

Tishrei 5781

September 2020

BULLETIN

The
Stanton
Street
Shul

180 Stanton Street
New York, NY 10002



Tishrei 5781

September 2020

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5781

Rosh Hashana I:

Saturday, September 19th, 10am Services In Shul

Rosh Hashana II:

Sunday, September 20th, 10am Services In Shul

Fast of Gedalia:

Monday, September 21st

Fast begins at 5:22am and fast ends at 7:34pm

Community Shofar Blowing Ceremony:

Sunday, September 20th, 1pm on Attorney Street Cul-de-Sac

Shabbat Shuva Drasha:

Wednesday, September 23rd, 7pm via ZOOM

Kol Nidre:

Sunday, September 27th, 6:15pm Services In Shul

Fast begins at 6:26pm

Yom Kippur:

Monday, September 28th, 10am Services in Shul

Fast ends at 7:22pm

Capacity Limitations During COVID-19

Normal seating capacity in the shul is 134 persons: 60 women and 74 men

Under Phase 4 regulations, we are able to accommodate 33% of normal capacity in a socially-distanced manner.

For the High Holidays, we will be able to accommodate 20 women and 24 men.

We ask that you please **pre-register online** (stantonstshul.com) for each service you plan to attend.

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SHUL LEADERSHIP

Leead Staller, *Rabbi*

A Warm Welcome to our New Rabbi, Leead Staller and his wife Shoshana Staller!

OFFICERS:

Jeff Katz, *President*

Paul Ruffer, *Vice President*

Margie Segal, *Recording Secretary*

Marc Schwartzberg, *Treasurer & Financial Secretary*

TRUSTEES:

Peretz Berk

Brina Chu

David Deutsch

Ethan Ellenberg

Barry Feldman

Risa Gerstein

Alvin Goldstein

George Kleiner

Ellen Silverstein

Jill Slater, *Shul Administrator*



Leead Staller is finishing his degree in Rabbinic Ordination and a Masters in Jewish History at Yeshiva University and affiliates and will embark on leading our community this fall. Originally from Highland Park, New Jersey, he attended the University of Pennsylvania as an undergrad, where he studied history and philosophy. Leead is passionate about Jewish community and innovation, and hopes his degrees will position him to best serve the Jewish community.

Be a Member:

Is your membership up to date?

Please visit stantonstshul.com and click on JOIN US to update your profile and/or renew your membership.

Get Involved:

Join a committee! Sponsor a kiddush, a dinner, or an event! Volunteer! Please contact Jill Slater for more information: jslater@wesleyan.edu

Donate:

Visit stantonstshul.com and click on DONATE to make a donation for the High Holidays. Your financial support is vital to the future of our shul.

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A New Year Awaits Us



For months I have agonized about entering the New Year 5781 after experiencing what has been, objectively, a time of extraordinary pain, heartbreak and uncertainty. Will we celebrate the new year in solitude separated from community, friends and even family? I have watched us retreat from familiar acts of community into isolation and fear. I have tallied the dead and those afflicted by a pandemic we never imagined. I have prayed every day for the recovery of all those who are ill from this plague. And through all these extraordinary months I realized that we will only emerge from this darkness by performing extraordinary deeds. This extraordinary time demands an extraordinary response as we plead with the God of Israel on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and every day to hear our cry and our prayer for a new year of health and peace and a return to communal worship.

So with immense faith and optimism, we have hired Rabbi Leead Staller, a young, energetic and innovative man. Together, we will rebuild our distressed religious lives and strengthen and grow our community. I have faith that out of this distress will reap an outpouring and yearning for shul, for worship, for giving tzedakah, for kiddush and for belonging and building community again.

Ever since Purim, our beloved Shul has remained empty, shuttered, and alone. Shabbat greetings, Hallel on Pesach and Shavuot, kinot of Tisha B'Av were not heard in the Stanton Street Shul, firsts in its 107 year history.

