



The Bulletin

Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְהֵלֵל שֵׁם יי

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

Vol. 69

February 2016 (5776)

No. 6

Worship Services (also see calendar on p. 2)

Fridays

- Feb. 5 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service
 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with
 Jr. Choir
- Feb. 12 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Feb. 19 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service
 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Feb. 26 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

Saturdays

- Feb. 6 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Feb. 13 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Feb. 20 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service,
 followed by Chavurah
- Feb. 27 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 with Professional Choir

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

There is a quote that may be apocryphal, attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. When he was asked what he thought of Western civilization, he is said to have replied, "I think it would be a good idea." Sometimes I feel the same way about prayer.

Those of us who come to Shabbat services do pray, of course, and other members of our congregation pray at home. Some may pray the regular Jewish prayer service. Some pray in their own words. Some light the Shabbat candles at home on Friday night or say a motzi before they eat. Some may add "alevo shalom" (peace be upon him) when mentioning a deceased relative. Are these anything more than words learned by rote, messages sent to someone whose existence we question, or reminders of a Judaism that belonged to our grandparents?

True prayer comes from the heart and is full of intense emotion. I sometimes tell my students to imagine the feeling they get when they see something amazingly beautiful—a sunset, perhaps, or the face of someone they love. That is prayer, even if there are no words and it is not directed towards anyone. This kind of prayer is called *praise*.

Now imagine you are a parent. You are hiking with your family in the deep woods, and you suddenly realize that your five-year-old child is gone. As you search, you pray. Again, it may not be directed toward anyone. You may only repeat, "please, please, please." This kind of prayer is called *petition*.

When you find your child, your heart will be filled with a prayer of gratitude. These prayers are true prayers, because they come from the heart. What about the prayers we say in synagogue?

I believe that we say prayers in synagogue to open up the channels between ourselves and the Divine. If we exercise our prayer muscles, we will be more easily able to pray when it really counts. How do we keep prayer from being meaningless words? The first step is to think about the meaning of the prayer. If it is in Hebrew, and you don't know Hebrew, I suggest you read the English instead. After a while, you will come to know the basic theme of each prayer. Gratitude, peace, the wonder of creation, connection with our Jewish past—these are all present in our service. Once you get to the point where you know the theme, keep it in your mind while you read the Hebrew.

Save the Date!
Riverdale Temple Mitzvah Day,
April 3, 2016

See p. 8 for Purimspiel rehearsals.

continued on p. 3

Later, when the Hebrew is more or less memorized, you can go back to the English and really examine it word for word. Our eventual goal is to say the Hebrew prayers in Hebrew and fully understand them.

Finally, what about the problem of addressing a Creator who does not seem to listen? If any Riverdale Temple member prayed to win Powerball recently, it didn't work.

Praying may not help you win the lottery, it may not cure the

sick, but it contextualizes our hopes and desires within a sacred framework. Our relationship with the Creator, like all relationships, is built on communication. Prayer is what makes the experience of the holy come alive for us. In other words, talk to Gd enough, and eventually you will feel that Gd "talks" back. And the experience of that relationship is why we come to the synagogue in the first place.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

Shalom Chaverim,

On February 27 at 10:30 a.m., we are having our Shabbat morning service together with our wonderful professional choir and organ. We will be including congregational participatory melodies together with beautiful choral compositions. We will showcase composers such as Salomon Sulzer and Louis Lewandowski.

Salomon Sulzer (1804–1890) was the most influential 19th-century composer of synagogue music. Centered in Vienna, he was known mostly for his superb voice, musicianship, and compositions. His best-known accomplishment is *Shir Tzion*, a collection of mostly his own compositions but also showcasing other composers.

