



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְדֻלָּל שֵׁם יי

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

Vol. 67

December 2013 (5774)

No. 4

Worship Services (see p. 6 for details) Fridays

- Dec. 6 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with
Junior Choir, followed by potluck
dinner
- Dec. 13 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with
Adult Volunteer Choir (5:45 p.m.
rehearsal)
- Dec. 20 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Dec. 27 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

Saturdays

- Dec. 7 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 14 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 21 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Dec. 28 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Last Night of Chanukah Dec. 4



THE RABBI'S COLUMN

What a strange year! Chanukah and turkey leftovers will be distant memories by the time Christmas comes around. There's actually something wonderful about it, from a rabbi's or Jewish educator's point of view. It's true that, ultimately, both Chanukah and Christmas must have been inspired by, or filled the vacuum of, some sort of premonotheistic midwinter celebration. Human beings haven't changed that much over the past 5,000 years, and I'm guessing most of us are looking forward to December 21 at this point in the year. As much as I love celebrating Chanukah, it's really the winter solstice that gives me hope that I can make it to spring!

The benefit of having Chanukah completed in the past weeks before Christmas is that there's much less opportunity to confuse the two holidays. And, as we discussed in religious school, Chanukah is a much better fit for Thanksgiving than for Christmas—especially since many people have suggested a connection between Thanksgiving and the biblical festival of Sukkot. There is a similar belief that Chanukah was actually intended to be “Sukkot in Kislev”—postponed because the Temple wasn't in operational condition for Sukkot at its proper time in Tishrei. Both of these theories, of course, are uncertain—to say the least. But then, even our younger students are also already conscious of the fact that things between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans weren't necessarily as chummy as tradition used to suggest.

History is a complicated subject. The “scientific” study of the past—the academic pursuit that gave birth to Reform Judaism at the dawn of the Enlightenment, more than two centuries ago—can tell us (sometimes) what happened in the past, and often even why it happened, but history alone cannot tell us what to do with that information.

As anyone who attends Sabbath morning services here knows, I often turn to a “scientific” understanding of our sacred texts—that is, trying to identify the actual historical context behind the story. But I don't have any illusions about being able to come up with some “truth” as a result. What I *am* trying to do is put myself in the place of the generation that decided the story needed to be part of our sacred tradition, to see if I can learn something new from it for our own generation. I try to continue the practice of reading

continued on p. 3

DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Kislev</i> 5774 Chanukah Candle 5 No Religious School Social Action coat drive begins	29 <i>Kislev</i> 5774 Nursery School Chanukah Candle 6	30 <i>Kislev</i> 5774 Chanukah Candle 7 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Executive Committee Meeting	1 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Chanukah Candle 8 Nursery School	2 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:30 pm Pulpit and Ritual, Music Committee meeting	3 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Jr. Choir, potluck dinner	4 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 <i>Vayigash</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am Men's Club meeting 11:30 am Jr. Choir Rehearsal	6 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School	7 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:00 pm Knitting for Charity 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club: <i>A Guide for the Perplexed</i>	8 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School—Parent-Teacher conferences	9 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm Parashat Hashavua with Rabbi 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	10 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School 5:45 Adult Volunteer Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service with Adult Volunteer Choir	11 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 <i>Vayeichi</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am "The Wondering Jew" with Rabbi Lewis 11:30 am Jr. Choir Rehearsal 1:00 pm KRMH holiday bag packing	13 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School	14 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School	15 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School	16 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm Parashat Hashavua with Rabbi Trustees meeting	17 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	18 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 <i>Shemot</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Chavurah follows service, with potluck lunch
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Religious School 11:45 am KRMH Food Delivery	20 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School—Winter Break	21 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School No Hebrew School Offices Closed	22 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School Offices Closed	23 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School	24 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	25 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 <i>Vaera</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Religious School	27 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School	28 <i>Tevet</i> 5774 No Nursery School No Hebrew School Offices Closed	No Membership Committee meeting this month. Next meeting on Jan. 14.			
29	30	31				

between the lines, as our rabbis have done for the past two millennia. We will probably never come up with an insight that some rabbi before us has not already discovered, but we are obligated to go through the process ourselves and not rely only on what the rabbis before us have written. Each generation faces unique challenges to preserving Jewish heritage and tradition. We can observe how generations before us solved some of the problems they faced, not because their solutions will work for us today. We should be searching for clues about how to resolve our own challenges. It is a never-ending process, I hope! I firmly believe that Judaism has survived because it has always been a living, changing, evolving system of belief and behavior.