But as the plague slowly lifts and guidelines are somewhat relaxed we await a full opening of our shul, businesses, theaters and concert halls. With great caution and strictly imposed safety protocols, we have decided to open our doors for Rosh Hashana. The extraordinary and prudent cry to close our doors six months ago will be replaced with the sounds of the shofar as we plead with the Almighty for a year of life.

The Shul will be open. People will be seated in a socially-distanced manner and masks will be required without exception. Open windows and doors will ventilate the sanctuary and balcony. Hand sanitizer will be available. Sanitized mahzorim and tallitot will be available. We will not congregate or socialize. We will shorten the davening and eliminate drushot and announcements. There are protocols in place to handle the Torah. The shofar will be blown and singing will be kept to a minimum.

For those who are uncomfortable entering the Shul, a communal shofar blowing will take place outside on Stanton Street on Sunday, September 20 at 1:00PM.

Let this New Year bring extraordinary joy and strength and wild success to The Stanton Street Shul family and community, and all of Israel, and to all people.

I wish us all a **כתיבה וחתימה טובה**

Jeff Katz
President

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Rosh Hashana Dvar Torah by Rabbi Leead Staller



Shoshana and I felt so lucky and excited to have been able to participate in The Stanton Street Shul's official reopening this past Shabbat, and we look forward to a future of safe but inspiring Minyanim during this difficult time. Part of the measures we took last Shabbat, and that we plan to take for the High Holidays, involves cutting out some of the non-essential parts of the prayer service to shorten the overall length of Shul, and thereby, potential exposure time. While some may be excited for the shorter Shul time, the process of figuring out what qualifies as "essential" in a Shul service—a ritual that is so deeply bound to non-halakhic associations of childhood memories, nostalgia, and family—has proven a tricky task. Is UNetaneh Tokef halakhically required? No. But could we have a Yom Kippur without it? Surely not!

Given this utilitarian perspective on prayer, many parts of the canonized liturgy begin to stand out as somewhat confusing. Perhaps most striking is Kol Nidrei—a part of the Yom Kippur service that is undoubtedly essential, but which, upon closer scrutiny, seems wholly out of place. While Kol Nidrei is one of the oldest parts of our Yom Kippur liturgy— dating at least back to the Geonic era and crossing Ashkenazi-Sefardi cultural lines— the content of the liturgy is somewhat anticlimactic. Rather than setting the stage for a dramatic day of repentance, Kol Nidrei is a ritual that focuses on annulling halakhic vows of various types. While the Torah allows one to make new halakhic commitments via various forms of vows, unlike actual Mitzvot, those vows come with a failsafe option of annulment at the hands of a Beit Din. But of all rituals, why should Yom Kippur begin with a vow annulling ceremony?

The Geonim and early Medieval rabbinic scholars also note the oddity of Kol Nidrei's central role in the Yom Kippur service, but go on to give various explanations for the ritual. Rabbi Eliezer ben Yoel HaLevi (nicknamed the Ravyah, 12th c. Germany) points to a section in the Talmud that says that, while vows are halakhically permitted, they are to be highly discouraged. In fact, the Talmud goes so far as to say that anyone who takes a vow is like one who builds a (prohibited) personal altar and sacrifices upon it. The Ravyah explains that the reason vows are to be discouraged is because breaking a vow is very severe— comparable to the idolatrous act of sacrificing on a personal altar— and we are very worried one will come to break a vow. Therefore, to ensure that the Teshuvah process will cover one who commits this grave sin of breaking a vow, we begin the Yom Kippur service with Kol Nidrei.

While this explanation makes sense, it seems insufficient. There are many severe sins— some much more severe than breaking a vow. Of all things, why should vow annulment be the start of Yom Kippur services? Surely, it isn't the most severe prohibition in the Torah?