Sulzer sought to purify the Jewish melodies, in contrast to the melismatic character of the Eastern European style of *chazzanut*. He was able to keep a melody line that was straightforward and symmetrical. To him, the *chazzanut* style, which was taught orally and performed by the *meshororim* group, minimized the dignity of the Jewish worship service. It is important to acknowledge that as much as Sulzer sought to omit this style entirely, he still kept some aspects of the idiom of the *meshororim* and composed many recitatives that were based on *Nusach*, the traditional Jewish modes. One of Sulzer's greatest achievements was that he professionalized the role of the cantor and elevated it to one that is for a musician schooled in music theory, composition, and knowledge of both traditional and Western Jewish music.

Louis Lewandowski (1823–1894), the first music director of a synagogue, a composer, and a choral director, followed in Sulzer's footsteps and achieved even greater success. Centered in Berlin, Lewandowski's greatest achievement was the creation of accessibility and comfort in congregational music. Many congregations were lacking the means or ability to sing Sulzer's complex music, and so Lewandowski took it on himself to write music that simplified congregational singing.

His compositions appeared in two famous books: *Kol Rinna Utefilah* and *Todah Vesimcha*. In them he showcased modern congregational music. Unlike Sulzer, Lewandowski wrote congregational tunes to be sung with or without the choir and also wrote comfortable organ parts that usually doubled the choir. He provided settings of traditional melodies as well as his own original compositions, with and without *Nusach*.

The waves of the Vienna rite and the new cantorial style that Sulzer and Lewandowski developed made their way to Eastern Europe by introducing the use of a synagogue choir. In large part, the Eastern European *chazzanut* style has stayed the same: it was rich with melismas and improvisations, it kept true to the oriental modal sound of the *Nusach*, and its meter was unrestricted. Synagogues that embraced this new four-part choir within their orthodox prayer service were called "Choir Shuls." Since organ was not allowed to be used in these "Choir Shuls," the choir was used musically as an accompaniment to the cantor.

The significant achievements of 19th-century synagogue music are crucial to our worship music today. First is the professionalization of the role of the cantor, from being orally taught to being a learned and schooled professional. Second are the beautiful and accessible compositions for cantor and choir by Lewandowski such as his setting of *Lecha Dodi* that is used in synagogues today, including Riverdale Temple. Third is the addition of the choir to the beautiful traditional Eastern European style of *chazzanut*.

We are fortunate to have our magnificent professional four-part choir together with our wonderful organist, Arnold Ostlund Jr., taking part in our service. I am excited and looking forward to seeing you on February 27 to worship Shabbat together with the glorious music of our rich Jewish tradition.

L'hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Please look for my column next month.

—Rachel Radna

Membership Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the **first Thursday** of the month at 7:30 p.m..

The remaining dates are

Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5, and June 2.



National Mah-Jongg League Rules—2015 Card

Mah-Jongg Vendor!

Mah-Jongg Tournament

to benefit

Riverdale Temple

4545 Independence Avenue, Riverdale, NY 10471 (free parking)

Sunday, March 6, 2016

9:15 a.m. Doors Open: Coffee, Tea, Light Breakfast

10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Rounds 1–3 (4 games per round; approx. 15 minutes per game)

1:00–2:00 p.m. Dairy lunch (dietary laws observed)

2:00–5:00 p.m. Rounds 4–6 (same as above)

5:15 p.m. Cash prizes awarded (\$150.00 minimum)

Not ready for tournament play?
Join us for social play (in a separate space)! Beginners welcome!
Tournament \$45 Social play \$25 RSVP by Feb. 26

Reservations a Must—No Walk-ins for Tournament Play

Questions? Call Susan @ 917-509-3111
Make checks payable to: WRJ Riverdale Temple

Write “mah jongg” on the memo line and on the return envelope.
Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone # _____

I will bring a set (no vintage or solid black sets).

I will be east and keep score.

I am registering for tournament social play.



Extended Kiddush

We have an extended kiddush each week, following Shabbat morning services. The temple provides bagels and cream cheese. People are encouraged to bring side dishes to the table to enhance the kiddush. You might want to honor a birthday, an anniversary, commemorate a yahrzeit, or just show off your culinary talent (or shopping ability). You could also make a donation to the Extended Kiddush Fund.