Every so often I turn to a metaphor that one of my professors at the Hebrew Union College used in his book *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, published in 1972. Since I wanted to cite it accurately, and couldn't readily lay my hands on my copy, what else did I do but "Google" it. I was not surprised, but delighted to find more than 200,000 results! (I didn't check that all of them referred to the same passage, but at least the first few pages did.) What delighted me even more was that Professor Meyer himself cited his own metaphor, 30 years later. This is a more recent example from *Judaism within Modernity: Essays on Jewish History and Religion*, published in 2001, of his metaphor of a rope as the model for historical continuity:

A rope is composed of many strands, none of which stretch from one end of the rope to the other, yet the rope does not pull apart since each strand overlaps others...One strand may be thicker than another at a particular time; it may also gradually change its hue. It may tear and cease to exist further in the life of the entire people or a portion of it. But as long as all of the strands do not tear at the same time historical continuity is not damaged.

That image occupies a central place in my approach to Judaism. I want to add something to that rope, not just cling to other strands that may have been a part of it for a while. I want us to add strength to our continuity, weave something new into it that might sustain future generations and replace

strands that have become frayed or weak. To do that we have to engage, actively, in our tradition and draw our own, new / old insights to twist into the future.

This year we are pursuing two new paths toward that process. First, we are reading the New Testament every Thursday at noon. (Please join us—we've only gotten through the first dozen chapters of Matthew, so you can catch up easily!) What does that contribute to our *Jewish* continuity? Because Christianity was a strand in that rope that did not weave itself into our Jewish future, but evolved as a very powerful strand of its own, following a path that clearly diverged from the Jewish rope. By discovering where the strands of Christianity and Judaism were still woven together, and where they parted ways, we learn at least as much about our own tradition as we do about the origins of Christianity. And we learn more about how to keep our own strand closely woven into the rope of Jewish continuity.

We have also, thanks to Yvette Marrin, been developing a close working relationship with YIVO, through a series of lectures, and now through an ongoing discussion group for parents of our religious school students (and potential students—all parents of school-age children are welcome to participate—see religious school column for details). We began our school year with a session led by Jonathan Brent, executive director of YIVO, and someone whose work and life are devoted to the ongoing exploration of what makes up Jewish identity. He will be joining us for future sessions as well.

These are just two examples of our attempt to reinforce the "rope" of Jewish continuity, but in essence everything we do is a part of that process—from our worship services to all of our studies, even to our social programming. As we approach the Christmas season with Chanukah safely in its own unique time and place, I hope that each and every one of us will use this winter season to reflect on, and strengthen our sense of our own unique position within the rope of Jewish continuity. Happy (secular) New Year!

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Share the Joy and Fun of Purim with Your Riverdale Temple Friends!

You must be wondering why we are talking about Purim in December. We have a very special reason. This year we would like to offer an easy and delicious way to observe the mitzvah of *Mishloach manot*. As you know, *Mishloach manot* are gifts of food that friends (and prospective new friends!) exchange on Purim. These gifts are frequently referred to by their Yiddish name, *shalachmanos*.

This year WRJ Sisterhood is offering to deliver (local delivery only, please) a beautiful basket of delicious treats including home baked goods and wine to a friend, a relative

or someone whose day you just want to brighten or whose friendship you treasure. What would be a better way to show them you care and fulfill a mitzvah? For a donation of \$18, such a basket will be delivered within the Riverdale Temple community with your holiday greetings.

Purim is still a few months away (March 16, 2014). We are only going to make up as many baskets as are ordered. So put in your order early to be part of a new tradition of giving, friendship, and fun. All orders must be in by February 3, 2014. Look for the order form in the mail or in the January bulletin.

—Ronni Stolzenberg and Rachel Radna



The Wondering Jew

If you are a current or potential religious school family, join us on Sunday, **December 15**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Riverdale Temple Ballroom for a provocative exploration of Jewish identity in our time and place.

Led by Rabbi Judith Lewis, this interactive presentation uses the Sholem Aleichem story "The Clock" as a starting point to address the questions often raised by Jewish families in our community.

Refreshments will be served. Child care available.

