there will be a way to bring back this very special Sisterhood program.

MAUREEN KLESNER DAVID:

My women friends from *shul* always “appear” at Sisterhood events to chat and share about our lives. Over the years, a continuous bonding has taken place. In Sisterhood, I have felt a sense of genuine belonging and closeness to our congregation.

So, when I appeared, in the beginning, I was welcomed and embraced by this beautiful community of congregants and women. Taking on roles and contributing to the growth and development of programs was most meaningful. I am forever grateful for this gift of being on both giving and receiving ends of Sisterhood initiatives and programs.

MARLA ZAFFT:

Every time I appear at a Sisterhood event, I receive a warm welcome, laugh loudly, and leave lighter. ►

JODI LOX MANSBACH:

I've always loved hearing stories about the multigenerational families at Shearith Israel. Ten years ago, I asked my friend Lauren who was working at Storycorps to facilitate a live Storycorps-style Sisterhood event with some of Shearith Israel's most beloved mother/daughter duos. I remember being so deeply touched by the conversations between the pairs, hearing them ask such heartfelt questions of each other. I think it was Pia and Arlene, Leah and Gloria, Janece and Freida. Anyone else remember? Let's do it again! I also have incredible memories of cooking in the Shearith Israel kitchen, first with Alice and Esther and then with many of you as we've prepared for this Sisterhood Shabbat and other simchas.

MARTHA BERLIN:

Last Sisterhood Shabbat, my sister [Sarah Popowski] and I were asked to open the Ark. We were honored to do so and to share this experience together. Watching all of the capable women Torah readers on that Shabbat inspired us to give Torah reading a try. It was scary and hard, but Erin Chernow patiently taught us. This journey has been a gift. Sisterhood Shabbat was the inspiration we needed to take the leap. Thank you!!

JULIE ZEFF:

One of the sweetest memories I have was having our home full of amazing Sisterhood women for the Chanukah Party. It felt so full and was such a rich experience to look across our living room and feel the warmth, love, support, and wisdom that you all bring to the Sisterhood. And we had some sweet Chanukah fun! I'm so grateful for our amazing community! You all are a blessing...

MELANIE A. LEVS:

Pre-pandemic, I attended a Sisterhood Rosh Hashanah honey-tasting program at Julie Zeff's house. We all bustled about the kitchen helping prep and lay out food. I was tasked with cutting apples. In my head, they all had to be cut symmetrically, which is how I'd been doing it pretty much my entire life. So, it was taking a while. Suddenly, one of my "sisters" appeared next to me and declared, "I can show you away to do that much faster!" I watched her chop-chop-chop, taking about half the time I had been and still, her slices looked very pretty. It was a revelation, a life-changing moment in my apple-slicing game (which, with three kids, lasted a LONG time)! To this day, I still cut apples the way she showed me.

Each time I "appear" at a Sisterhood function or am around other Sisterhood members, I am reminded of that bonding moment. It exemplifies what Sisterhood is: coming together as Jewish women, teaching and learning from each other, sharing experiences, laughter, tears and ideas. We show up for one another... one apple at a time.





Founded in 1916 to respond to the needs expressed by the women of Shearith Israel, Sisterhood offers excellent social and educational programming throughout the year. In addition, Sisterhood delivers Shiva meals in partnership with Chessed, sends notes to members experiencing milestone events, and performs acts of community service, including actively supporting Machaneh Shai and Rebecca's Tent. Annual dues are \$46, which fund these important efforts. To learn more and join, please visit www.shearithisrael.com/sisterhood.

HONORING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Hene Geffen	Annette Z. Easton
Katie Zimmerman Freedman	Sandy Alifield
Mrs. Jack Wolkin	Linda Baron
Celia Spector	Faye Siegel
Rae Zimmerman	Beverly Greenwald
Minnie Auerbach	Eileen Cohn
Mollye Greenberg	Rachel Blase
Ella Maziar Simmons	Helen Arnoldi
Dora Horowitz	Susan Lips
Gertrude Krick	Faye "Jimi" Moore
Esther Rothenberg	Yvette Shure
Linda Neistadt Grossbart	Sheila Rotter
Lee Krick	Debra Halpern
Dotsie Horowitz Zimmerman	Debbie Berkowitz Namer
Flo Berger	Debra B. Auerbach
Sylvia Auerbach	Ronnie Zandman
Sadie Gordon	Boni Zucker Powell
Alma Krieger	Randy Faigin David
Lena Rosenberg	Laura Greenberg
Sylvia Weisman	Vicky Pasmanick
Tillie Zimmerman	Lorrie Nadler
Rosalie Alterman	Cindy Jaret
Esther Libowsky	Lauren Rudick
Celia Adler	MaryJane Lewitt
Rae Sternberg	Erin Chernow
Evelyn Crane	Jill Miller
Vivian Slotin	Johanna Norry
Norma Cohen	Jennifer Slipakoff
Frances Goodman Kohn	Janine Kupersmith
Clara Feldman	Helaine Brill
Bertha Pintchuk	Susie Lazega
Betty Minsk	

THE 2022-23 SHEARITH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD BOARD

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Rebecca's Tent

Shari Steinberg

Book Clubs

Fay Kaufman
Phyllis Weiss

Honey From The Heart

Sheila Rotter

Koffee & Kibbitz

Alyson Spickert

SISTERHOOD EVENTS Spring 2023:

February TBD

Winter Walkabout

March 4

Progressive Purim Party

April 16

Soul Shine

Special thanks to **Adam Klein** for his assistance with today's service.