



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמּוֹרָח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְהֻלָּל 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

February 2014 (5774)

No. 6

Worship Services (see p. 6 for details)

Fridays

- Feb. 7** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat with Junior
Choir, followed by potluck dinner
- Feb. 14** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Feb. 21** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Feb. 28** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

Saturdays

- Feb. 1** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Feb. 8** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Feb. 15** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Feb. 22** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

ANNUAL PURIMSPIEL
on Saturday, March 15, at 5:00 p.m.
followed by celebration

Save the Date: Mitzvah Day
April 6, 2014

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

I am writing this message just days after the death of Ariel Sharon, and just before we will observe the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. I also just finished the troubling, thought-provoking book by Ari Shavit called *My Promised Land*. Much of it was familiar to me, the places, the events, the descriptions, but I had never read a book, by an Israeli, filled with such passion and ambivalence at the same time.

I also have the advantage of having just read the article by our president, Rachel Radna. Perhaps that's why, as I sat down to write this message, the question of "what is a family?" kept running through my mind.

There are "families" in the conventional sense—people related by marriage, genealogy, or adoption, or some other traditional mutual understanding. Those families usually have the highest claim on our sense of obligation and responsibility. Our society is built that way. If families take care of themselves, there's less for society to have to worry about. All too often, though, especially in our very mobile world, "family" members are separated by many miles. There are many, many people who have no one technically "related" to them living anywhere nearby, if they have any family members at all. So it makes sense to look for other kinds of families.

As I thought about the whole concept of "family," I found myself suddenly transported back to my time living on a kibbutz, about 42 years ago. No doubt Shavit's book helped set the stage for that emotional journey. I remembered one very special moment. My kibbutz was a left-wing, Marxist, antireligious kibbutz, and since I already knew that I wanted to study to become a rabbi, I got more than my fair share of teasing. There was one man, however, Avraham Samson, who took me seriously. He and his family had escaped to Israel from Holland. He was a scholar, although he worked at manual labor on the kibbutz. His wife was the Ulpan teacher, and she must have told him about the strange volunteer who wanted to be a rabbi. (Even though there were no women rabbis at the time, that's not what she thought was strange. She thought it strange that anyone would want to become a rabbi.) One day Avraham and Esther invited me over for coffee (that was the drill, as anyone who's lived on a kibbutz knows—when you woke up from your nap after work, you had to go somewhere for coffee and lots of

continued on p. 3

FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Adar I 5774 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am Social Action meeting 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal Noon Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3 Adar I 5774 Nursery School</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>4</p>	<p>5 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 7:45 pm Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6 Adar I 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis</p> <p>6</p>	<p>7 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Family Shabbat with Jr. Choir, potluck dinner</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1 Adar I 5774 <i>Terumah</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion</p> <p>1</p>
<p>9 Adar I 5774 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 Why Be Jewish? with Rabbi Lewis 10:30 am Men's Club meeting 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal Noon Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>9</p>	<p>10 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting</p> <p>10</p>	<p>11 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal Knitting for Charity is on hiatus</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12 Adar I 5774 Nursery School</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13 Adar I 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>13</p>	<p>14 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15 Adar I 5774 <i>Ki Tisa</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion No Chavurah; next Chavurah March 8</p> <p>15</p>
<p>16 Adar I 5774 No Religious School— Presidents' Day Break No Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>16</p>	<p>17 Adar I 5774 No Nursery School Presidents' Day Break</p> <p>17</p>	<p>18 Adar I 5774 No Nursery School No Hebrew School Presidents' Day Break</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19 Adar I 5774 No Nursery School Presidents' Day Break</p> <p>19</p>	<p>20 Adar I 5774 No Nursery School Presidents' Day Break 7:30 pm Board of Trustees meeting 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>20</p>	<p>21 Adar I 5774 No Nursery School Presidents' Day Break No Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service</p> <p>21</p>	<p>22 Adar I 5774 <i>Vayakhel</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion</p> <p>22</p>
<p>23 Adar I 5774 No Religious School Presidents' Day Break 11:45 am KRMH Food Delivery Noon Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24 Adar I 5774 Nursery School</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club</p> <p>25</p>	<p>26 Adar I 5774 Nursery School</p> <p>26</p>	<p>27 Adar I 5774 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal</p> <p>27</p>	<p>28 Adar I 5774 Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service</p> <p>28</p>	