Rav Soloveitchik explained that the answer lies in a more literal understanding of the Gemara. Conceptually, when one makes a vow in halakha, they create a new Mitzvah that only applies to them. If I vow not to eat apples, I now have a 614th Mitzvah—thou shalt not eat Golden Delicious— whereas everyone else merely has 613. In other words, says Rav Soloveitchik, the act of taking a vow is effectively a statement that the communal practice of Judaism wasn't good enough for me. For my spiritual fulfillment, I need to break away on my own and make my own Torah. Thus, Rav Soloveitchik explains that taking a vow is inherently an act of breaking away from the community, as one creates their own ritual life divorced from the broader Jewish people.

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Rosh Hashana Dvar Torah by Rabbi Leead Staller continued

Indeed, this is what the Talmud means when it says that one who makes a vow is comparable to one who sacrifices on a personal altar. At first, the comparison seems arbitrary. Why should vow making be compared to personal altar usage? But given Rav Soloveitchik's explanation it makes perfect sense. Vows are like a personal altar, because they represent breaking away from the community and performing your own Judaism with your own Torah.

Given this background, Rav Soloveitchik explains that the assurance of forgiveness we rely upon every Yom Kippur was given to the Jewish people as a nation, not as individuals. It is only when we come together as one nation, unified and supportive, that we are able to self confidently sing "Ashamnu," "we have sinned," outloud and expect God to forgive us. But to accomplish that, we need to ensure that we actually have communal unity. Thus, we begin Yom Kippur with the Kol Nidrei ceremony, symbolically cancelling any substantive religious divergences that may exist between us and our Jewish neighbors, and presenting God with one unified community presented around Torah. That is also why the Kol Nidrei ceremony includes a line welcoming back members of the community who were previously excommunicated. Yom Kippur only works when the whole community is able to function together.

Unfortunately, right now our whole community is not able to be physically in person together. But as we start a new chapter in the Shul, Shoshana and I look forward to being a part of the warm and welcoming community of Stanton Street Shul, as we work to embody the motto of "All are welcome, all feel welcome." While it will require hard work and communal support to bounce back from this difficult chapter, the Kol Nidrei service reminds us that when we come together as a warm and welcoming community, anything is possible.

Thank you all for welcoming Shoshana and me into your community, and we are excited to grow together!

Shanah Tovah

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Rosh Hashana Dvar Torah by Rabbi Joe Wolfson (Stanton's Virtual Summer Rabbi)



There's a major theme of Rosh Hashanna hiding in plain sight that it seems to me is not spoken about nearly enough - infertility.

Consider the readings: The first day's Torah portion, Bereishit Chapter 21 - has God remembering Sara after so many years of pain of not having children and giving her a son. The haftara meanwhile, from Shmuel Chapter 1 - features the great sorrow of Hannah unable to have children, a husband Elkana who doesn't understand her, and a co-wife who is both fertile and cruel.

On the second day: we read Bereishit Chapter 22 - the akeida and the almost loss of the child Sara and Avraham had yearned for. This is followed by the Haftara from Yirmiyahu depicting Rachel, many years after her death, speaking from the mountains: a voice is heard in the heights, a bitter cry, Rachel is crying for her children, refusing to be comforted for them, for they are not'. Rachel, who in her lifetime, is the ultimate figure who struggles to have children, competes with her sister and is misunderstood by her husband and eventually dies in childbirth, becomes in her afterlife, the ultimate petitioner on behalf of her children.

I noticed this many years ago - you really have to be blind to miss it - when I first started to get into the Tanakh's literary themes. Unfortunately, this long preceded my emotional understanding. This was a cool piece of Biblical artistry but it didn't touch real people that I knew. Only in recent years, watching too many of our closest friends struggle with infertility and miscarriage has it become clear to me that this is as relevant today as it was in ancient Canaan.

It doesn't seem right that there is still something of a taboo around the subject. A couple of years ago, colleagues of ours ran a Friday night discussion for our students about infertility. Feedback from students was lukewarm - it wasn't deemed relevant. But one day, not so far off, it will be relevant - if not for them personally, then for their close friends and family.