Call the office to let us know if you will be contributing to the Kiddush so we can plan properly.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat—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.



Tot Shabbat Services



Tot Shabbat services (which usually take place every first and third Friday of the month) are from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. These special services are led by Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer and include singing and guitar playing. They are family friendly and appropriate for all ages, especially children five years old and under.

For potluck dinners, we try to make every possible accommodation for food allergies and kashrut observance (all dishes will be labeled), but if you have specific concerns for your family, please contact Michelle at michelleroos@gmail.com. The remaining dinners are: April 15, May 20, and June 17.

Bulletin Board

February Events

WRJ Meeting	Feb. 2
Membership Committee	Feb. 4
Purimspiel Rehearsals	Feb. 7, 21, 28
Men's Club Meeting	Feb. 13
WRJ Book Club	Feb. 23

Coming Up in March

WRJ Mah-Jongg Tournament, Social Play	Mar. 6
Social Action Committee Meeting	Mar. 6
Purimspiel	Mar. 23
Nursery School Coffee Chats	Mar. 29

Dates subject to change. Go to www.riverdaletemple.org for updates.

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **February 14**. You can e-mail it directly to rivotemple@aol.com (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



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

Riverdale Temple Telephone	Emergencies	7
Extensions (718-548-3800)	General Information	8
Temple Office	0 or 1	9
Bookkeeper	2	
Nursery School	3	
Rabbi	4	
Cantor	5	

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, click on Resources for Information about Survivors, and follow the links. 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: resource-center@ushmm.org.

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 wish to join the committee, please contact Helen Krim at helen.krim@gmail.com.

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.



The *Bulletin*: Vol. 69, No. 6, February 2016. The *Bulletin* is published monthly by Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471, 10 times a year, September through June. The Riverdale Temple logo on p. 1 was designed by **Alix Brandwein**. This publication is intended for members of Riverdale Temple. Any other use or publication in whole or in part without Riverdale Temple's prior consent is prohibited.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



It is so cold outside, but as soon as you walk into our Nursery School, you sense the warmth and hear the laughter and joy of our incredible children and families.

All through the school you can hear the wonderful sounds of children singing! We practiced much for our Martin Luther King Jr. Sing with Ms. Wendi. Children have all been learning how important it is that we are all friends and treated fairly. This is certainly true here at Riverdale Temple Nursery School!

It is always busy in the **Twos'** classroom. The Twos have been learning about circles. They have been painting circles, collaging circles, and reading stories about circles. Everywhere they go, they notice the circles in their environment. They have also been studying winter. I hope you all have time to come to the Twos' classroom and see their wonderful snow globe and snowmen. And as we all know, Tu B'shevat came on January 24. Children created trees and were ready to do their own planting. It is very busy in the Twos' room with Mrs. Cutler, Mrs. Turner, Ms. Viola, and Ms. Wendi.

The **Threes** have just finished a study of hibernation. They made a giant cave in their classroom out of a cardboard box, where they could hibernate. They learned about all the animals who hibernate. They have just begun their study of dinosaurs. They are digging for bones, making their own fossils, and learning the names of all the dinosaurs. They studied Tu B'shevat and have beautiful trees displayed all around the room.

The **Fours** are continuing their study of nursery rhymes. They have also been studying hibernation and creating a cave for their class. All the children love pretending that they are hibernating

in the cave. They are also studying winter and creating winter collages, paintings, and snowman dolls out of socks and filling them with rice. The Fours read books about Martin Luther King Jr. They learned the importance of his ideas and talked about their own dreams to make the world a better place.

Tours

Tours have begun for the 2016–2017 school year. If you have friends who are interested, please tell them to call the school at 718-796-0335 or e-mail at nsdirector.rtns@gmail.com. We have been getting applications for next year, and we do have limited space.

School Closings

February 15–19: Mid-Winter Break—School is closed.

