



# The Bulletin

## Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאֵן מְהַלֵּל שֵׁם יי

*From the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof,  
the name of the Eternal One is to be praised.*

Vol. 68

December 2014 (5775)

No. 4

### Worship Services (also see p. 6)

#### Fridays

- Dec. 5 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service  
6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat Service
- Dec. 12 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Dec. 19 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service  
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service,  
Professional Choir
- Dec. 26 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

#### Saturdays

- Dec. 6 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 13 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 20 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 27 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

### THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Riverdale Temple was given an extraordinary opportunity to prepare for Chanukah this year. Each year, for the past several years, the Women of Reform Judaism has run the Gift and Craft Fair—thanks to the tireless efforts of Rita Pochter Lowe and all those who worked with her. This year, Rita decided to “pass the baton,” as it were, and something I had fantasized as a possibility, became a reality. Ronni Stolzenberg and Susan Birnbaum were the primary recipients of that baton, and boy did they take it and run! (Metaphors are wonderful things.) They focused their attention on “fair trade” vendors—people who were selling either products made according to fair trade expectations such as workers being paid living wages and products that do not exploit or harm the environment, or artisans who were solely responsible for the products they were offering.

Then they took another step. Ronni and Susan created a relay team—to push the metaphor—by opening their arms to representatives of the nursery school and religious school.

We have some exciting new energy among the parents in our schools. Several of them had been pushing for some sort of activity that would involve families with young children. That group has already started an enormously successful monthly Tot Shabbat Potluck Dinner and is full of ideas for attracting other families to our congregation. When they suggested a carnival to run concurrently with the Gift and Craft Fair, WRJ said, “Go for it,” and they did.

This year, the fair and related activities didn't start until 11:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, November 16. That's when religious school lets out. Parents in our religious school know that I am somewhat neurotic about the safety of our students. In previous years, Rita had thoughtfully provided “guards” for me at the school doorways—some of our stronger members who diligently persuaded anyone who wasn't a student to stay away from the school hallway. This year, we still had a few vendors who showed up early to set up their stalls, but the people working in the lobby setting up the carnival were all nursery and religious school parents. I'm still grateful for the one “guard” who volunteered to steer adults away from the school, but she didn't need to be terribly intimidating! And once school was dismissed and the carnival/fair began, it was a total pleasure to stroll back and forth watching our youngest members play games in the lobby and their parents and other adults circle the lovely options for gifts being displayed in the ballroom. I confess that my husband is the shopper in our family, but he



First Riverdale Temple Yivo Lecture for 2014

Sponsored jointly by the YIVO and  
The Museum of the City of New York

Jewish Life: Stories from Poland

December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jeffrey Shandler, Professor and Chair,  
Jewish Studies at Rutgers, in coordination with  
the YIVO exhibit at museum **LETTERS TO  
AFAR**—based on home videos taken by NY Jewish  
immigrants who went back to visit Poland in the  
1920s and 1930s

See p. 8 for more details.

*continued on p. 3*

# DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9 Kislev 5775 Nursery School	10 Kislev 5775 Nursery School 10:00 am WRJ Meeting 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class	11 Kislev 5775 Nursery School	12 Kislev 5775 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi 4:00 pm Hebrew School	13 Kislev 5775 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Family Shabbat Service with potluck dinner	14 Kislev 5775 <i>Vayishlach</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; oneg in honor of Amit Singer's one-year birthday
15 Kislev 5775 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am Junior Choir	16 Kislev 5775 Nursery School	17 Kislev 5775 Nursery School 7:00 pm Knitting for Charity 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class	18 Kislev 5775 Nursery School	19 Kislev 5775 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6:00 pm Reform Judaism with the Rabbi 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	20 Kislev 5775 Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service	21 Kislev 5775 <i>Vayeshev</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Chavurah follows with potluck lunch
22 Kislev 5775 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am Why Be Jewish? Class with Rabbi 10:30 am Men's Club Meeting 11:30 am Junior Choir	23 Kislev 5775 Nursery School	24 Kislev 5775 Chanukah Eve Nursery School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class	25 Kislev 5775 Chanukah 1 Nursery School	26 Kislev 5775 Chanukah 2 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	27 Kislev 5775 Chanukah 3 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service, Professional Choir	28 Kislev 5775 <i>Miketz</i> Chanukah 4 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
29 Kislev 5775 Chanukah 5 No Religious School 11:30 am KRMH Food Delivery	30 Kislev 5775 Chanukah 6 Nursery School	1 Tevet 5775 Chanukah 7 Nursery School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class	2 Tevet 5775 Chanukah 8 No Nursery School	3 Tevet 5775 No Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi No Hebrew School	4 Tevet 5775 No Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service	5 Tevet 5775 <i>Vayigash</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
6 Tevet 5775 No Religious School	7 Tevet 5775 No Nursery School	8 Tevet 5775 No Nursery School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class	9 Tevet 5775 No Nursery School New Year's Eve	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

had to work, so I found myself buying far more than we've ever purchased before. I wanted to support the temple, and I wanted to support the vendors whose products represent the same values we promote as a reform congregation (and a big "shout-out" to Martin Kleinman for getting Channel 12 here to publicize that fact).