One of the most glorious things about the Jewish community is its love of family and children. And the flip-side of this is that one of the toughest experiences is being single in a community where most everyone else is married, or to be struggling to have children while everyone around seems abundantly fertile.

Not every message of the Yamim Noraim needs to be intensely spiritual. The fact that the Sages chose to center all four of Rosh Hashanna's readings to a single topic should speak for itself.

If all people take from the Torah readings is a greater awareness and sensitivity - considering what to say and what not to say, understanding that not all people's experiences are alike, that innocuous questions can cause pain, and knowing when to give friends some extra love and support - well, that would be no bad thing.

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WE NEED YOU! JOIN A SHUL COMMITTEE



StantonStShul.com
September 15, 2020

Help Us Thrive! Join A Committee!

The Stanton Street Shul relies on the participation of our members, working in partnership with our lay and clergy leaders, to sustain and grow our community. Please consider where your talents, interests, and experiences could be of most value. **To join one of our committees, in formation, please contact Shul President Jeff Katz (Jeff.Katz48@gmail.com), or Rabbi Staller (leeadstaller@gmail.com) We welcome your participation!**

 <p>Building Committee, Chair: Jeff Katz</p> <p>The Building Committee manages the physical space of the shul. The Committee is responsible for coordinating with contracted vendors and volunteers to maintain the building; manage events in gallery space; and plan for additional renovations consistent with necessary repairs and Building Master Plan.</p>	 <p>The Fress-capades Food Committee, Chair: Risa Gerstein</p> <p>The Food Committee oversees and executes all food-related operations: Maintain inventory; order food and paper goods; receive deliveries; refrigerate and place items in the warming ovens before Shabbat; set-up/clean-up kiddush and dinners; coordinate with volunteers and hired staff.</p>
 <p>Development Committee, Chair: Marc Schwartzberg</p> <p>The Development Committee maintains current revenue streams and cultivates new revenue streams through individual giving and grants. The Committee organizes and executes an Annual Dinner, overseeing fundraising events and campaign drives throughout the year; and maintains an inventory of named sponsorship opportunities.</p>	 <p>Membership Committee, Chair: Paul Ruffer</p> <p>The Membership Committee cultivates new and existing members. The Committee maintains the membership rolls in the ShulCloud database and oversees communication with members, in partnership with the Data & Communications Committee. The Membership Committee manages the annual membership drive and annual meeting.</p>
 <p>Chesed and Hospitality Committee, Chair: Brina Chu and (You perhaps??)</p> <p>This committee facilitates life-cycle necessities, including meal trains and bikkur cholim, with appropriate attention. The Chesed and Hospitality Committee coordinates tzedakah-related drives; internal meal-sharing (community in-reach), bringing together hosts and guests to strengthen community; as well as community outreach to expand our congregation and welcome new congregants, offering hospitality and identifying potential hosts.</p>	 <p>StantonKIDS Committee, Chairs: Elizabeth Miller and Aliza Deutsch</p> <p>This committee plans and implements all children's programming at Stanton, including monthly Shabbat classes, High Holiday programming, and several Sunday and holiday programs (Sukkot, Lag B'Omer, and Purim) in the shul and the Siempre Verde Garden. This committee employs and manages teachers paid by the Shul and promotes events via email blasts and the website. This committee maintains an active participant list and aims to expand attendance.</p>
 <p>Women's Tefillah Group, Chairs: Margie Segal and Rachel Mincer</p> <p>This Committee plans, oversees, and does PR for the popular Women's Tefillah services at Stanton. They run the services, assign layning and davening responsibilities, and email their client lists to advertise programs. They coordinate special occasions such as Bat Mitzvah and Shabbat Kallah services.</p>	 <p>Ritual and Programming Committee, Chair: Paul Ruffer and Rabbi Staller</p> <p>The Ritual and Programming Committee, in partnership with the Rabbi and Board, cultivates davening talent; ensures minyanim; assigns gabbaim and aliyyot and kibbudim; plans and oversees holiday tefillah and programming; recruits and oversees high holiday "greeters"; maintains siddurim and chumashim; plans and oversees Shabbatonim; and brings in guest speakers.</p>
 <p>Arts & Cultural Programming, Chair: David Wander</p> <p>The Arts & Cultural Committee plans and oversees arts, music, and cultural programming at Stanton.</p>	 <p>Data & Communications Committee, Chair: Jill Slater</p> <p>The Data & Communications Committee oversees outward-facing communications including the shul website (powered by ShulCloud), weekly newsletters, the annual bulletin, social media, brochures, and advertising. In partnership with the Membership Committee, the Data & Communications Committee gathers information from new and existing members and updates the ShulCloud database.</p>
 <p>Young Leadership, Chair: An Opportunity Awaits!!</p> <p>The Young Leadership Committee brings together members and future members who are under 35. This Committee plans and executes young professional dinners and special programming; and develops opportunities for young adult members and friends to participate and lead at Stanton and within the Jewish community.</p>	 <p>Security Committee, Chair: Looking for Takers!</p> <p>The Security Committee addresses the security needs of the shul and makes recommendations to the Board regarding security assessments and evacuation and emergency plans. The Security Committee oversees evacuation drills and maintains fire equipment and locks for the shul. The Security Committee works with contracted vendors, local police and elected officials, and community member volunteers.</p>
 <p>Israel Awareness Committee, Chair: Jeff Katz</p> <p>The Israel Awareness Committee will celebrate as a community the culturally rich, ethnically diverse and miraculous Jewish State.</p>	 <p>Social Action Committee, Chair: Margie Segal</p> <p>The Social Action Committee will respond to our tradition's call to act in the face of injustice and suffering. Programs may address social justice, environmental justice and economic justice issues.</p>