Upcoming Events

Tovah Klein, director of Barnard Toddler Center, will be speaking on March 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Admission is \$15, which includes a signed copy of Tovah's book and refreshments.

Coffee Chats—March 29, 9:00–10:30 a.m. with Emily Shapiro, marriage and family counselor. Refreshments will be served. This will be a time for parents to share parenting ideas.

There are three ways to ultimate success:

The first way is to be kind.

The second way is to be kind.

The third way is to be kind. —Fred Rogers

—Linda Herman, Director

We are trying something new!

The temple now offers babysitting service (by one of our own Nursery School teachers) during Shabbat morning, so that parents may attend the service, but babysitting will be provided only if there is enough interest. Please call the office or send an e-mail to [rivtemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.com) (put **babysitting** in subject line) and let us know if you will avail yourself of this service.

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

We were planning on adding a Confirmation Class to our roster of classes on Saturday, January 23. As you may have guessed, it was snowed out! However, we will reschedule as soon as possible. This class will have a fun side and a serious side. We will be asking questions like “What does it mean to be Jewish?” “What does it mean to be human?” “What can we say about religion today?”

There will also be parties and a mitzvah project. We hope all of the kids who sign up will have an actual confirmation in 2017.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

At the December 2015 WRJ meeting, the members voted unanimously to send a letter of support for the Paycheck Fairness Act to our members of Congress: Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Engel. The letter appears below.

December 25, 2015

The “Sisterhood” of Riverdale Temple is a local (Northeast District) affiliate of the national organization: Women of Reform Judaism. As such, we are committed to and support the issues of social justice raised by the national organization. These include its support of equal pay issues—in particular a 1983 (WRJ) Resolution on Economic Justice for Women and two actions at the Reform Movement’s National Assembly in November, 2015: the passing of a resolution reaffirming its commitment to achieving pay equity and the awarding of equal pay advocate Lilly Ledbetter with the Jane Evans “Pursuit of Justice” Award. As your constituency, Riverdale Temple’s WRJ would like to thank you for cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act (S.862/H.R.1619). We are mindful that although there have been advances toward ending pay discrimination, women in the workforce today earn only 79 cents on average for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. For this reason we express our support of the Paycheck Fairness Act because it is designed to enhance transparency in addressing pay inequality and to strengthen claims of female employees in pay discrimination. We urge you to continue your leadership in the fight for women’s equality in the United States. Your support of this legislation is a significant step toward providing the victims of gender-based wage discrimination a legal recourse in helping women challenge and eliminate discriminatory pay practices in the workplace.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Feldman & Joanne Heyman-Greene
WRJ Co-Presidents/Riverdale Temple
4545 Independence Avenue
Riverdale, NY 10471
718-548-3800

The support of the Paycheck Fairness Act by the (national) WRJ is consistent with the Reform Movement’s 100-year-old social action advocacy within the realm of tikkun olam—repairing the world. WRJ’s resolutions have preceded policy in many areas such as women’s and civil rights, and economic justice. The following is an overview of WRJ’s positions and resolutions.

Civil Rights: WRJ led the Reform Movement in support of racial equality, LGBTQ equality, the rights of people with disabilities, public education, immigration reform, gun violence prevention, employment rights, and criminal justice. Most recently, WRJ’s Executive Committee issued a statement both acknowledging and applauding law enforcement agencies and personnel, while calling for reforms to include: a return to community policing, reforms in the grand jury process, and increased use of technology to enhance transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

Economic Justice: WRJ supports governmental action and community-based efforts to bring economic justice to all, in order to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

Environment: WRJ is committed to the preservation of our natural resources, and the support of research and technology to repair the damage done to the environment by past practices in order to encourage a more sustainable lifestyle.