pastries, before supper). When I got to the Samsons' home, Avraham invited me to watch what he was doing. He was researching the word for family—"mishpacha"—using a copy of the Biblia Hebraica, the standard scholarly edition of the Bible in those days, complete with manuscript variances and the like. I'd never seen one before, but I would soon be far more familiar with it.

I don't remember if Avraham came to any conclusions about the root of the word for family, but I recall what he was hoping to find. My Hebrew was fairly rudimentary in those days, but I knew that he was looking for that same sense of connection that the kibbutz was so busy building among all of its members—really breaking down the preconceptions of "relatives" and extending the concept of family to every "ben meshek"—or child of the kibbutz.

It left an enormously strong impression on me. I suppose it was the very first example I had encountered of someone trying to use the biblical text to support his own values. Since they were values I shared, and still cherish, it seemed to me a very positive exercise, and no doubt subconsciously still influences my relationship to the text.

So, what is a family? In the Bible, it's a group smaller than a tribe, but the word is used far more frequently in the plural—as in "all the families of Israel" or "all the families of the people" or "all the families of the land." A family was clearly much larger than the immediate "nuclear" unit. It included, after all, concubines, servants, multiple wives, and sometimes their relatives.

Families in ancient times could depend on geography, usually, to keep them together, although think of the lengths our patriarchs went to in order to find appropriate wives for their sons, from their own "family."

Many families today, thankfully, are able to endure and sustain each other, even if separated by space, pressured by time, or confronted by challenges. Sadly, though, I often witness families losing their center, losing that pull toward each other. Sometimes it's a function of geography, but more often the result of conflict—too often financial conflict, but all sorts of other conflicts as well, even religious conflicts.

Every human being needs to be part of some sort of family; a social construct that can, hopefully, serve many of the same functions that were once taken for granted in traditional family structures. A synagogue, especially a relatively small congregation like ours, is perfectly positioned to take on some of those traditional functions.

The biggest challenge in a socially constructed family is to bring the generations together, to derive "nachas" from each other's lives. That's what I remember most about Avraham trying to teach me how to do biblical philology. He felt pride that there might be someone in the next generation who would carry on his love for the language of the Bible, and somewhere in my mind I suppose I've always felt an obligation to "make him proud," even though our paths never crossed again after I left the kibbutz.

We are working very hard to build that sense of mutual obligation, dependence, and pride and delight among the members of this congregation. I hope that you will heed Rachel's message—not only in your financial support of Riverdale Temple, but, equally, by contributing to and deriving "nachas" from every success we manage to achieve together.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What does it take for a community to demonstrate they are united in one goal?

I often think of Riverdale Temple as an extension of my immediate family. I have been a member of the temple for more than 14 years, and I am completing my sixth year as president. When I look from my seat on the bimah on Yom Kippur, there are very few faces I do not recognize. So the question I have been asking myself is, "Have I expected too much of my fellow 'family' members, or am I just being naïve in believing that I can expect 100 percent participation in a common goal?"

Normally, we publish the names of the Kol Nidre contributions in the February bulletin. You may ask why the printing of the list is being delayed. The responsibility for the delay is mine. Although Yom Kippur was in September, I have continued to urge our members who have yet to

contribute, through e-blasts, on bills, and from the bimah in my announcements during services to please participate. I emphasized that the goal was 100 percent participation. I also made it very clear that no donation was too small! To my regret, to date, only about 50 percent of our members have responded to my numerous appeals.

Being a perennial optimist, I am writing this article in a last-ditch effort to reach the remaining 50 percent of my Riverdale Temple family to send a Kol Nidre contribution, no matter how small. Each of you has the ability to renew my belief that we are united in one goal, the future of Riverdale Temple. I am hoping that in the March bulletin we will be able to include the names of all the members of Riverdale Temple.