It is not the first time miracles such as this have happened in the nine years I've been at Riverdale Temple. The first big one happened in time for my second Sukkot. I guess I expressed some desire to see a sukkah that was open to the community—spacious, and filled with light—instead of the traditional sukkah the temple had used for many years. Lo and behold, a very talented theatrical production manager named J. B. Barricklo stepped forward and constructed a sukkah that was precisely the one I had seen in my dreams. It went on to win an award for the best sukkah in Riverdale! Each Sukkot I watch the front plaza transformed into my dream sukkah and give thanks for the congregants who step up and take charge and bring new, exciting, inviting realities into our midst.

To all the other members of our congregation who have made

similar miracles happen, please forgive me for not singling you out by name, but I've already taken more than my fair share of space in this bulletin. I point out simply the earliest I can remember, and the most recent. My gratitude for everyone who has taken up a particular vision and turned it into a reality is unbounded. You are what makes Riverdale Temple an exciting, stimulating, worthy community.

Theodor Herzl said, of the desire to create a Jewish state, *im tirtzu, ayn zo agadah*: "If you desire it, it need not be fiction." I'd like to think that's the motto of Riverdale Temple. If you'd like to see something happen here, just step up, grab the "baton," so to speak, and make it happen. Our dreams for this congregation need not remain mere stories, dreams, or fairy tales. *You* can make them happen. To all who have already done so, my deepest thanks. To all who may do so in the future, please—go for it! Every dream a congregant has of what we could be doing better needs only the commitment of the dreamer. May we go from strength to strength.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

The Riverdale Temple congregation sends condolences to Tzipporah Twersky Rosenblatt on the death of her brother, Moshe Twersky.

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Elaine Katz was a dear friend to all of us in the congregation. Marty Kleinman is one of those many members whose lives she touched. He is also a published author and a blogger. I came across his blog about Elaine, at [www.therealnewyorkers.com](http://www.therealnewyorkers.com). It is a wonderful piece that says it all. I thought it should be shared with the congregation. So here it is.

—Rachel Radna



As I write this, the rain falls on a cold and dreary day and that, I suppose, is as it should be, for a **Real New Yorker** has fallen.

There is no great tragedy when a person dies at 85—at least that is what some would have you believe. The common wisdom is that the death of a child or young adult is, somehow, sadder, because of all the promise that lies ahead in life and because the pain of the parents resonates so fully. Children, it is hoped, should not predecease their parents.

But what of the special 85-year-old who never really "gets old," who never stops learning, or living? We know so many who suffer from "Glory Days" syndrome, to borrow the title of the Bruce Springsteen song. That is to say, those who reached life's pinnacle in high school, or on the gridiron, a time of power, vitality, and youth. Too many of us willingly accept the diminishment of the years and comfortably curtail our ability—and desire—to keep learning, growing, staying in the game—and giving to others.

Not Elaine Katz, though.

If it's trite to say she was "one of a kind," then so be it. I never met anyone like her. She was a relentless ball of energy, with a bad eye and a bad back and who knows what else. She was more than 20 years my senior, yet when I was felled by a serious back injury, suddenly a cane appeared at my apartment's concierge desk, along with a note of encouragement from Elaine. She explained later that it had been her

husband's and she described a story involving the cane, a nasty cab driver, and lots of screaming and hitting—directed at said cabbie.

I knew her through the Riverdale Temple, which my wife and I joined in 2010, after 25 years of living in Brooklyn. Here, we knew not a soul. But in short order, we were taken under the wing of the congregation's leadership. Elaine, it was clear, was one of the ringleaders. She, too, was from Brooklyn, which I could tell from her sharp-elbow verbal approach and salty humor. A scene with Elaine brandishing a massive horseradish root in a particularly funny way comes to mind. (Use your imagination.)

At Board meetings, in adult ed classes, and during special events, she was a force of nature. Her eyes sparkled as she texted away during activities, which were often interrupted by the strange steamship ring tone of her mobile phone.

I guess the technical term for Elaine would be "piece of work." Where my own parents eschewed the Internet, and allowed whatever native intelligence they possessed to metastasize, Elaine welcomed today's technology and reveled in her expertise on multiple communications platforms. Where my mother-in-law—herself a force of nature back in her prime—has descended into a diminished life, compulsively obsessed with the most routine matters, Elaine carried on expertly, well into her 80s.