Israel and Global Affairs: WRJ is a recognized Nongovernmental Agency (NGO) at the United Nations and works with other Jewish and women’s NGOs in support of peace efforts through international bodies, and the promotion of human rights, health, and international development initiatives. In partnership with such organizations as the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, the Israel Religious Action Center, and Women of the Wall, WRJ supports the advancement of religious pluralism and equal rights for women in Israel.

International Conflict: WRJ’s Executive Committee has recently released a statement in support of international efforts for solutions to addressing the issue of Middle Eastern refugees displaced by civil war. The statement builds on its past history of supporting the rights of refugees through resolutions on displaced persons from 1946 to 1949.

Interfaith: Reform Judaism has a long-standing commitment to the development of effective intergroup and interreligious relationships, building bridges across lines of faith, race, and ethnicity: most recently seeking opportunities for dialog with the Muslim community after September 11.

Jewish Life: WRJ is committed to synagogue life and the future of the Reform Movement through its support of students at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, and through fundraising for NFTY (the Reform Jewish Youth Movement).

Religious Freedom: WRJ advocates for religious rights in the international arena and also as an NGO at the United Nations. In Israel, WRJ partners with other organizations such as WRJ-Israel, Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, and the Israel Religious Action Center. Its advocacy and financial support is centered on: the rights of Reform rabbis, recognition for Reform marriage and conversion, and equal treatment for Reform and Progressive congregations in Israel. Additionally, WRJ partners with Women of the Wall (WOW) in its support of women to pray—along with men!—at the Western Wall.

Women’s Rights: WRJ’s social justice advocacy is centered on the advancement of women in all arenas: the rabbinate and synagogue life, the workplace, personal freedoms, and in society in general.

We hope that this overview of the national WRJ organization provides the background to appreciate *your* WRJ in support of its social justice initiatives.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, February 2: WRJ meeting

Tuesday, February 23: Book Club

Sunday, March 6: 2nd Annual Mah-Jongg Tournament, Social Play

—Dorothy Feldman and Joanne Heyman-Greene,
WRJ Co-Presidents

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club meetings have been changed to the second Saturday of each month. We will meet in the ballroom after Shabbat services and after the Kiddush. January was the first month we tried the new time, and we had an excellent turnout of nearly 20 members.

Jack Fisher has informed me that dues have been coming in very slowly, so please remember to pay up so we can continue to meet our objectives and obligations. Let me assure you, the \$50.00 dues are utilized in very significant ways within the Riverdale Temple community.

We are on track to secure a very special film release for late March or early April. I hope to be able to update you via e-mail fairly soon.

Finally, for those of you who have some available time on Saturday mornings, I urge you to join us at Shabbat services. Attendance is higher than I've seen it in many years, and I think there is something being offered for everyone who attends. Try it—you might like it!

B'shalom,

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

During February we shall be preparing the Registration Form for Mitzvah Day 2016. Watch for the form to come to you late February to early March. Please try to save at least the morning hours of April 3 to help out with some of the activities alongside the students from the Religious School. There will be a selection of activities in which to participate. We also can use a couple of volunteers to help bring donated, bagged lunches to POTS (Part of the Solution) on Webster Avenue and possibly some potted plants to a senior home.

Meanwhile, please save and organize the following:

1. Miniature soaps, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, toothbrushes, etc., that you may have from traveling.
2. Clothing to donate for our annual clothing drive. Try to bag by women's, men's, boys', and girls'.
3. Shopping for smooth peanut butter and grape jelly to help reduce cost of making the sandwiches for POTS.

KRMH Food & Hunger Project: Please continue to donate healthful soups, cereal, rice in a box, canned meats/fish, fruits, canned evaporated milk, beans, etc. During these very cold months, your help is greatly needed. The month's donations will go to the Pantry on February 28.

Ideas for Mitzvah Projects: The Social Action Committee members have shared ideas with Rabbi Gardner for tzedakah and mitzvah projects for bar/bat mitzvah celebrants. Some of the ideas include making special collections for backpacks and school supplies for children in Haiti; collecting used cell phones for abused women; collecting eyeglasses and medical supplies and canes, etc., for the needy in poorer countries; and donating a certain number of hours at a children's shelter, senior home, etc.

