



The Bulletin

Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִדְּהַל שָׁם יי

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

Vol. 69

January 2016 (5776)

No. 5

Worship Services (also see calendar on p. 2)

Fridays

- Jan. 1 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Jan. 8 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service
6:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Jr. Choir
- Jan. 15 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat, special music
- Jan. 22 7:00 p.m. New Member Shabbat Eve Service
- Jan. 29 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Professional Choir

Saturdays

- Jan. 2 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 16 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service, followed by Chavurah
- Jan. 23 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 30 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Maya Katz Bat Mitzvah Celebration

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

December Dilemma

Some years ago I was looking through some old photographs of my family. I was shocked to find a picture of my brother and my sister and me dancing around a Christmas tree in our apartment. “How could you possibly have had a Christmas tree?” I asked my mother indignantly. “You kids begged and pleaded until we finally gave in just to shut you up!” she answered.

I spoke to some of the kids in the Religious School, and some of them also confessed to having had a Christmas tree, or a “Chanukah bush.” One student told me not to worry, because all of the ornaments were Jewish. Some of the younger Jewish kids are told that their presents are brought by “Hanukkah Harry,” who climbs down the fire escape with gifts for good little Jewish boys and girls.

Part of being a minority is getting caught up in the movement of the majority. Christmas is especially difficult because it is a mixture of religion, culture, and commercialism. If it was only about the birth of Jesus and people going to church, it would be easy enough to ignore. If it was only a tradition of giving gifts in the winter, we could participate wholeheartedly.

Perhaps the cultural aspect is the most difficult. People invoke a Norman Rockwell/Currier and Ives vision of how life used to be—small towns covered in snow, happy families, caroling, and eggnog. For many people, that represents America as they would like it to be.

Even if that was America for some people at one time, it was never America for everyone. It was never the America of the Jews.

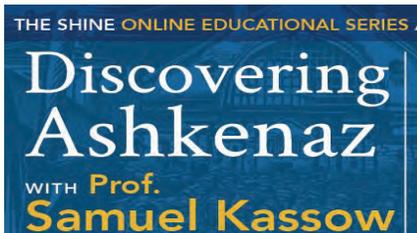
Most of the Christmas culture we get comes to us courtesy of commercialism. The Christmas music, the red and white fashions, the displays in the stores... all of this is part of an attempt to get people to buy things. We can't blame the stores—selling things is why they exist. We can't blame the people who get caught up in the excitement. After all, of all the annoying things society could pressure you into doing, giving gifts to others is far from the worst.

Where does that leave the Jews? One might as well ask where that leaves the (religious) Christians. So much of Christmas is commercialism and culture that there is barely any room for the religious meaning. I sometimes pity Christian clergy, who have to try to get the religious message heard over the roar of commercialism.

I had a friend who used to send me a Christmas card every year. I told

continued on p. 3

See p. 8 for Purimspiel rehearsals.



Online YIVO class begins January 11. See p. 9 for details.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am Junior Choir Rehearsal 3	23 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 Nursery School reopens 4	24 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Meeting 5	25 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 Nursery School 6	26 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 Nursery School 7:30 pm Membership Committee Meeting 7	27 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service with Junior Choir, potluck dinner 8	28 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 <i>Parashat Vaera</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion 9
29 <i>Tevet</i> 5776 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am Men's Club Meeting 11:30 am Junior Choir Rehearsal 12:30 pm Purimspiel Rehearsal 10	1 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School YIVO online course 11	2 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class 12	3 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 13	4 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 14	5 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 6:30 pm Shabbat Eve Service with Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat, special music, potluck dinner 15	6 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 <i>Parashat Bo</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Chavurah follows 16
7 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 No Religious School 10:30 am Social Action Committee meeting No Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Purimspiel Rehearsal 2:30 pm Sinfonietta of Riverdale 17	8 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 No Nursery School Martin Luther King Jr. Day 18	9 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School — Martin Luther King Jr. Sing Noon Lunch and Learn 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class 19	10 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 20	11 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 21	12 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 7:00 pm New Member Shabbat Eve Service 22	13 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 <i>Parashat Beshalach</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion 23
14 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am Junior Choir Rehearsal 12:30 pm Purimspiel Rehearsal 1:00 pm WRJ Game Day 24	15 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 25	16 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Adult Hebrew Language Class 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club 26	17 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 27	18 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 28	19 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Nursery School 7:00 pm Shabbat Eve Service with Professional Choir 29	20 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 <i>Parashat Yitro</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Maya Katz Bat Mitzvah Celebration 30
21 <i>Shevat</i> 5776 Religious School 11:30 am Junior Choir Rehearsal 12:30 pm Purimspiel Rehearsal 31						

him I was glad to get it, but sorry to hear from him no more than once a year, and not on my holiday. He explained that Christmas was not a Christian holiday, but an American holiday. I gave this some thought and decided that it was really up to the non-Christians whether they felt included or excluded by the holiday.