As her son Rob so aptly said in his poignant eulogy, "Even in her advanced years, she never became an 'old lady.'"

And that, my friends, is the key to life. We all go sometime and we don't know when or where. The key is to keep pushing, every day. Keep learning, growing, soaking it all in like a sponge, and giving back to others.

I was a late bloomer and I readily admit that I only started to hit my stride in my 30s. Still, my attitude about the gifts I had been given was that there was always another year to build upon, always another decade to make my mark, always "all the time in the world."

And then, 9/11 happened. I ramped it up. Six years later, I received abrupt, chilling, and, fortunately, incorrect news about my health. I

underwent test after test at Methodist Hospital and, then, Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, and was enrolled in a cancer treatment unit and given a blue wallet card embossed with vital information.

When, ultimately, I was deemed fit and my problem resolved, I kept the card. Now, to some that might seem strange. But, it is there, in my wallet, to this very day. I keep it as a reminder: life is precious. Life is short. "Cut the crap," the card tells me every day, "and keep pushing ahead. DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME."

Yes, it is raining today, and cold, and dreary. The pelting rain will knock the leaves to the ground below, where they will enrich the soil and allow new growth in the months ahead. We need the rain, for nourishment, for sustenance. And as for the cold, and the

shorter days, well, this is what it is, here in the northeast United States. It gets cold, and then colder, and then warmer, and then hot. Finally, it will cool again.

We will miss Elaine and feel sad about losing her. But I can't mourn her life. Not really. She lived it to the fullest, and overcame the horrors and challenges—and welcomed the joys—that a long life surely brings. A life force like hers lives on, in the memories of all those she has touched.

I'm looking at the rain now, and the window is wide open. It is cold in here. The rain splashes the sill. I feel it on my hands as I type. It feels good. Really good. —Marty Kleinman



**An Opportunity to Share!**

Perhaps you want to honor a birthday, an anniversary, commemorate a Yahrzeit, or share Shabbat with our congregation! Call the office at 718-

548-3800, ext. 0, and leave a message for Irene Brenner.

**Knitting for Charity**

In addition to knitting for Warm Up America, we are knitting caps for Israeli soldiers.

This WRJ-sponsored activity usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the west lounge. The next meeting is Tuesday, **December 9**, at 7:00 p.m., together with the WRJ Book Club.



**Spreadsheet Volunteer Needed Urgently**

We need someone to track the purchase of supplies on a spreadsheet from the receipts. We also need to log purchases required for repairs to the temple. If you are able to use a spreadsheet and are willing to volunteer approximately two hours per month working at home, please let Helen Krim know at 347-275-5472.

**Virtual Water Cooler**

Do you have something you'd like to discuss with Rabbi Lewis but do not have the time to come in and meet with her personally? Send her a message through our website at <http://riverdaletemple.org/community-rd/conversation-with-rabbi-lewis>. While you are there, also stop by our "virtual water cooler" or take a look at some great pictures!

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## Bulletin Board

### December Events

Adult Hebrew Language Classes	Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
YIVO Lecture at Museum of NYC	Dec. 3
Lunch and Learn with Rabbi	Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25
WRJ Book Club, Knitting Group	Dec. 9

Chavurah	Dec. 13
Pre-Chanukah Family Celebration, Latke Fry-off	Dec. 14
Why Be Jewish? with Rabbi	Dec. 14

Dates subject to change. Go to [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org) for updates.

Rabbi Lewis would greatly appreciate hearing from members of the congregation who may be facing health issues or other emotional stresses and might welcome a pastoral visit or phone conversation. Please call her at 718-548-3800, ext. 4, if there is any way in which she can provide assistance.

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **December 15**. You can e-mail it directly to [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.com) (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



### Caring Committee

When you become aware of a member's illness or accident, or a fellow congregant's passing, PLEASE call the office or e-mail [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.com) promptly with details, including the person's relationship to you or others. This will enable the Caring Committee to take action accordingly.

<b>Riverdale Temple</b>	Rabbi	4
<b>Telephone Extensions</b> (718-548-3800)	Cantorial Intern	5
Temple Office	Emergencies	7
Bookkeeper	General Information	8
Nursery School	Other	9

### Registry of Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor or the family member of a survivor, you can register to be included in the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. For more information and to download the Survivors' Registry Form, go to [www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry](http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry). Send the completed form to Registry of Holocaust Survivors, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; tel: 202-488-6130; fax: 202-314-7820; e-mail: [registry@ushmm.org](mailto:registry@ushmm.org).

Visit our new and improved website at [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org).

### Join Us on Facebook!

Did you know that Riverdale Temple has a Facebook page? Find us by searching for "Riverdale Temple Bronx, NY" on Facebook and join this page by clicking on "like." This is a space where we can exchange ideas, blog, discuss events, share photos, etc., and strengthen our bonds as a community. Join and make our numbers grow.