NEXT SOCIAL ACTION MEETING: All are invited to come to the next meeting on March 6, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the first floor conference room.

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

RT Needs Your Special Talents

We are seeking a Webmaster/mistress for a few hours of work a week. We also need a publicist to work on press releases and media relations.

Volunteer, get involved—it's a mitzvah! Contact Rachel Radna, president of Riverdale Temple, at 718-548-3800.

Erev Purim is Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

2016 Purimspiel Rehearsal Schedule (February)

Sunday, February 7

Sunday, February 21

Sunday, February 28

Rehearsals are held at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Come one! Come All! Do you want to be an actor?

Do you play an instrument? Bring out the secret ham in you! Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Join the Riverdale Temple Players in this year's Purimspiel—The Minions Megillah!





YIVO Online Course, Discovering Ashkenaz

The legacy of East European Jewry from the 18th century to the present is well documented in the online course *Discovering Ashkenaz*, taught by a well-known expert on the subject, Professor Samuel Kassow. Because of the way

the course is presented, I thought I would review its format so that if you have never taken an online course, you will realize that even busy people can take advantage of the opportunity, since the YIVO is making it available to us at no cost. Further, you might under those conditions take advantage of a chance to learn about a subject that is enlightening because more than 80 percent of the Jews who came to the United States emigrated from Eastern Europe. The odds are high that your family was among them.

The size of the subject matter presented a challenge to the course developers. Gaining a historical perspective of the Jewish experience from the late 17th until the 20th century tells the story about how the Jewish people preserved a sense of themselves to the present day. The question was how to offer the material in a manageable and meaningful way.

The first module, launched on January 11, was titled “How Poland Became the World’s Biggest Jewish Community.” What I learned, pleasantly, as I began engaging with the first module, was that the developers clearly had to accommodate the fact that the participating learners would be at various levels of knowledge and represented a wide range of ages. Their solution for these differences was to allow participants to engage with the material in several different ways.

Each lecture (and there are eight within Module 1) presents subject matter in two ways. First is a series of videos in which Professor Kassow presents an overview of the content. He is seated around a table communicating with individuals who are placed around him, and clearly we are at the table as well. Each overview takes about seven minutes—if that is your attention span after a busy day, you will appreciate that. Provided alongside the video is a word-for-word written transcription of Professor Kassow’s remarks. This is to increase accessibility for varied learning styles.

Secondly, the learners who want to take the time are provided with online reading material that provides a far more detailed account than is summarized on the videos. Additionally, further options are provided for participants to engage in discussions about the course, and further areas for commentary are also provided via a Facebook area to enable those who prefer this mode to add their own comments about the subject matter.

It is possible to register for “Discovering Ashkenaz” until April. Go to <https://www.yivo.org/Online-Classes>. Even if you want a taste of where you came from, this may prove interesting to you.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner continues on Tuesdays at noon. Learn a lot more about the Talmud than you ever expected to. Cantor Sharett-Singer’s **Hebrew Language Class** has started. It is on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Consider joining for a wonderful learning experience (check the website for details).

— Yvette Marrin, Ph.D. Chair, Adult Education

The **Chavurah** will meet in the first floor conference room on **February 20**, following our Shabbat service and communal lunch. The Torah portion for that week is *Tetzaveh* and describes the clothing the priests must wear and the ritual of their anointing. Why does the Torah give us these details? Does it really matter what the priests wear? And the process of their anointment—let’s just say our rabbi’s installation did not include any of that ritual, to my great relief. Join us as we struggle with this ancient text and try to bring it into the 21st century. All are welcome to join our study and discussion.