Actors, singers, any fool who will get on a stage, needed for the Purimspiel. If you play an instrument, please step forward. Don't let the schedule get in your way—no one makes it to every rehearsal. I need a Haman, a Mordechai, an Ahashverosh, and two courtiers, a Vashti, an Esther, a Haggai, and a harem. All are welcome! And we always have fun. **NO TALENT REQUIRED!!** —Helen Krim

Purimspiel Rehearsal Schedule

Sun.	Jan. 5	noon
Thurs.	Jan. 9	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 12	noon
Tues.	Jan. 14	7:45 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 16	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 19—Martin Luther King Weekend—	no rehearsal
Wed.	Jan. 22	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 26	noon
Thurs.	Jan. 30	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 2	noon
Wed.	Feb. 5	7:45 p.m.

Sun.	Feb. 9	noon
Tues.	Feb. 11	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 16—Presidents' Day Weekend—	no rehearsal
Thurs.	Feb. 20	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 23	noon
Thurs.	Feb. 27	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 2	noon
Wed.	Mar. 5	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Mar. 9	noon
Tues.	Mar. 11	7:45 p.m.
Sat.	Mar. 15	2:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal



Knitting for Charity



Knitting for Charity will meet next on December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

We knit for Warm up America and local nursing homes. Come and join in this mitzvah of Gemilut Chasadim.

Kol Nidre Appeal

Thank you for your Kol Nidre pledges and donations. To those of you who haven't responded yet, there is still time to send in your donations!

We would love to have 100 percent participation! No donation is too small. Donors will be listed in the next issue of the bulletin.

Bridge Classes at Riverdale Temple

Come and play bridge, or learn to play bridge, make new friends, and relax while exercising your mind. Rich Marchione is a masterful teacher as well as bridge master. Come when you can, no sign-up necessary. All levels and all ages welcome. Bridge is a very social game—join us.

The club meets on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to noon.



5900 Broadway,
Bronx, NY 10471

Learn to Skate at Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink Skating School Just for You!

All levels, ages four and up,
every Sunday, 10:00 am-10:30 am,
11/17/13 to 3/9/14

Contact Cheryl Hunt,
chunt@vcricerink.com for details

Bulletin Board

December Events

Social Action Coat Drive Begins	Dec. 1
WRJ Executive Meeting	Dec. 3
Knitting for Charity	Dec. 10
WRJ Book Club	Dec. 10
KRMH Holiday Bag Packing	Dec. 15

The Wondering Jew	Dec. 15
KRMH Food Delivery	Dec. 22

Coming Up in January

Purimspiel Rehearsals	Jan. 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, 22, 26, 30
Membership Committee Meeting	Jan. 14



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

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.

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 rivtemple@aol.com promptly with details, including the person's relationship to you or others. This will enable the Caring Committee to take action accordingly.

Visit our new and improved website at 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.

Also support Riverdale Temple by buying a mug for just \$10.

Riverdale Temple Telephone Extensions (718-548-3800)

	Rabbi	4	
	Director of Education	4	
	Cantorial Intern	5	
Temple Office	0 or 1	Emergencies	7
Bookkeeper	2	General Information	8
Nursery School	3	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. 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.

Riverdale Temple House Committee

Our mission is to ensure that the building and grounds of our synagogue best enable 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.

If you need transportation to and 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



While Kabbalat Shabbat traditionally refers to the special series of Psalms that usher in Shabbat and precede the evening service, at Riverdale Temple our Kabbalat Shabbat service early in the month means a lively service filled with songs and stories, and directed primarily at families with young children.

Friday, Dec. 6	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Junior Choir, followed by potluck dinner
Saturday, Dec. 7	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Dec. 13	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Adult Volunteer Choir (5:45 p.m. rehearsal)
Saturday, Dec. 14	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Dec. 20	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 21	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service, followed by Chavurah
Friday, Dec. 27	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 28	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

The **December 13 oneg** will be sponsored by **Sylvia Gottlieb and Jeffrey Dinowitz** to celebrate the marriage of their son Eric to Tamar Schwartz.

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, stop by our "virtual water cooler" too or take a look at some great pictures!

Rabbi Lewis is ready and waiting to put together another trip to Israel at the end of March 2014. She needs a minimum of 14 participants. If you are interested, please e-mail her directly at rabbijudithslewis@gmail.com



Steve Altarescu, our former rabbinic intern and a super teacher, is our new youth group leader. All post-b'nai mitzvah high school students are eligible. The group meets on Saturday afternoons. Please e-mail Rabbi Lewis at rabbijudithslewis@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



We are excited to welcome Laurie Steinmetz back from her trip to Israel and can't wait to hear about it! Perhaps her visit will inspire some of our families to consider a trip to Israel with Riverdale Temple next year. Meanwhile, we thank Bea Jackson, who has been working hard to make sure our school continues to meet the very highest standards in early childhood education.