### To Send a Contribution to Riverdale Temple

Send your donation to Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471. Please make your check payable to Riverdale Temple. Give the name/category/event to which your donation applies. We now accept payment by credit card; call the office (718-548-3800, ext. 0) or go to [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org). You can support Riverdale Temple by buying a mug for just \$10.

### Congratulations!

**Suzanne and Robert Boydston** on their son Joshua's marriage to Abigail, daughter of Rabbi Rod and Mrs. Nehama Glogower of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

### Riverdale Temple House Committee

Our mission is to ensure that the building and grounds of our synagogue best respond to the spiritual, educational, cultural, and social needs and activities of our congregation. We are concerned about safety, cleanliness, comfort, and appearance and maximizing the functionality of our facilities. The committee works closely with the maintenance staff to ensure that the facilities are well managed and meet the needs of our community efficiently and economically. The committee benefits from members with varied experience in facilities management, engineering, construction, and related fields. If you are willing to join the committee, please contact Helen Krim at [helen.krim@gmail.com](mailto:helen.krim@gmail.com).

**Urgent: Spreadsheet volunteer needed (see p. 4).**

If you need transportation to and/or from services at the temple, please call the office at 718-548-3800, ext. 0 or 1, to make arrangements.



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### Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Services

The first Friday night service of each month, which begins at 6:15 p.m. and is called Family Shabbat, aims to be a lively service filled with songs and stories and is directed primarily at families with young children. As in the past, it features our Junior Choir and is followed by a potluck dinner. Our other Friday night services also begin at 6:15 p.m., with the singing of a special series of Psalms that usher in Shabbat, followed at 6:30 p.m. by the formal evening service.

Dec. 5	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service 6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat	Dec. 19	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service, Professional Choir
Dec. 6	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service	Dec. 20	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Dec. 12	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service	Dec. 26	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Dec. 13	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service	Dec. 27	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

### NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



It's a cold and rainy day as I write our Nursery School News. As annoying as a rainy day can be, it presented an opportunity to see a vast array of adorable umbrellas and rain boots as the children arrived this morning. Fortunately, we have a spacious indoor play space that the children enjoy using in the cold and rainy weather.

Every day as I greet families at the door, it occurs to me that we must have the cutest preschoolers in all of Riverdale. They're all making rapid gains in their independent skills, whether it's putting their lunch in the right classroom bag, pouring milk at snack time, or signing in at the start of the day. Even the twos have learned the routines of the day.

We are approaching the time of year when we will begin registering new families for the 2015–16 school year. If you know families with young children who are looking for a quality preschool with seasoned and nurturing teachers, please have them call me at our direct line, 718-796-0335. As early as it might seem, we are months behind the registration schedule of our Manhattan counterparts!

Chanukah begins at sundown on Tuesday, December 16. I wish everyone in the Riverdale Temple community a wonderful Chanukah and a Happy New Year!

—Suzanne Boydston

December's Calendar: Closed for Winter Vacation: December 24, 2014, through January 2, 2015

**MITZVAH DAY**

**April 19, 2015**

**Please plan to participate and help!**

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/HEBREW SCHOOL

#### Calendar

**Sundays:**

December 7

December 14

December 21 No school (winter break)

December 28 No school (winter break)

**Thursdays:**

December 4

December 11

December 18 Chanukah Party

December 25 No school (winter break)



The family of Elaine Katz would like to thank their Riverdale Temple family for all of your love, support, and comfort during this sad time.

## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

I had the privilege of working closely with Elaine for more than a year as co-president of WRJ. In that time I never stopped being amazed at her optimism, her inclusiveness to all people and ideas, and, most especially, her innate “goodness.” She found the “good” in everyone and she made everyone feel that their ideas and contributions mattered. She will be sorely missed, but she has left a legacy to be admired and emulated—not just for WRJ but also for everyone whose life she touched. This column is dedicated to her.

—**Dorothy Feldman**

I could fill up several pages with words describing all that Elaine meant to me. What is uppermost in my mind and what I will remember most about Elaine is her ever-present smile, her readily available laugh, and the joyous twinkle in her eyes. Elaine inspired me, welcomed me warmly into the Riverdale Temple family, and offered me her friendship, for which I will always be grateful. I will cherish my memories of Elaine.

—**Shelley Ast**

I will miss Elaine’s frequent telephone calls and her company at the theater, concerts, and opera. She was a good friend and I will miss her very much.

—**Irene Brenner**

Although it is not easy to sum up Elaine into a few sentences, I think to say Elaine was a true friend is just a small account of many attributes. With an ear ready to listen, Elaine would at times offer advice or just act as a sounding board. Peace and Love.

—**Fanta Davis**

Elaine was a wonderful woman and friend. We worked together for many years as financial secretaries. I will miss her terribly. Rest in peace.