—Dr. Ronna Weber



A way to raise money for the temple painlessly is, instead of googling, you good search by going to <http://www.goodsearch> and putting in “Riverdale Temple.com.” Thank you in advance for your participation.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The following funds are represented in the entries below: Bible and Prayerbook Fund, Jean P. and Francis J. Bloustein Camp Scholarship Fund, Cantor's Special Fund, Decorating Fund, Jacob-Fogel Program Fund, Rabbi Stephen D. Franklin Music Fund, General Fund, Leon and Beatrice Bereano Pulpit Flowers Fund, Rabbi's Special Fund, Soviet Émigré Fund, Charles Tenenbaum Fund, Torah Repair Fund, Youth Activities Fund, Religious School and Nursery School Parents Associations.

DONOR	IN HONOR	DONOR	IN MEMORY
Susan and Howard Birnbaum	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer	Phyllis and Jack Fisher	Blanche Breindel, beloved mother of Phyllis Fisher
Ephraim Bosgang	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, for their installations	Dana and Steven Kahn	Phyllis Selk, beloved wife of Leonard Selk
Beth Fertig-Friedman	for my Hebrew-naming aliyah	Arlene Kurtis	Phyllis Selk, beloved wife of Leonard Selk
Henry Kurtz	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner, for my aliyah and for his support during my recent surgery	Joyce Liskin	Estelle Lasky, beloved mother of Joyce Liskin
Ruth Loebmann	Rob Katz, thank you for caring! Riverdale Temple	Esther Papierman	Hy Papierman, beloved husband
Congregation Rodeph Sholom	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner, on his installation	Rose and Bruce Pollack	Phyllis Selk, beloved wife of Leonard Selk
Beatrice and Howard Seelig	Riverdale Temple	Susan G. Sawyer	Stella and Bill Greenblatt, beloved parents
Claire Siegel	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer	Denise and Jeffrey Schwartz	Phyllis Selk, beloved wife of Leonard Selk
Lynne and Peter Silverstein	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, on their installations	Donald M. Schwartz	Phyllis Selk, beloved wife of Leonard Selk
Renee Spath	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, for their installations		
Ronna H. Weber	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, on their installations		

Kol Nidre Appeal

Thank you for your Kol Nidre pledges. To those of you who haven't responded yet, please do your part to be part of the whole! We would love to have 100 percent participation! No donation is too small!

Kol Nidre donations will be listed in a future issue of the bulletin.

Condolences

To

Dr. Peter Sack and David Sack

**Leonard Selk, Michael and Robin Selk,
Ronnie and Raymond Schwartz, Andrew,
Douglass, Mark, and Heather**

On the loss of

Jennifer Sack, beloved daughter and sister

Phyllis Selk, beloved wife, mother, grandmother,
great-grandmother, long-time member
of Riverdale Temple