Please do your part to be part of the whole!

—Rachel Radna



PURIM FUN at RIVERDALE TEMPLE

Bring the whole family to our
ANNUAL PURIMSPIEL on

Saturday, March 15, at 5:00 p.m.

THEN ... continue the celebration with DELI TREATS catered by Liebman's—
KARAOKE! MASQUERADE PARADE! DANCING! PASSOVER WINE TASTING!

Please use the form below to make your party reservation. RSVP by March 6, 2014.

Name _____ e-mail _____

Telephone # (home) _____ (cell) _____

of adults @ \$18.00 each _____ # of children (12 and under) @ \$5.00 each Total \$ _____

You may pay by check___ payable to WRJ (enter "Purim 2014" in the memo line) and mail to Riverdale Temple, 4545
Independence Avenue, Riverdale, NY 10471

or online at www.riverdaletemple.org (enter "Purim 2014" in the memo line).

For further information, please call the temple at 718-548-3800.

Purimspiel Rehearsal Schedule

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



Knitting for Charity

Knitting for Charity is on hiatus until further notice.



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@vpcicerink.com for details

Bulletin Board

February Events

Social Action Meeting	Feb. 2
Purimspiel Rehearsals	Feb. 2, 5, 9, 11, 20, 23, 27
Why Be Jewish?	Feb. 9
Membership Committee	Feb. 10

KRMH Food Delivery	Feb. 23
WRJ Book Club	Feb. 25

Coming Up in March

Sunday Family Fun	March 9
Purimspiel	March 15



Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by February 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.

Congratulations!

Inbal Sharett-Singer and Jonathan Singer on the recent birth of their son, **Amit Barry**

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.

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.

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

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.

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.



The Bulletin: Vol. 67, No. 6, February 2014. *The Bulletin* is published monthly by Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471, 10 times per year, September through June. The Riverdale Temple logo on p. 1 was designed by **Alix Brandwein**.

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Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Services

The first Friday night service, which begins at 6:15 p.m., 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 will feature our Junior Choir and will be followed by a potluck dinner. Our other Friday night services also begin at 6:15 p.m. with a Kabbalat Shabbat, in which the special series of Psalms that usher in Shabbat will be sung, followed at 6:30 p.m. by the formal evening service.

Saturday, Feb. 1	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Feb. 7	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat with Junior Choir, followed by potluck dinner
Saturday, Feb. 8	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Feb. 14	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Feb. 15	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Feb. 21	no Tot Shabbat because of vacation
	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Feb. 22	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Feb. 28	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service



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



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Universal Pre-Kindergarten

Some of you may not be aware that Riverdale Temple Nursery School offers free Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for all eligible four-year-olds. Thanks to our new mayor, more and more people are becoming aware of this program of government-funded early childhood education.

Our nursery school has a contract with the city for 31 half-day spots. This does mean that we need to be diligent about the separation of church and state in our classrooms, and not teach a Jewish curriculum during the UPK time, but our

children learn about all traditions and religions, and those who wish can stay for a special Shabbat celebration after class on Fridays. Rabbi Lewis greets each child by name, leads them through the blessings over the candles, juice, and challah, sings some songs, and even dances a dance once in a while. All children are welcome to stay—and since this is sponsored by the temple rather than the city, we are delighted to be able to share Shabbat with members and guests, Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

If you know people who may not be aware that Riverdale Temple offers a UPK program, please help us spread the word!

Sunday Family Fun Afternoon, March 9, at 12:15 p.m. Riverdale Temple families are invited to attend an afternoon of socializing and fun. A movie for elementary school-age children will be shown in the social hall, while adults can gather to meet and schmooze nearby. Pizza and soft beverages will be served—there is a \$5.00 cover charge for all in attendance (children under two are admitted free). Adults are welcome to BYOB and are encouraged to bring treats for the dessert table. Please note: All children must have an adult in the building in order to attend this program.

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

Why Be Jewish?