—**Carole Feinberg**

I shall always be grateful for her friendship, generous heart, and spirit. Elaine offered me much solace when my daughter Cybele died and told of her own loss. She touched my heart. Additionally, she referred me to The Compassionate Friends, where I found further comfort.

—**Phyllis Fisher**

We spent many holidays, simchas, and quiet moments with Elaine and her family. We love and will carry with us her sense of humor, her commitment and pride in Judaism, and her love of Riverdale Temple.

—**Sarah Gerecke**

Elaine gave me the courage to become an adult Bat Mitzvah—life altering.

—**Sylvia Gottlieb**

Elaine is gone

An empty chair.

Elaine is gone

She should be there.

Elaine is gone

A sad refrain.

What we lost

Is heaven’s gain!

—**Fran Hoffman**

Elaine was a remarkable woman and friend whom I will dearly miss.

—**Dorothy Kay**

I miss her. I miss being able to seek her out for advice!

—**Olivia Koppell**

During the seven years I co-chaired WRJ with Elaine, we had many evening conversations. They had to end promptly at 10:00 p.m., when Elaine would say, “I have to hang up, it’s time for Peaches’ walk. Give my love to Tom.” She thought of everyone.

—**Helen Krim**

When I’d end a sentence with “A-men,” good, kind Elaine would quickly add: “and Women.” May our cherished Elaine rest in peace—she well deserves it.

—**Ruth Loebmann**

Every evening at around 10:00 p.m., if you were in the lobby of the building she lived in, Elaine would come down with Peaches, her beloved little dog who had kept her company for many years. Though now blind, but with Elaine at the helm (holding Peaches’s leash to guide him, or perhaps it was the other way around), he happily went for a walk with her before they both went to bed. Where, I asked Elaine, did she walk at this time of evening. “Oh,” she said, “we always walk in the park next to our house.” I said to her, “This is NYC. Don’t walk in parks at night. There is no one around.” She replied, “No worry, the doorman has my keys.” No matter how cold, blustery, or inclement the weather, they always walked there. “We will be alright,” she said. “We enjoy our walk.” And they went out into the night.

—**Yvette Marrin**

Although I could go on and on about my friendship with Elaine Katz, whom I miss terribly, I will keep this short and sweet, just like Elaine, who was short and sweet! At a recent funeral at Riverdale Temple, Rabbi Lewis referred to Jeanne Snyder as a “Lady” with a “capital L.” In my estimation, Elaine was the entire alphabet from A to Z, capital letters and lower-case letters as well, from A for active (to say the least) to Z for a zest for living and a love of life. I didn’t know Elaine well when I first joined Riverdale Temple about 12 years ago—it was only after I became involved in one of her many loves, WRJ, or Sisterhood, as she frequently referred to our lively group of women.

I found that Elaine was always willing to listen to me as I kvetched about the stress of having run a tag sale and several holiday gift and crafts sales over the years. She reassured me that it would all work out and that Sisterhood needed these sales to help raise money. “Remember,” she said, “we must raise \$ 10,000 to give to the temple.” That seemed to be the magic number and, somehow, we always met her goal. I confided in Elaine about personal problems at home and with the growing pains of my two sons, especially after my husband died. I entertained her with tales of my dates or lack of them. All the time, she listened patiently and never passed judgment, offering words of wisdom as only Elaine could do.

I once told Elaine that she was my role model, a mentor, and that I emulated her. She was taken aback and said, “I’m not your role model, I’m your friend,” and indeed she was. She told me that she loved me and gave me a big hug. I promised that I would be short and sweet in my remarks, short and sweet, like Elaine. But she leaves huge shoes to be filled. I love you, Elaine, and miss you terribly. RIP.

—**Rita Pochter Lowe**

Elaine was a caring and compassionate woman. —**Shelley Rosen**

Elaine was one of a kind. Her consideration of others, her empathy, her intelligence, and charismatic personality left an indelible imprint on all whose lives she touched. She touched me in a special way, relating to the merits of American Sign Language and the gift of communication. She was near to my heart and will always be remembered with love. —**Ellen Rosenberg**

I am so glad to have had the opportunity to meet Elaine and to see firsthand her enthusiasm and her compassion. I enjoyed our chats and will always remember her. —**Robin Segal**

Elaine had a wonderful zest for life. She and her late husband were always supportive of social action. They would go on social action trips to help raise money for people from the former Soviet Union and helped with gardening during one of our Mitzvah Days. She would volunteer to help make sandwiches for POTS or to sort through donated clothing. As a widow, she kept active. I would see her at a local pool or with a friend taking a trip with the Riverdale Y senior group. She was always positive, full of energy with her tasks, and was someone who always answered calls and e-mails. —**Frances Segan**