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LETTER FROM OUR TREASURER



Dear Friends,

I miss you! it's been so long since we have seen each other face to face, davened together and schmoozed over kiddish. As you may recall, the last time we gathered as a full congregation was to honor Jackie and Andrew Klaber, Malka Percal and Risa Gerstein, all pillars of our community, at our Purim Gala. That evening was a tremendous success. Who could have imagined the turn of events since that wonderful communal celebration?

I write as your newly elected Treasurer of our beloved synagogue. I'm humbled that you have entrusted me with the duty to ensure that our synagogue is financially secure. Due to the efforts of generations of Lower East Side Jews our modest shul has survived for over a century. Very few Jewish American institutions can claim that legacy. I pledge to do my part to ensure the long-term wellbeing of our congregation.

As The Stanton Street Shul approaches Rosh Hashanah 5781, we have so many things for which to be grateful. We have a beautiful sacred space where we can comfortably gather to pray, we have a committed Board of Trustees, a functioning leadership team and most importantly, a devoted membership. We are thrilled to have a new full-time spiritual leader Rabbi Leead Staller; we are confident that his intellect and enthusiasm will guide us as we continue to grow.

Although these challenging and uncertain times have limited our ability to gather in person, with the hiring of a new full-time rabbi, the financial needs of our synagogue have, in fact, increased. As we approach the High Holidays, we once again rely on the generosity of our devoted stakeholders. Understanding that the current crises may have impacted you in many ways, including financially, we ask you to be as generous as possible. Your donation will be used to support our cherished shul at this most critical time as we embark on many new initiatives under the leadership of our new rabbi. **Your generosity will enable our shul to continue to be a place of solace for everyone in its congregation and wider community.**

Sadly, many of us will not be able to extend in person holiday greetings this year. We have scheduled a Zoom Shabbat Shuva Drasha on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7pm, when we will hear words of Torah from Rabbi Staller. I hope to see you at this Zoom event, the official kick-off of our High Holiday Campaign.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Wishing everyone a sweet New Year filled with good health.