The Departed Whom We Now Remember

February Yahrzeit Observances

1 Wallace R. Cotton	9 Anna Brown	18 Pearl Liebling	26 Jerry Spitz
1 Augusta G. Patek	9 Max Cohen	18 Irma Loebmann	27 Alice Samuela Brown
1 George Joseph Small	9 Philip Dubrow	19 Jeanne Arnowich	27 Irwin Kaplan
2 Ethel Y. Aronson	9 Robert G. Golbach	19 Viola Bergman	27 Alice Leinwand
2 Rebecca Jacobson	9 Louis Ranfeld	19 David Drexler	27 Hyman Lerman
2 Lillian G. Meltzer	9 Louis Schulman	19 Morris Hoffman	27 Louis Schulman
2 Natalie Reibeisen	9 Fannie Wolmer	19 Martin Kaplin	28 Joseph Herman
2 Frieda Schneider	10 Samuel Hollander	19 Simon Lersy	
2 Bruce Silverman	10 Samuel Janow	19 Adele Locke	
2 Jack Wittenberg	10 Samuel Silverman	19 Mollie Spear	
3 Harry Goldberger	10 Bella Weingarten	20 Joseph Cassel	
3 Mac Stern	11 Leo Breier	20 Isabelle Funtleyder	
4 Herbert Aaron	11 Gertrude Golden	20 Susan Popick	
4 Max Belkind	11 Dorothy Goldman	20 Rosina Rosenfeld	
4 Anna Davidoff	11 Bernard Philip Gray	20 Robert Simmons	
4 Carl Fisher	12 Benjamin Harris	21 Fay Birnbaum	
4 Joseph Gilman	13 Abe Horowitz	22 Fred A. Glass	
4 Tillie Kaplan	13 Burt Jaeger	22 Charles Leber	
4 Leon Rabinowitz	13 Molly Retman	22 Mollie Rabinowitz	
5 Joseph Baron	13 Conrad Weiner	22 Louis D. Retman	
5 Hetta Moubert	14 Nat Rosenblatt	22 Hyman Siminowitz	
5 Isidor Rosenblum	14 Lottie Samuels	23 Lilo Hartmann	
5 Harry Slade	14 Sarah L. Schneideman	23 Daniel Robert Platzner	
5 Celia Turoff	15 Isaac P. Aronson	24 Stanley Greenfield	
6 Samuel H. Fondiller	15 John J. Spath Sr.	24 A. Donald Kronman	
6 Morris Gargle	16 Lillian Axel	24 Philip Levine	
6 Charles Goldberg	16 Theodore Corn	24 Sondra Rechy	
6 Yetta Hochroth	16 Jacob Lowenthal	24 Richard Spath	
6 Jonathan Daniel Kirp	16 Masha Mallin	24 Henrietta Sperling	
6 Werner Spatz	16 Abraham Perchick	24 Sybil Turner	
7 Clara Frischer	16 Mildred Segan	25 Nathan Miller	
7 Jerome Kern	16 Harry Shatin	25 Jean Mills	
7 Michael Wile	16 Nathan B. Spear	25 Edith Rattner	
8 Clara Bruck	17 Esther Amram	25 Morris Seferblatt	
8 Frieda Kaplan	17 Jean Friedenberg	25 Sheldon Wiener	
8 Sinclair Waldstein	17 Ida Stam	26 Carole Friedman	
9 Ira Adler	18 Sophie Batt	26 Rose Goldshein	
9 Michael Altman	18 Felix Carlson	26 Gussie Leibowitz	

RIVERDALE TEMPLE

4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

BRONX, NY 10471

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RIVERDALE TEMPLE
4545 Independence Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471

affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism,
patron of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

Telephone: 718-548-3800 Fax: 718-543-1492

E-mail: rivtemple@aol.com

Web Page Address: www.riverdaletemple.org

Rabbi of the Congregation

Thomas A. Gardner, B.A., M.A., M.A.H.L.

Rabbis Emeriti of the Congregation

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

Judith S. Lewis

Cantor of the Congregation

Inbal Sharett-Singer

President of the Congregation

Dr. Rachel Radna

Organist/Director of Music

Arnold Ostlund Jr., B.Mus.

Nursery School Executive Director

Linda Herman

Bulletin Editor

Margaret Ross Griffel, Ph.D.

Bulletin Proofreaders

Shelley Ast, Susan Birnbaum, Sylvia Gottlieb,

L. Michael Griffel, Olivia Koppell,

Ruth Loebmann

Inside This Issue

1 *Worship Schedule*

1 *The Rabbi's Column*

2 *Monthly Calendar*

3 *The Cantor's Column*

3 *The President's Column*

3 *Membership Committee*

4 *Mah-Jongg Tournament*

4 *Extended Kiddush*

4 *An Opportunity to Share!*

4 *Tot Shabbat Services*

5 *Bulletin Board*

5 *House Committee*

6 *Nursery School News*

6 *Religious and Hebrew School*

7 *Women of Reform Judaism*

8 *Men's Club*

8 *Social Action*

8 *Purimspiel Rehearsals*

9 *Adult Education*

10 *Contributions*

11 *Condolences*

11 *Yahrzeit Observances*