As kids, my brother and sister and I felt excluded, and so we begged for a Christmas tree. Likewise, some Jewish parents will put in a Christmas tree or a “Chanukah bush” to keep their kids from feeling excluded. Remember, the tree has nothing to do with Christianity. It is descended from a pagan practice. When the Christian missionaries came, they told the pagans that they did not have to give up their practice of decorating evergreen trees in the winter. Only the meaning behind it would change.

Jews have always been much more hesitant than Christians to adopt the practices of other religions. That may be one of the reasons Christianity has been more successful in bringing in converts than Jews. For this reason, I would not want to have a

tree in my house. I hope that I will be strong enough to resist the pleas of my daughter, should she get it into her head that she wants a tree. But I encourage people to partake of the joy of the season. No one should feel guilty for giving or receiving gifts, or wishing Christian friends a Merry Christmas.

My friend still sends me a card every year. He just blanks out the place where it used to say “Merry Christmas.” If there is a picture of Santa Claus on the card, he claims it is a Chasidic rabbi. If others consider this time to be a season of joy, let us not be such grinchers as to disapprove. As we Jews know well, this dark season is exactly the time to brighten things up a little bit. With Chanukah behind us, we should do our best to enjoy the Christmas all around us.

We don’t share the religious aspect of Christmas. The cultural part excludes us, and heaven knows we don’t need the commercial part of it. But share the joy, the generosity, and the cheer. Have a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful 2016!

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR’S COLUMN



Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer and cantor friends entertain at the installation party

Hine Ma Tov Umah Naim Shevet Achim Gam Yachad: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133:1).

These were the words we used to open Rabbi Gardner’s and my special installation

service, which were sung so beautifully by our wonderful adult volunteer choir. These words, and their nostalgic melody, are simple yet powerful. They are not to be taken for granted or ignored. Our psalmists understood that even though we are all individuals, with different individual needs, when we truly connect to each other, it is powerful beyond measure.

On December 22, I and some forty other local Israeli leaders had the privilege to be invited to a meeting by the IAC (Israeli American Consulate), together with the *Meetchabrim* (Connecting) movement, to learn and to think together of new ways to connect with the Israeli community in the New York City area. The meeting was focused on learning new ways of building a future together and to foster mutual responsibility (*arvut*), a sense of unity, and

“peoplehood” among all sectors of Israeli society, in order to create together a common future in the community. *Meetchabrim*’s mission is to create a language-connecting future through dialogue, targeted action, and dedicated learning (*limmud*). Hopefully, it will lead to the adoption of a new language and culture of dialogue that enable connections and contact between people from different backgrounds to create a common future for all of us.

During our meeting we broke into small groups, each of which was led by an influential Israeli leader, and we discussed what we appreciate and what we are missing from our different communities. This helpful exercise taught me that the Israeli community feels a lack of connection to American Jews, and that they are very much interested in finding ways to build a bridge to a better relationship.

I am excited that on Friday, January 15, at 6:30 p.m., we are collaborating with iHouse, the Israeli program at the Riverdale Y, and are hosting an Israeli-style Kabbalat Shabbat with a potluck dinner to follow and a sing-a-long with live Israeli music. This is truly a great opportunity for us to open our hearts and minds and host our Israeli friends with warmth and joy. It is my hope that they feel that whenever they are in need of a synagogue, for whatever reason, that they will see us, Riverdale Temple, as a place where they are accepted, connected, and welcomed—a home away from home. I invite all of you to come to our special service and to share your favorite dish with our new guests. *Yachad*, together, we can bridge the gap between us and build a wonderful relationship.

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Had you walked into Riverdale Temple on Saturday, December 19, you would have thought that you were experiencing a *déjà vu* all over again. It looked as if the High Holy Days were upon us! We had a packed house in celebration of the Installations of Rabbi Thomas Gardner as the seventh Rabbi of Riverdale Temple and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer as the third Cantor of Riverdale Temple during the Shabbat Service. Rabbi Dr. Martin A. Cohen, professor of Jewish history at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, conducted the installation part of the service. Our rabbi emeritus, Rabbi Stephen D. Franklin, was in attendance

and participated in the service. There were also guest musicians, the professional choir, and some of Cantor Sharett-Singer’s cantor friends who participated in the service. I read a congratulatory message from Rabbi Judith Lewis, who was unable to attend.