The application process for next year is in full swing, and I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our prospective families. Remember that Riverdale Temple families have priority in enrolling. Space will be limited next year, so please contact the school right away if you are interested.

Our nursery school classes spent the month of November preparing for Chanukah and Thanksgiving and now are focused on their winter celebrations. As many of you may be aware, Riverdale Temple houses a Universal Pre-

Kindergarten program—something we will be hearing much more about, in all likelihood, with our next mayor. Because the "UPK" program is supported by public funds, we carefully guard the separation of church and state, teaching about religions and cultures but not observing rituals during the UPK class hours. We have started a new Shabbat group right after the UPK class, for any children who choose to participate. We light the candles, drink our special Shabbat juice, and share delicious challah, as well as sing songs, and a little schmoozing. It has been gratifying to me to see our Tot Shabbat Program (on the first and third Friday of every month) grow—I'd like to think as a result of celebrating together on Friday mornings. It has been a pleasure to get to know our students, and I look forward to sharing many more celebrations, and witnessing their growth and development as the year progresses.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

We began this religious school year with an open house at which Jonathan Brent, the executive director of YIVO, joined us to discuss issues of Jewish identity. As we concluded then, we do not expect to arrive at an “answer,” but the group expressed a clear interest in pursuing the process.

Since Sunday morning, December 15, is the last day of religious school before the “winter break,” I thought it might be an appropriate time to get our series of monthly meetings started. Yvette Marrin, our YIVO connection, and chair of Adult Education, has suggested that we might want to take a look at a Sholem Aleichem short story “The Clock,” available online at: <http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnline/55683/> and also an interpretation of the story in a new book, *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem: The Remarkable Life and Afterlife of the Man Who Created Tevye*, by Jeremy Dauber (most of it is on Amazon—chapter 14).

This meeting is open to all parents of religious school students and potential religious school students. Please don't feel that you can't attend if you haven't read the work beforehand! I know what your lives are like—but if you have the time and the inclination, your insights and responses will be valuable in getting our discussion on track. (And also don't stay away just because you missed our first discussion group.)

We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the ballroom and limit our discussion to an hour so that you can pick up your children at the end of school (those whose children are in junior choir are free to stay and schmooze for another half hour).

I look forward to continuing the pursuit of a meaningful modern Jewish identity for ourselves and our families with you!

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

Religious and Hebrew School Calendar 2013–2014 (5774)

Winter Schedule

December

- 1 No School—Thanksgiving Weekend
- 3 Hebrew School
- 8 Religious School
- 10 Hebrew School

- 15 Religious School
- 17 Hebrew School
- 22 No School—Winter Break
- 24 No School—Winter Break
- 29 No School—Winter Break
- 31 No School—Winter Break

January

- 5 Religious School
- 7 Hebrew School
- 12 Religious School
- 14 Hebrew School
- 19 No Religious School—MLK Weekend
- 21 Hebrew School
- 26 Religious School
- 28 Hebrew School

February

- 2 Religious School
- 4 Hebrew School
- 9 Religious School
- 11 Hebrew School
- 16 No School—Presidents' Week Break
- 18 No School—Presidents' Week Break
- 23 No School—Presidents' Week Break
- 25 Hebrew School

March

- 2 Religious School
- 4 Hebrew School
- 9 Religious School
- 11 Hebrew School
- 16 Religious School—Purim
- 18 Hebrew School
- 23 Religious School
- 25 Hebrew School
- 30 Religious School

ADULT EDUCATION



New to the YIVO Series—The Wondering Jew, Conversations about Jewish Identity For the 2013–2014 year, as part of the YIVO Jewish Lecture Series of three Sunday afternoon presentations (the next two in the spring), we are adding a series of monthly Sunday morning conversations designed for parents of past, current, and future enrolled religious school students. The subject is Jewish identity.

To determine interest in and confirm the format of the series, Jonathan Brent, executive director of the YIVO, Rabbi Lewis, and I met with a focus group of the Religious School family of parents in October. We decided that this series, under the leadership of Rabbi Lewis, would be monthly and start on

Sunday, December 15, from 10:30 to 11:30 in the ballroom. Mr. Brent will join some of the conversations as the topic of Jewish identity is of great interest to the YIVO as well.