Please join us for another provocative exploration of Jewish identity in our time and place on Sunday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. in the ballroom. Rabbi Lewis will lead an interactive discussion following up on the primary question generated in our previous session: How do we answer the question our children raise: Why is it important for us to instill in them and, for them to have, a Jewish identity?

The discussion is particularly geared toward parents of school-age and preschool-age children, but you need not

have a child enrolled in our religious school or nursery school to participate. The discussion may be of particular interest to families with more than one religious background, though all modern Jews must struggle with this central question!

Refreshments will be served, and child care will be available. This event is free of charge. RSVPs are needed only if you require child care: please call the temple office at 718-548-3800.

Calendar

February

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

April

- 1 Hebrew School
- 6 Religious School
- 8 Hebrew School
- 13 No School—Passover Break
- 15 No School—Passover Break
- 20 No School—Passover Break
- 22 No School—Passover Break
- 27 Religious School
- 29 Hebrew School

May

- 4 Religious School
- 6 Hebrew School (Yom Ha'atzmaut)
- 11 Religious School
- 13 Hebrew School (Last Day of Hebrew School)
- 18 Religious School—Student Sponsorship Breakfast

ADULT EDUCATION

Why Be Jewish? For parents of school-age children: join us at the next monthly session on Sunday, **February 9**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Riverdale Temple ballroom for a provocative exploration of Jewish identity with Rabbi Lewis. The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is providing resources and important references relative to this significant area of study. Jonathan Brent, YIVO's executive director, will join us for select sessions over the next few months.

The YIVO Yidische Kulture Serye Lectures. I have been working on getting the topics for the two spring lectures finalized but was not able to do so in time for the February bulletin. As soon as they are available, I will post them on the Calendar Highlight section of the temple website (on the home page) and on the Riverdale Temple Calendar on the website.

Please note that I have just added an interesting article (thanks to Shelley Ast for finding it) to the references area of the adult education section under Study on the website.

It is called "Jewish Surnames Explained." Perhaps you will be able to find out more about the origin of your surname. I did, at least for my father's family name. I also added an additional title to our reading list. It is called the *Emerging Metropolis*, by Annie Polland and Daniel Soyer. It explores the encounter of Central European and East European Jewish immigrants with New York City.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis meets every Thursday in the social hall from noon to 1:00 p.m. (no meeting Feb. 20). The class is examining *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler. Although major New Testament figures were Jews, living in a culture steeped in Jewish history, beliefs, and practices, there has never been an edition of the New Testament that addresses its Jewish background and the culture from which it grew—until now.

The rabbi and I are brainstorming about an additional course offering that would meet on Thursday evenings. One topic area we are considering is the "Evolution of the Jewish

God." We will finalize this in the near future and keep you informed.

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

Chavurah

The Chavurah will not meet in February. The next meeting will take place on **March 8**, when *Vayikra* is read in synagogues around the world. Vayikra is the first portion in the book of Leviticus and deals with the laws of animal

sacrifice and the various sacrifices for atoning for guilt or sins. These prescriptions seem mystifying, since we have not given sacrifices in two thousand years, but the rabbis have found many ways to make these old rituals meaningful to today's Jews. Join us following the Shabbat service, when we will share a potluck dairy lunch and read and try to make sense of this challenging portion.

—Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

SOCIAL ACTION

SOCIAL ACTION MEETING: Our next meeting is on Sunday, **February 2**, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to come to help plan for our April 6, 2014, Mitzvah Day activities. Volunteer activity coordinators and other helpers are needed in February–March before the actual Mitzvah Day to help with a mailing and other preparations. Mitzvah Day is early this year, before the Passover/spring holidays.

KRMH FOOD & HUNGER PROJECT: The next delivery date is **February 23**, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. In the meantime, please bring in canned fish, healthful soups and cereals, canned fruit, etc., to help, especially during these winter months. Your contributions aid those who are having a difficult time getting enough food to eat as they try to meet their rent and medicine expenses. Your kindness is always appreciated.