Shanah Tovah
Marc Schwartzberg
Treasurer & Financial Secretary

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This has been anything but a normal year, and yet, with the Shul shuttered since Purim, only to reopen the week before Rosh Hashana, we still have so much to cherish.

The Committee structure continued to strengthen. Here are some of the highlights. Brina Chu, a long time Stanton Street member was elected to the Board of Trustees and is transforming the Young Leadership Committee. The Arts and Cultural Committee chaired by David Wander proudly presented a number of art exhibits in our third floor gallery as well as a musical evening. StantonKIDS, under the leadership of Morot Aliza Deutsch and Leslie Levinson-Chu, continued to offer our youngest members Shabbat and Yom Tovim programs of quality. In-house and virtual programming (all past ZOOM classes will be available via YouTube) exploded this year with Pirkei Avot taught by Mordecai Silver, From Scrolls to Print: History of the Jewish Book taught by Rachel Zohn Mincer, Shabbat Across America with Rabbi Dov Lerea, a stimulating Shabbaton with Dr. Michelle Friedman, a Yiddish New York musical program, divrei torah from a variety of Stanton members, classes with Rabbinic Intern Rabbi Jason Goldstein, a Shir haShirim series with Chavie Sharfman-Sosa, Mayan Civilization with Avi Sosa, Haftarah leyning with Rachel Zohn Mincer, Plan "B" with Rachel Frazer as well as her series on Sefer Shoftim, Rabbi Howard Handler's parashat haShavua series, Jewish History classes with David Deutsch, an historical LES virtual tour with Barry Feldman, July, August and September classes with Rabbi Joe Wolfson our summer 2020 'virtual' rabbi, and Jewish Art with Richard McBee. Wow, we have been busy!

The Rabbinic Search Committee (Jessica Spector, Marc Schwartzberg, Paul Ruffer, Margie Segal and Jeff Katz) was busy culling and interviewing candidates and has facilitated the hiring of Rabbi Leead Staller one year after Rabbi Aviad Bodner moved uptown.

Several other committees such as the Women's Tefila Group and the Development Committee had banner years. The WTG's crowning achievement was acknowledging Malka Percal, one of its founding members, with an award at the Pre-Purim Gala. The Gala was a major financial and social success honoring Jackie and Andrew Klaber. Who will ever forget Andrew as Pharaoh and Jackie as an Egyptian princess? We thank Jill Slater, our Shul Administrator for pulling off a very successful Gala in the nick of time before the pandemic struck! Congratulations to Risa Gerstein who received the Shul's service award for chairing the Fress-capades Committee and volunteering for many projects.

Fundraising this year included several major financial successes including: the High Holiday Campaign, Giving Tuesdays, Events Income, Sponsorships, Memberships, and of course the Pre-Purim Masquerade Gala.

Forgive me for not mentioning other highlights, but the work of all our members, parents, volunteers, guests and friends is very much appreciated.

We look forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year, one of Shul success, growth in membership and in minyanim, and to many more times when we can raise our glasses in a l'chaim and thank the Almighty for being alive and together in Stanton.

Jeff Katz
President

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THE YEAR IN EVENTS

Hanukkah Celebration with Singalong



Tu B'Shvat Kids Seder with Rabbinic Intern Jason Goldstein



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THE PRE-PURIM MASQUERADE BALL

Our Pre-Purim Masquerade Ball took place on March 7th, one night before Eruv Purim at our newly renovated shul. Our sanctuary, balcony, and beit midrash were transformed into a festive party space replete with dramatic lighting and sprawling quince and cherry blossom branches. We were thrilled to have Jackie & Andrew Klaber as our guests of honor, Malka Percal our Community Leadership honoree, and Risa Gerstein our Community Service honoree.