As many people have mentioned, Elaine loved music. One has to be gratified that she truly enjoyed the performance of *The Magic Flute* just before her passing. Elaine called me on Saturday night. Well, I was on call and at work with my boss, so I tried to cut the conversation short. I kept trying to get off the phone, but Elaine wouldn't let me go until she told me how great the opera was. And she had to tell me all about the scenery, how much it added to the performance. Julie Taymor, all while I was on top of a ladder fixing a light. Well, needless to say, I didn't take time to engage in conversation, just assuming we would chat at the oneg on Friday (as

we always did), and I would be able to tell her all about my history in theater design, my appreciation of theatrical productions, etc. Now I have a conversation on the tip of my tongue that will never be voiced. It's like that song that got cut off when you got out of the car, but can never get out of your head. So I will have that ongoing conversation with Elaine to keep forever. —**Scott Sirkin**, husband of Fay Statsky

When I first joined the temple, Elaine called and asked me to run the WRJ book club. Soon after I said, "yes," I found book club e-mails shooting out directives addressing staff, members, everyone. I told Elaine: if I'm to run the book club, then let me run it. She immediately agreed to give me autonomy. Weeks later, more e-mails. I demurred again. Again Elaine offered me my head. "This lady is trouble," I thought. I had been raised by a bossy, indomitable woman who knew only one way: her own. So I was a seasoned warrior, or so I thought. By the time Elaine and I worked it out, I had reached a far deeper understanding of who she was, and like everyone else, I had been conquered. At her 85th birthday, I wished her well and gushed about how much her warmth, her spirit, her strength, and her goodness meant to me. She said, "So now you'll stop because you're embarrassing me." I clammed right up, of course. But she went on, "I'm glad you came to this temple, Ronni. You bring something we need." "What is that?" I asked, "I will tell you sometime, but not now," she answered, enigmatically. Elaine asked much of me on behalf of the temple, and not revealing what she saw in me kept me eager. Now she is gone and I'll never know if she had an answer or was playing me like a Stradivarius. Does it matter? —**Ronni Stolzenberg**

I will always remember Elaine's smile, her gumption, her attitude toward life, her kind heart, and how fast she walked. Even with her walker I had a hard time keeping up with her. —**Judy Zucker**

 **WRJ Book Club**  
On December 9, at 7:30 p.m., we will be discussing  
*The Invisible Wall: A Love Story that Broke*

*Barriers*, a memoir by Harry Bernstein. According to *The New York Times*, "In this, his first book, the 96-year-old Mr. Bernstein tells his story, so remote in time, almost as though it were a fable, occasionally addressing the reader directly." —**Ronni Stolzenberg**

## ADULT EDUCATION



### Reminders about the First YIVO Lecture in Our YIVO Kulture Series in the 2014–2015 Program Year

Remember, the event is being held at the Museum of the City of NY on 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue on December 3, at 7:00 p.m.

If you are planning to attend, or if you have not already done so, purchase your ticket from the Museum by going to [www.museumtix.com](http://www.museumtix.com).

- Tickets are free to YIVO members; tickets for students and seniors are \$12.00; general admission is \$16.00.
- Members of either MCNY or YIVO should register at MCNY's site (scroll to the bottom of the page): <http://mcny.org/event/coming-age-poland-jewish-life-stories-1930s>.

Please let me know that you have purchased your ticket by e-mailing me at [ymarrin@crisrina.org](mailto:ymarrin@crisrina.org). The museum is saving 10 tickets for Riverdale Temple attendees, and it will help me to know if they still need that many to set aside for us. As you know, the public will be attending the event and we do not want any of our congregants to be disappointed.

### If You Need Transportation to the Museum

We have arranged for transportation from Riverdale Temple, using vans provided by Seaman's car service. For your convenience, there is a registration form in the temple lobby, which you can complete (the form is on the back of the YIVO flyer announcing the event) and return to the office with your check, with "van to YIVO lecture" on the memo line. This is a low-cost and convenient way to get to the Museum at 103rd St. and Fifth Ave. We will meet in our parking lot.

Payment can also be made online at <http://riverdaletemple.org>. Indicate that you are paying for the transportation to the YIVO lecture.

The vehicles will leave for the museum at 5:30 p.m. to give you time to view the exhibit prior to the lecture. Because we are using a car service, if you need this service on the return trip, and you live in Riverdale, you can be dropped off at your residence. If you are signing up for transportation, be sure to provide us with all your contact information. The price is \$18.00 for the transportation round trip.

### **The Program**

Coming of Age in Poland: Jewish Life Stories from the 1930s

Speaker: Jeffrey Shandler, Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University

In the 1930s, scholars at the YIVO Institute set out to study Jewish life in Poland through an innovative approach—holding a series of autobiography contests for Jewish youth. More than 600 Jewish adolescents responded from across the social spectrum: religious and secular, rich and poor, from large cities and small towns. What started as a YIVO research project in Poland now speaks across historical time, providing unique testimony on Jewish life in the final years before the Holocaust. In this lecture, Professor Shandler explores the insights that the resulting stories provide into the rich, complex lives of this singular generation. Excerpts from several autobiographies will be read during this program.