Parents who will be attending might find it interesting, prior to December 15, to read the story “The Clock” by Sholem Aleichem. This story, written in 1901, was included with a letter sent out by Rabbi Lewis to the current Religious School family. See a discussion of “The Clock” and its interpretation of the impact of change on a Jewish family in chapter 14 of Jeremy Dauber's *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem* (available as an e-book from Schocken Press for both Kindle and Nook readers). “The Clock” can also be found as a Kindle e-book in a collection called *Five Short Stories* by Sholem Aleichem.

For further reference for the entire congregation, on the

temple website (www.riverdaletemple.org) there is a listing of books about Jewish identity, culture, and history in an area under the menu heading "Study," in a section called "References" under Adult Education. I will be adding new titles periodically to the listings.

2013 Publications on Our Website Recent additions to the list include Dara Horn, *A Guide to the Perplexed* (a novel); Ruth Wisse, *No Joke: Making Jewish Humor*; Jeremy Dauber, *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem* (providing interesting insights about this special storyteller); and Alisa Solomon, *Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof*.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis is on Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the social hall and continues the discussion of the New Testament, using the *Jewish Annotated New Testament* edited by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler.

Parashat hashavua with Rabbi Lewis is on the second and third Thursday, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the social hall. It examines the fourth aliyah of the weekly portion. You may wish to consult hebal.com to locate the verses.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on **December 21**, following the Shabbat service. The Torah portion for that day, read by Jews around the world, is *Shemot*, the first portion of the book of Exodus (also called *Shemot*). *Shemot* tells the familiar story of the birth of Moses through to his and Aaron's demand to Pharaoh that he set the Israelites free. It would make a great movie. Join us for a potluck dairy lunch, followed by study and good fellowship.

— Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

SOCIAL ACTION

Coat Collection for New York Cares December 1–28: Please donate gently used coats for men, women, boys, and girls and place them in the collection box outside the sanctuary. David Currier will take the donations to the 50th Precinct.

Pajama Program: Many thanks to those who donated new pajamas for boys and girls. We collected 16 new pairs of pajamas to help children in shelters, group homes, and hospitals.

KRMH Holiday Bags: On Sunday, December 15, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., we shall pack holiday treat bags for needy children and homebound seniors. Please come to the Riverdale Presbyterian Church's social hall (4765 Henry Hudson Parkway). There is a parking lot.

KRMH Hunger Project: December 22 is our next delivery date, from 11:45 a.m. to noon. Please continue to donate needed groceries during the winter.

Volunteers for the Holidays: Contact Frances Segan if you want ideas for helping during the holiday period.

Best wishes for a Healthy and Happy 2014!

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

Save the Date: Mitzvah Day April 6, 2014

Disaster Relief: Typhoon Haiyan

In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines on November 9, the URJ General Disaster Relief Fund is collecting donations that will be distributed to aid groups working in affected areas.

The URJ is a member of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, which allows a unified Jewish response to natural and man-made crises that occur outside North America.

To contribute online, go to <http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/>.

Contributions may also be mailed to:

Disaster Relief Fund
Union for Reform Judaism
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

I have just returned to my home after 100 plus days of hospitalization and rehabilitation.

Besides the doctors, nurses, and rehab personnel, what kept me motivated to live and return home, besides Sherrill, Robert, Emma, and Zoe, were members of my "extended family."

You and I are part of the same extended family. We are the members of Riverdale Temple. Without your phone calls, inquiries, visits, and cards, I sincerely believe the journey back to good health would have been longer or would not have taken place at all.

You might be asking yourselves, why am I writing about this rather than writing thank-you notes to Jean Daniels and others for continuing to maintain the viability of WRJ while I was so sick. It's because I want everyone to realize we are never alone while we are members of our beloved temple. Notify the temple, call the rabbi, or call Rachel, our

president, ask them to say a mishabeirach, which is what my children did.

Whether it was the prayers that helped, the doctors, or nurses I cannot say, but being surrounded by caring and loving people always trumps being alone. Aren't we fortunate to have each other?

—Elaine Katz, WRJ President

The next meeting of the WRJ book club will take place on Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. The book we will be discussing is *A Guide for the Perplexed* by Dara Horn, a multilayered new novel that echoes the biblical story of Joseph and interweaves several plot lines. It is set in the post revolutionary Egypt of today, but time travels to the Middle Ages to include Maimonides as a character as well. All are invited to join us.