For entertainment, we were beyond fortunate to be graced by the talents of Frank London's Klezmer Brass All Stars. In addition to filling the sanctuary with incredible klezmer tunes, the 5- piece band roved the building in a pied piper fashion. Some guests danced but everyone couldn't help but be in a dancing mood throughout the event.

While Meir Soloveichik was unable to attend in person, he sent his poignant and passionately delivered blessings for the Klabers via video.

The presentation and acceptance of honoree awards was incredibly heartfelt. There were many people touched by the dedication of these most deserving guests. All four honorees have given so much of themselves to our shul--in the form of financial support, care, attention and love. The attendees recognized this commitment and paid tribute in turn.

One hundred and twenty five people bought tickets to the event. Because of its quite inauspicious timing (9 out of 11 Purim events were canceled that evening due to the very early onset of the COVID-19 pandemic) only eighty-eight brave souls attended. Spirits were high, quince was in bloom, hand sanitizer blanketed the shul, and the catered meal was delicious.

Thanks to all of those who lent a hand to make this a very special evening. Erik Lieber, our talented photographer is responsible for the next two pages of photos (All his photos will be available on our website in the coming weeks.) It would be the last time our community would come together for at least six months (and counting) and it will long be remembered.

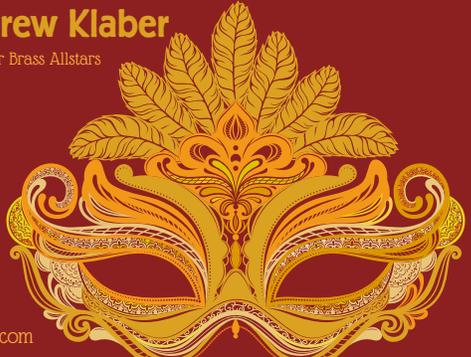


Stanton Street Shul
Pre-Purim Masquerade Ball

Honoring
Jackie & Andrew Klaber
with Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars

March 8, 2020
Save the Date

gala2020@stantonstshul.com
www.stantonstshul.com



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Pre-Purim Masquerade Ball Photos by Erik Lieber



Judith Josepchs



Malka Percal and Leslie Levinson



Jeff Katz in full costume



Erik Leung and Peretz Berk



Margie Segal



Dory Bergman and Tine Kinderman



Malka Percal, honoree.



Andrew and Jackie Klaber, honorees



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Risa and her granddaughter (Frida).



Malka Percal, honoree family and friends.



Barry Feldman and Risa Gerstein, honoree



Vincenzo and Jeff



Alvin Goldstein



Rachel Zohn Mincer, Evan Rock & Malka



One last dance



Frank London's Klezmer Brass All Stars



Andrew & Jackie, honorees; Mona & Robert Klaber



David Deutsch, Billy Bergman, Phyllis Ruffer, and Jessica Specter

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Stanton Renovation Update

זה אלי ואנוהו אלהי אבי וארוממנהו

This is my God, and I will beautify Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

We as a community made a commitment to restore our historic Shul, outside and inside, from top to bottom, and presently we are putting the final touches to a renovation that began in the summer of 2017. At that time, the Urgent Repair Campaign took on the task of shoring up the walls of the sanctuary and balcony, adding a new roof, and restoring the fire escape leading to the roof.

The following year, with the assistance of Jackie and Andrew Klaber, we completed the restoration of the sanctuary. We replaced the splintered old floor with new oak planks, removed the cast iron gas heaters and installed a modern HVAC system. We sold the wooden benches with exposed nails and purchased comfortable, upholstered benches and chairs. We fashioned a sheer mechitza, restored the aron kodesh with a generous grant from the Victorian Society (thank you Alta Indelman), painted the walls and ceiling, restored nine mazalot, affixed dedication plaques, and transformed the balcony into an art gallery suitable as a party and performance venue. Lastly, we installed a security system for the entire building.