As you might remember, it was last year about this time that Rabbi Lewis announced her retirement plans, and the Rabbi Search Committee was formed and quickly went into action. We had a town hall meeting in which we heard everyone’s ideas of what qualities their dream rabbi should have. They asked for a rabbi who was a gentleman (or a lady) and a scholar, who was not too old



From left: Rabbi Dr. Martin A. Cohen, Dr. Frederick Schweitzer, and Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner. —Photo by Yvette Marrin.

and not too young, not too new to the rabbinate, and who had a young family. A rabbi who was energized, would have a vision to grow our membership, would live in our community, and even might have a black belt in a martial art and be fluent in Japanese!! Having

that she wanted to become our next cantor.

Together, Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer make a pretty awesome clergy team, and, with them at the helm, I think the future looks bright for Riverdale Temple.

After the service the community was treated to a sumptuous extended Kiddush, which was literally extended by some of the members of our congregation who offered up home-baked cakes, noodle pudding, stuffed grape leaves, bourekitas, and more. This enhanced the catered fare from Liebman's Delicatessen. Cantor Sharett-Singer's brother-in-law, Cantor Dan Singer of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, played the piano and sang while we danced the hora and other dances.

It was a totally feel-good day. If you were there, I think you would agree. If you missed it, not to worry, you can still show the rabbi and cantor the love by sending contributions to their respective funds!

Finally, I want to thank all of you who attended this joyous event and all of the members who saw to every detail, from the flowers to the food, and worked hard to make this celebration a great success. We know how to throw a party!

Wishing our members and their loved ones a Happy 2016!

—Rachel Radna

digested all that, the search committee went to work to find the best possible rabbi they could find. To that end they kissed many frogs until they found a prince in the form of Rabbi Gardner. We knew that Rabbi Lewis's shoes would be hard to fill, but I think Rabbi Gardner fills them just fine—even the high heels!

Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer came to us as a cantorial student teaching in our Religious School. She was our student cantor for three years before her ordination this past May. We were happy



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.



sinfonietta of riverdale
the quality of carnegie hall, the convenience of riverdale

JANUARY 17, 2016

Mozart & Salieri, a one-act opera by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov about Salieri's jealousy of Mozart. Performed in English.

Also, works by Mozart and Salieri

APRIL 10, 2016

Jazz Masters

RANDALL BAUER, new work

CHRIS BYARS, *Riverdale Suite*

All concerts take place at 2:30 p.m. at the temple

Tickets are \$35 (\$25 for seniors and Riverdale Temple members, \$15 for students).

Membership Committee

Meetings are scheduled for the **first Thursday** of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Library. The remaining dates are Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5, and June 2.

Bulletin Board

January Events

WRJ Meeting	Jan. 5
Membership Committee Meeting	Jan. 7
Purimspiel Rehearsals	Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31
YIVO Online Course	Jan. 11
Sinfonietta of Riverdale	Jan. 17
WRJ Game Day	Jan. 24
WJR Book Club	Jan. 26

Coming Up in February

Purimspiel Rehearsals	Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28
Social Action Committee Meeting	Feb. 28

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

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **January 14**. You can e-mail it directly to riverdale@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.



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NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



There is wonderful, exciting energy when you walk into the Nursery School! And there has been a delicious smell of latkes!

The Twos have been celebrating Chanukah. They made menorahs and dreidels. They had an amazing Chanukah party, where our dear cantor, Inbal Sharett-Singer, led the Chanukah celebration. The children and parents sang, danced, ate latkes and jelly donuts, and had a wonderful time. Then came Red Week in the Twos class. They painted with red, collaging and reading about the color red. In January, the Twos are studying circles!

The Threes studied the story of Chanukah. They made beautiful menorahs to take home for their families. The children lit their menorahs every day and talked about the miracle! They have been cooking and eating delicious latkes and, of course, jelly donuts! They have been making costumes for the Holiday Sing. They all had Maccabee shields and practiced their Chanukah songs and poems. They are now beginning the study of hibernation.

Some of our Fours are studying nursery rhymes. They have been learning the rhymes and creating projects as extensions of the rhymes. There is a lot of beginning reading going on in the Fours classes!! The Fours classes also studied Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. They learned about all the celebrations of their friends, noticing the similarities and differences. They sang with

great enthusiasm and learned all the songs for the Holiday Sing.

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 nsdirector.rtns@gmail.com. We have been getting applications for next year, and we do have limited space.

Community Service

For the months of December and January we have been collecting clothes for the cold weather for New York Cares. There are boxes, decorated by the children, on each floor. Please look in your closet and donate your old coats, scarves, and hats. There are 100,000 New Yorkers who do not have coats.