ITEMS NEEDED: Starting March 1, there will be collection boxes outside the sanctuary to collect travel size soaps, shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes, combs, mouthwash, floss, etc. If you traveled over the holidays or plan a trip during

the February or March breaks with your family or friends, please save complimentary items to donate. We use these items to fill grooming kits for the Midnight Run and welcome kits for people entering the Zicklin Hospice at Atria.

Please donate smooth peanut butter and jars of grape jelly to help us make the sandwiches for the bagged lunches for Part of the Solution, the soup kitchen on Webster Avenue. We would need to purchase less, if you make these donations.

With the severe cold and ice that we have had so far this winter, please go through your closets or drawers to start to make bags of clothing/shoes that we can donate to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They will supply receipts to you after Mitzvah Day.

February is the month that has Valentine's Day and also care of the heart. Try to do something special to help someone in need: an elderly neighbor, someone who has a newborn, or participate in one of the events listed above. Your open heart and kindness not only help others but also provide satisfaction. Just a small act of kindness can make a big difference.

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

Purim Gifts for You and Your Riverdale Temple Friends

After he saved the Persian Jewish community from destruction, Mordechai wrote to the Jews directing them to observe and make Purim "days...of sending portions one to another." Therefore, it is customary to send gifts of baked goods and wine to our friends and relatives at this festive time of year. This gift-giving tradition is called *Mishloach Manot* in Hebrew and *Shalach Mones* in Yiddish.



The WRJ of Riverdale Temple is making it possible for our temple membership to partake of this wonderful custom and at the same time help raise funds for our temple. If you decide to participate, we will deliver a lovely package of wine, hamantaschen, confections, and baked goods on your behalf, to your fellow temple members who live in Riverdale (local delivery only).

The charge is \$5.00 per name. So, for example, if you indicate 10 names, your cost will be \$50.

If you wish to send gifts to the entire congregation, the cost is only \$180.

Please make out your check to WRJ of Riverdale Temple and enclose the list of names of fellow Riverdale Temple members you wish to receive Mishloach Manot. No addresses are necessary.

You may also pay online at www.riverdaletemple.org (indicate in the notes the names you are sending gifts to).

Please send your order no later than March 1.

Thank you in advance for joining us in a warm and generous Jewish tradition.

The WRJ of Riverdale Temple

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Recently, it was Chanukah, and now we are celebrating Presidents' and Martin Luther King Jr. Days. Where did the time go? It seems to go by quickly when I look forward to attending WRJ events. With that in mind, hopefully, you will be at the Purimspiel on Saturday, March 15. Don't you wonder who will play Queen Esther or Haman? How many children and adults will parade in their costumes? Another reason to attend is to demonstrate our support for those WRJ members who are performing that night. It's so difficult to comprehend that Helen Krim, former WRJ copresident, has been creating, producing, and at times appearing in the Purimspiel for 16 years. Talk about time going by.

This year we also look forward to seeing you, members of your family, as well as friends, at a **Purim Party** that will be held following the Purimspiel on March 15. It will be a festive party with an ample variety of deli delights, catered by Liebman's, for you to savor, as well as music for you to dance to. If karaoke is your thing, come and join in the fun. The cost is \$18 per adult and \$5 for every child 12 years or younger. A flyer with an attached reservation form will be sent to you shortly.

One of the customs during this joyous season is to

send **Mishloach Manot** (Purim baskets) to one another. Arrangements have been made wherein you can send a basket to members of our congregation at a cost of \$5 for each name. All recipients must live within the Riverdale area. Every basket will contain wine, hamantaschen, home baked cake or cookies, and something sweet to nibble on (see box on p. 8).

The Book Club met to discuss *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* by Gary Shteyngart on January 28. It will meet again on **February 25**. The participants will select the book they wish to review, and the title will be announced in an eBlast. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall.

The women of Sisterhood work tirelessly to ensure there is continuity of programs you can enjoy. Save the following dates and plan to attend the fabulous annual **Women's Seder** on Tuesday, **April 1**.

Join us on Saturday, **May 10**, when we, under the guidance of the rabbi, will conduct **Shabbat services**.