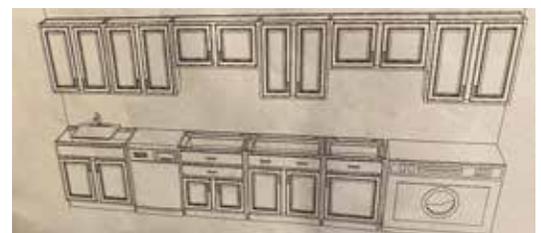
Below, in the beit medrash, we now have a new oak floor, cleaned up walls and a beautiful wainscot. The aron kodesh was restored to its former glory, a portable shulchan was built, and lighting fixtures throughout the building were rewired with cost saving LED bulbs. The Stanton Street facade has been repaired and freshly painted. Our iconic gate has its lustre back and we have new combination locks on all of our doors.

This summer, the areas that cried out the loudest for remodeling were the kitchen, the storage area, and the entrance floor. New plumbing and a workable kitchen with new cabinets, counter, sink, warmer and refrigerator all make the kitchen space bright, efficient and inviting. The white floor tiles that showed dirt so easily have been replaced throughout the lower level and we once again have a working wash sink outside the beit medrash.

The three mazalot--chodesh Cheshvan, Kislev and Tammuz--in the sanctuary remain sponsorless and are in need of repair. Please see Jeff Katz if you are interested in sponsoring one of these remaining mazalot.

With all this accomplished in a relatively short period of time and below budget we can't be complacent. We must remain diligent in properly maintaining the jewel-box of a shul that we call home and that we have worked so hard to restore.

Donations to the Building Fund of the Stanton Street Shul will help defray the costs of maintenance and touch ups that are inevitable.



A drawing of the kitchen remodel

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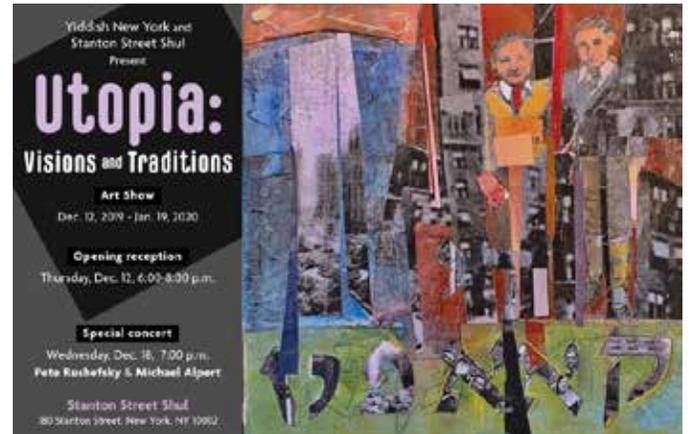
Culture at Stanton Street

Since our last bulletin, The Stanton Street Shul's balcony has seen a host of art shows. *Utopia: Visions and Traditions*, opened on December 12th, 2019. This show hosted 27 artists and was a partnership between Yiddish New York and The Stanton Street Shul.

Our most recent show, *Stanton at its Best*, installed just in time for the Purim Gala on May 8th and the global pandemic, includes works of eight of our members. The show will remain up until our community has the chance to see it! Artists featured are Dory Bergan, David Friedman, Tine Kinderman, Diane Reich, Phyllis Ruffer, Jill Slater, and David Wander.

Our art shows are all fundraisers, with a portion of art sales serving as a donation to our shul. We always get a great crowd for the opening event. We are open by appointment and sometimes have designated viewing hours, depending on availability of volunteers.

We look forward to a time when we might curate and host another show and invite the wider community into our shul to enjoy it.



Dory Bergman
David Friedman
Tine Kindermann
Richard McBee

The Best Of STANTON

Diane Reich
Phyllis Ruffer
Jill Slater
David Wander



OPENING March 8 2020, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
180 Stanton Street New York, New York 10002
info@stantonstshul.com

After March 8 Viewing By Appointment