### **Study with Rabbi Lewis**

There are three classes for you to consider: Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi meets every Thursday in the social hall from noon to 1:00 p.m. (except on holidays). The topic of study is Pathways through the Prophets (in the Jewish Bible).

Why Be Jewish? meets next on Sunday, December 14, at 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the ballroom.

A Closer Look at Reform Judaism meets on the second Thursday of the month, 6:00–7:00 p.m. (Dec. 11).

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on December 13, following the Shabbat service. The Torah portion for that week is *Vayeshev*, which continues the story of Joseph as he goes from favored son and obnoxious brother to being sold as a slave and imprisoned in Egypt. This portion is so full of drama that it reads like a screenplay. Everyone is welcome to drop in to our lay-led study group; there are no prerequisites. We meet for two hours, share a potluck dairy lunch, and proceed to read and discuss the parashah. Join us!

—Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

### **MEN'S CLUB**

The next meeting of the Men's Club is on Sunday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m. Updates will be sent via e-mail.

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

### **SOCIAL ACTION**

December is filled with time to get together with friends and family for Chanukah and other winter events.

While you enjoy, there are also ways to make the holidays special for those in need. Here are some suggestions:

- Volunteer for the Bronx Jewish Community Council to deliver three to five Chanukah packages to elderly, homebound seniors, from Ampark Vladek Hall, 74 Van Cortlandt Park South, near Hillman Ave. and Van Cortlandt Park South, on December 7.
- Volunteer to help set up/serve dinner at CSAIR, 250th and Henry Hudson Parkway at the Dreydel Ball, sponsored by BJCC, on Monday, December 15, from 4:15 to 6:00 p.m. For both events, please contact Niti Minkove, [nminkove@bjcconline.org](mailto:nminkove@bjcconline.org), 917-693-3084. She would like people to register by December 5, if possible.
- Help pack holiday gift bags for KRMH Food & Hunger Project at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church on December 14, 1:00–2:30 p.m. The treat bags go to needy children, people in shelters, and homebound elderly. It is a fun activity that you can do with your children or friends.
- NYCares Coat Collection: Please donate gently used men's, women's, and children's coats and jackets, December 1–28. The collection box is outside the sanctuary. Help people stay warm during our increasingly cold winters with the polar vortex!

• KRMH Food & Hunger Project: Please donate healthful canned and boxed groceries for the needy. Our next delivery to the pantry will be on December 21.

A BIG THANKS—to everyone who donated new pajamas and new books for the Pajama Program.

We thank the parents of both the Riverdale Temple Nursery School and the Religious School, to whom we made special outreach this year. It looks like another cold winter, so those who helped can take comfort in giving warmth and pleasure to needy children and teens during the winter.

LOOKING AHEAD. All are welcome to come to the next Social Action Committee meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., in the Social Hall. We shall be discussing results from a Social Action survey used at the recent Gift and Craft Fair and start planning time lines and activities for the April 19, 2015, Mitzvah Day. Please join us at Riverdale Temple during December:

The Social Action Committee wishes everyone health, good things, and peace in 2015!

—Frances Segan, Ph.D., Chair, Social Action Committee

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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Julie Hyman, Esq.	Riverdale Temple for my aliyah during the High Holy Days	Patricia and Louis Dooley	Elaine Katz
Linda K. Kleinman	Rabbi Lewis and Rachel Radna for my High Holy Days aliyah	Carole and Bert Feinberg	Harry, Jerry, and Grace Feinberg, beloved father, brother, and mother of Bert Feinberg
Ellen and Guy Knafo	Riverdale Temple for our aliyah on Yom Kippur	Karen and Rabbi Stephen Franklin	Kaethe Spiegel, beloved grandmother of Karen Franklin
Helen and Tom Krim	Susan and Howard Birnbaum in honor of Lisa and Marisa Birnbaum	Renee Gally	Alan Gally, beloved husband Elaine Katz Jeanne Snyder
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Florence and Lise Rapaport	In gratitude for Rabbi Stephen Franklin	Sarah Gerecke	Elaine Katz
Jill and Jack Shaifer	Riverdale Temple for our aliyah on Yom Kippur	Jean and Stuart Goldshein	Our beloved Elaine Katz, who left an imprint on all of our lives
Harriet Simon	Bruce Zayde's birthday!	Florence and Milton Greenberger	Mark Thomas, beloved husband of Holly Thomas
Snyder Family	Rabbi Lewis for officiating at Jeanne Snyder's funeral services	Margaret and Michael Griffel	Elaine Katz, valued friend and colleague
Sherrill Spatz and Robert Katz	WRJ, special thanks for its support during our family's difficult time	Amy Handelsman	Elaine Katz
Judith Buder Zucker	Lisa and Marisa's wedding blessings at Riverdale Temple	Ruth Hecht	Elaine Katz
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>IN MEMORY</b>	Inge Hershkowitz	Elaine Katz
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Shelley Ast	Elaine Katz, may she rest in peace	Kaminsky-Wilson family	Elaine Katz
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Hope Solomon and Mae Zuckerman	Elaine Katz		