— Ronni Stolzenberg

MEN'S CLUB

First I would like to wish all of you a Happy Chanukah. As with many of my writings in the bulletin, I will try to encourage greater attendance at Shabbat services. Therefore, I now offer you the following thoughts:

'Twas the night before Chanukah
And all through the shul
The sound of our Cantor
Playing music—how cool!

We sing and we worship
As the menorah is lit
And Rabbi and Cantor
And Rachel offer their wit

We'll twirl our dreidels
For that's what we do
Jewish boychicks and maidels
Like me and like you.

This is a service
It's not to be missed
It won't be as fun
If you're not there to assist.

Come bring your friends
And your neighbors too
As the sounds of the season
Remind us anew
That the Festival of Lights
Is our holiday
So let's give God thanks
As we sing, dance, and pray.

The evening will finish
With delectable delights
As we wish one and all
A Happy Chanukah night.

I hope to see more of you at Shabbat services. Also, the Men's Club meets on the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge.

Please join us if you can.

Shalom,

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

CONTRIBUTIONS

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	Harry, Grace, and Jerry Feinberg, beloved father, mother, and brother of Bert Feinberg		
	Edna Stahl, beloved mother of Howard Stahl		

To:
Robert Simmons
Barrett Stern

Condolences
On the loss of
Dorothy Simmons, beloved mother
Martin Stern, beloved brother



The Departed Whom We Now Remember—December Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Stella Greenblatt | 13 Leo Bloch | 24 Bill Greenblatt |
| 1 Ben Lipton | 13 Mary Franklin | 24 Estelle Weiss |
| 1 Osias S. Majerczyk | 13 David Gefter | 24 Walter Yohalem |
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| 3 Dick Martin | 14 Phoebe Nalitt | 26 Julia Steiner Halprin |
| 3 Claire Morse | 15 Sol Biegen | 26 Esther Lubarsky |
| 4 Alan Cohen | 15 Gertrud Hirschmann | 26 Sidney Meyer |
| 4 Anna Haas | 15 Anne Rosenthal Lisman | 26 Riga Perlin |
| 4 Abraham Kleinberg | 15 Esther Slade | 26 Sally Tessler |
| 4 Henry G. Koppell | 15 Zena L. Winston | 27 Ethel Fondiller |
| 5 Milton J. Molsky | 16 Lillian Diamond | 27 Adolph Frankl |
| 5 Emanuel Saxe | 16 Bernard H. Gordon | 27 Hertha Gottschalk |
| 6 Milton Richman | 17 Murray Dauber | 27 Pearl Hoffman |
| 6 Rose Weintraub | 17 Aaron Dorfman | 27 Alan Ira Sternstein |
| 7 Anne Biegen | 17 Isidore Leibowitz | 27 Molly Sumner |
| 7 Rebecca Weisberg | 18 Samuel Isaacson | 28 Rose Katz |
| 8 Ida Greenberg | 18 Eric J. Schmetz | 28 Marilyn Lazarus |
| 8 Abraham Hochroth | 19 Israel Jacobs | 28 Lou Wiggs |
| 8 Anna Ripps | 20 Albert Block | 28 Mark Zelkowitz |
| 8 Harry Soicher | 20 Diane Geller | 29 Lawrence Goldberger |
| 9 George E. Katz | 20 Mollie Liebowitz | 29 Alfred Silverman |
| 9 Sarah L. Mandel | 20 Ernest Small | 30 Ralph Batt |
| 9 Bernard Willing | 20 Margaret Sternberg | 30 Selma Friedman |
| 10 Ariadne (Ari) Bloustein | 21 Amir Landesman | 30 Betty Kahn |
| 10 Lena Cassel | 22 Nathan Amols | 30 David E. Lakritz |
| 10 Yvette Djivre | 22 Henny Barrow | 30 Mary Parker |
| 10 Anna Halpern | 22 Jenny Dilloff | 31 Frieda Margulies |
| 10 Jennie Kronman | 22 Fanny Levy | 31 Morris Newman |
| 10 Freida Landesman | 22 Sydel Rosenberg | |
| 10 Sol Levine | 23 Irving Arrow | |
| 10 Carl Seefer | 23 Harry Davidoff | |
| 10 Jacob White | 23 Dr. Oscar Richter | |
| 10 Louis David Wile | 23 Ruth L. Saxe | |
| 11 Sigmund Lipshultz | 24 Samuel D. Dorfman | |
| 12 Sophie Froehlich | | |
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