By supporting these gatherings you enable this dedicated group of women to raise much needed funds. You will also give us the opportunity to interact with you.

—Elaine Katz

The next meeting of the Riverdale Temple Membership Committee will be Monday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S CLUB

I wish to thank Allison Currier for visiting with us on January 12 and sharing her experiences in South Africa, where she had a unique opportunity to spend four months studying multiculturalism and human rights. She worked directly with a South African community fighting for water resources while growing organic gardens. Through her journey she has lived with four different South African cultures exploring how race and class affect lifestyle and economic opportunities for individuals post-Apartheid. While presenting her research about the importance of relationship-building in activism, she explained her thoughts on philanthropy and how you can get involved.

Allison's presentation was both informative and enlightening. We are thankful to have her share her experiences and wish her all the best as she returns to Ithaca College to complete her studies. There was a terrific turnout for this event, and although Old Man Winter was sending a blustery chill, Allison drew a very attentive crowd.

Our next event of 2014 will take place on Sunday, March 23, and feature author and congregant Josh Greenfield, who will be reading excerpts from his most recent book, *The Obsessive Chronicles*. Josh is a most interesting fellow, and his book is a must read for its candor, wit, and for the journey he will take you on. Kudos to Josh for sharing such insight with us.

In Memoriam: Leonard Loewy passed away on January 11, 2014. For those of us you knew Lenny from his regular attendance at Friday Shabbat services, his passing is a deep loss. Lenny was a man who faced many challenges in his 73 years. He was a man of great spirituality and sensitivity. Lenny was a highly intelligent person, who loved to read, watch films, and go to museums and baseball games. He possessed a wealth of knowledge about film history and actors. But most of all, Leonard Loewy was a kind and caring person. I, for one, will miss his engaging conversations and his insightful observations on books or films that we had both read or viewed. Lenny's life was fraught with challenges that many people would not be able to overcome. His courage, strength, and fortitude were an example to us all. A memorial service for Lenny is being planned.

Finally, Women of Reform Judaism is making it easy for us to participate in the fun tradition of Mishloach Manot! For only \$5 per name, the WRJ will deliver (local delivery only) a bag with a greeting from you, filled with wine, hamantaschen, home-baked goods, confections, and more. For only \$180, you can send a bag to every member of the congregation. Just think of the joy you will be spreading!

I look forward to seeing all of you at Purimspiel on March 15.

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

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
Shelley Ast For my aliyah on December 28	Jack Fisher	Karen Franklin	Stanley Sundheim and Julian Spiegel, beloved grandfathers
Shelley Ast For allowing me to coconduct Shabbat services on December 27	Rachel Radna		Jeanne Spiegel, cherished mother
Ephraim Bosgang For her contributions to the Riverdale Temple community	Rabbi Judith Lewis	Irving Hamada	Benjamin Krisiloff, beloved father of Beverly Hamada
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Sylvia Gottlieb For the honor of coleading the Shabbat services	Dr. Rachel Radna	Olivia Koppell	Dr. Gabrielle Koppell, beloved mother
Henry I. Kurtz For my aliyah	Rabbi Judith Lewis and Jack Fisher	James Lipton	Ben Lipton, beloved father
Dr. Dan and Kathy Roger Mazel tov on the marriage of your son Eric to Tamar Schwartz	Sylvia and Jeffrey Dinowitz	Joyce Liskin	Estelle Lasky, beloved mother
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To:
Eisen Family
Ellen Kirschner, Ann, James, and Family
Loewy Family