To	Condolences On the loss of	
Ellyn and Jeff, Rob and Sherrill, Deborah and Mark Mat, Ben, Emma and Zoe Yvette and Albert Marrin and family	<b>Elaine Katz</b> , beloved mother and mother-in law, grandmother, aunt; cherished longtime member of Riverdale Temple <b>Joseph Rappaport</b> , beloved brother, brother-in-law, father, father-in-law, grandfather	

*The Departed Whom We Now Remember—December Yahrzeit Observances*

1 Stella Greenblatt	10 Ariadne (Ari) Bloustein	17 Aaron Dorfman	26 Esther Lubarsky
1 Irving Schneider	10 Sol Dubrov	17 Giza Hirsch	26 Sidney Meyer
2 Fannie Bialek	10 Anna Halpern	17 Sydney Rappaport	26 Riga Perlin
2 Ruth Kay	10 Jennie Kronman	17 Leon Schenker	26 Rebecca Weisberg
2 William Mallin	10 Freida Landesman	18 Eric J. Schmertz	27 Abolpa Frankl
2 Max Oppenheimer	11 Anna Gargle	18 Sam Siegel	27 Ida Greenberg
2 Hy Papierman	11 Sigmund Lipshultz	18 Albert Spatz	27 Abraham Hochroth
3 Frances Capon	12 Edith Pargh	19 Israel Jacobs	27 Harry Soicher
4 Alan Cohen	12 Edna H. Senderoff	19 Sarah Silverstein	27 Alan Ira Sternstein
4 Henry Koppell	12 Samuel Silver	19 Gary Zucker	27 Molly Sumner
4 Sidney Maskit	13 Leo Bloch	20 Ben Lipton	28 Rose Katz
5 Bertha Arrow	13 David Gefter	20 Osias S. Majerczyk	28 Marilyn Lazarus
5 Rose Kantor	13 Irving Geller	20 Rebecca Evelyn Schenker	28 Sarah L. Mandel
5 Milton J. Molsky	13 Rose Stranger Weiss	20 Margaret Sternberg	28 Bernard Willing
5 Emanuel Saxe	14 Leon P. Bereano	21 Amir Landesman	29 Lena Cassel
6 Sydney Gevertz	14 Mona Glickman	22 Bernard Baron	29 Yvette Djivre
6 Milton Richman	14 Phoebe Nalitt	22 Dick Martin	29 Sol Levine
7 Anne Biegen	14 Samuel H. Regan	22 Claire Morse	29 Carl Seefer
8 Brigitta Thea-Dora Andrews	15 Jennie Gargle	23 Anna Haas	29 Jacob White
8 Jeanne Aronson	15 Gertrud Hirschmann	23 Abraham Kleinberg	29 Louis David Wile
8 Anna Ripps	15 Abraham Rappaport	23 Dr. Oscar Richter	30 David E. Lakritz
8 Eleonor Lola Zeller	15 Benjamin Reinhart	23 Ruth L. Saxe	31 Miriam Eisen
9 Sarah Hartman	15 Anne Rosenthal Lisman	24 Bill Greenblatt	31 Sophie Froehlich
9 Gertrude Heimowitz	15 Esther Slade	24 Samuel W. Stolzenberg	31 Alan Gallay
9 Rose Hutter	15 Zena L. Winston	25 Belle Caplan	31 Clara E. Newman
9 George E. Katz	16 Phyllis Rogofsky	25 Rosalyn Meisler	31 Morris Newman
9 Robert Morse	17 Murray Dauber	25 Rose Weintraub	31 Helen S. Taylor

Otto Kucera is pleased to inform the congregation that he is now affiliated with Plaza Jewish Community Chapel  
630 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10024 212-769-4400 PlazaJewishCommunityChapel.org

# RIVERDALE TEMPLE

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Rabbi Judith S. Lewis

### **Rabbi Emeritus of the Congregation**

Rabbi Stephen D. Franklin, D.D., D.H.L.

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Dr. Rachel Radna

### **Organist/Director of Music**

Arnold Ostlund Jr., B.Mus.

### **Nursery School Executive Director**

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\*Elaine Katz, Olivia Koppell, Ruth Loebmann

\*In blessed memory

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