Condolences

On the loss of

Miriam Eisen

Dr. Paul A. Kirschner, beloved father, grandfather, long-time member

Leonard Loewy

The Departed Whom We Now Remember—February Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Samuel Hollander | 9 Felix Carlson | 18 Hyman Lerman | 24 Rose Bernstein |
| 1 Samuel Janow | 10 Viola Bergman | 18 Pearl Liebling | 24 Naomi Gell |
| 1 Samuel Silverman | 10 Simon Lersy | 18 Irma Loebmann | 24 Philip Levine |
| 2 Leo Breier | 10 Mollie Spear | 18 Louis Schulman | 24 Mollie Marsh |
| 2 Gertrude Golden | 10 Bella Weingarten | 19 Jeanne Arnowich | 24 Sondra Rechy |
| 2 Bernard Philip Gray | 11 Joseph Cassel | 19 David Drexler | 24 Henrietta Sperling |
| 3 Benjamin Harris | 11 Morris Hoffman | 19 Martin Kaplin | 24 Sybil Turner |
| 3 Mac Stern | 12 Fay Birnbaum | 19 Adele Locke | 25 Jean Mills |
| 4 Herbert Aaron | 13 Abe Horowitz | 20 Isabelle Funtleyder | 25 Edith Rattner |
| 4 Leon Claude Rabinowitz | 13 Burt Jaeger | 20 Susan Popick | 25 Sheldon Wiener |
| 4 Molly Retman | 13 Louis D. Retman | 20 Rosina Rosenfeld | 26 Carole Friedman |
| 4 Werner Spatz | 14 Lilo Hartmann | 20 Robert Simmons | 26 Rose Goldshein |
| 4 Conrad Weiner | 14 Nat Rosenblatt | 21 Irma N. Fondiller | 26 Don Ostro |
| 5 Isidor Rosenblum | 14 Lottie Samuels | 21 Benjamin H. Patek | 26 Jerry Spitz |
| 5 Harry Slade | 14 Sarah L. Schneiderman | 21 Nathan Yohalem | 27 Tillie Angstreich |
| 6 Isaac P. Aronson | 15 Stanley Greenfield | 21 Bess R. Young | 27 Alice Samuela Brown |
| 6 Charles Goldberg | 15 A. Donald Kronman | 22 George Dilloff | 27 Benjamin Kaminer |
| 6 Jonathan Daniel Kirp | 15 John J. Spath Sr. | 22 Fred A. Glass | 27 Alice Leinwand |
| 7 Clara Frischer | 16 Theodore Corn | 22 Lillian Jaffe | 27 Stanley Madow |
| 7 Masha Mallin | 16 Jacob Lowenthal | 22 Rose Kaminer | 27 Etta M. Shekter |
| 7 Nathan B. Spear | 16 Nathan Miller | 22 Harry Marsh | 28 Rudolph E. Brill |
| 7 Michael Wile | 16 Abraham Perchick | 22 Mollie Rabinowitz | 28 Daniel Gross |
| 8 Esther Amram | 16 Morris Seeferblatt | 22 Hyman Siminowitz | 28 Joseph Herman |
| 8 Jean Friedenberg | 16 Mildred Segan | 22 Samuel Wexler | |
| 8 Frieda Kaplan | 16 Harry Shatin | 22 Sigmund Zwickel | |
| 8 Ida Stam | 17 Gussie Leibowitz | 23 Irving Margel | |
| 8 Sinclair Waldstein | 18 Irwin Kaplan | 23 Daniel Robert Platzner | |

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Inside This Issue

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Worship Schedule</i> | 5 | <i>Congratulations</i> | 8 | <i>Social Action</i> |
| 1 | <i>The Rabbi's Column</i> | 5 | <i>Caring Committee</i> | 8 | <i>Purim Gifts</i> |
| 2 | <i>Monthly Calendar</i> | 5 | <i>House Committee</i> | 9 | <i>Women of Reform Judaism</i> |
| 3 | <i>The President's Column</i> | 6 | <i>Friday Evening/Saturday</i> | 9 | <i>Men's Club</i> |
| 4 | <i>Purimspiel Rehearsals and</i> | | <i>Morning Services</i> | 10 | <i>Contributions</i> |
| | <i>More</i> | 6 | <i>Nursery School News</i> | 11 | <i>Condolences</i> |
| 4 | <i>Knitting Group</i> | 7 | <i>Religious and Hebrew School</i> | 11 | <i>Yahrzeit Observances</i> |
| 5 | <i>Bulletin Board</i> | 7 | <i>Adult Education</i> | | |