School Closings

January 1–3: School closed; reopens January 4.

January 18: School closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Holiday Sing

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Sing

Just a lovely quote...

“Only children believe they’re capable of everything.”—Paul Coelho

—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 rivotemple@aol.com (put **babysitting** in subject line) and let us know if you will avail yourself of this service.

Tot Shabbat Services: January 8

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.

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

Most people know about our terrific Religious School on Sundays. But what about our Hebrew School on Tuesdays? Many years ago, I worked at a Jewish summer camp. The head of the camp asked me to meet with the Israeli counselors and explain to them the role of bar and bat mitzvah in American Judaism. I did so, and then asked if there were any questions. One young man asked me, “Why don’t you teach the kids Hebrew?”

I said, we do! We teach them enough to read the prayers and the Torah. “No,” he replied, “you teach them how to pronounce the letters. You don’t teach them to understand Hebrew.”

He was right. Ever since then, I have tried to give my bat and bar

mitzvah students at least a few vocabulary words. However, in our Tuesday Hebrew Class, I am trying to do much more.

While the younger students work on the letters, the older and more advanced kids have been working on grammar. Those who will be a bar or bat mitzvah this year won’t learn too much. It is very difficult to learn a foreign language in one class a week, without homework. But I have great hopes for the children who still have a few years in our Hebrew Class. I hope to teach them enough grammar and vocabulary that they will be able to understand a lot of their Torah portion. It’s extremely ambitious, but we will reach for the stars and see how far we get!

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Bring on the cold weather, because things are brewing at WRJ! We hope everyone had a healthy, happy and safe holiday. WRJ had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Latke Oneg on Friday, December 11. A special “Thank You” to Dorothy Feldman and Judy Zucker for all of their help in setting up this annual event. The sanctuary looked beautiful with everyone’s Chanukiah burning bright. The rabbi and cantor encouraged everyone to participate in song, and joyful music spread throughout our sanctuary. Another special “Thank You” to Jenna Barricklo, Jonah Barricklo, Morgan Greene, and Jade Bloomfield for sharing their beautiful voices with the congregation. They were accompanied by L. Michael Griffel on the keyboard. I know that when everyone participates (and volunteers) within the temple, we all win. Show your support—the rabbi and cantor can surely find a “job” for you!

Chanukah was well received by all, and WRJ made a gift of an ice maker and a new stove to the temple. Perhaps we can encourage Rachel to offer cooking lessons (!).

In a few weeks, on Sunday, January 24, WRJ will be having Game Day from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Spend the day with friends and family playing games and sharing in laughter and refreshments. Make your reservations now! Don’t forget and mark your calendar for March 6—the Mah-jongg Tournament will return to our temple and the tiles will be flying across the tables.

We are still looking for members to host the Friday night onegs. Please call Irene Brenner at 718-548-6558 to reserve a date. This is a lovely way to honor a yearzeit, birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there and discussing our future events.

The next Book Club will be Tuesday, January 26. We will be discussing *The Secret Chord* by Pulitzer Prize–winner Geraldine Brooks.

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

WRJ/Riverdale Temple Invites You to
COME OUT OF THE COLD AND INTO THE WARMTH OF
GAME DAY
JANUARY 24, 2016 1:00–4:00 p.m.



Mah Jongg! Bingo ! Scrabble ! Bridge!
You bring your cards, board games, and friends
WE’LL SUPPLY THE REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLES, AND PRIZES
\$18.00 Advance reservation: \$20.00 at the door
RSVP by January 15, 2016
Send check payable to: WRJ/Riverdale Temple
Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Ave., Riverdale, NY 10471
Or—pay online at www.riverdaletemple.org
Write “Game Day” on the memo line and the return envelope
Questions? Call Terri at 718-548-3800 or Susan at 917-509-3111

Name(s) _____
Address _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ e-mail _____
of persons @ 18.00 each _____ Total amount \$ _____

Save the Dates

Tuesday, January 26: Book Club (7:30–9:00 p.m.)—*The Secret Chord* by Pulitzer Prize–winner Geraldine Brooks
Sunday, March 6: Second Annual Mah-jongg Tournament (10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)

MEN'S CLUB

Happy New Year to all of you. I especially welcome 2016, for it begins with a renewed sense of optimism for the future of Riverdale Temple. There is so much evidence of a spiritual renaissance taking place, and I urge anyone who hasn't been to a Shabbat service recently to join us and experience the difference for yourself. A few weeks ago we celebrated the installation of Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer as our spiritual leaders. Together, the rabbi and cantor had made an immediate impact on our religious services. Since their collaboration began on Rosh Hashanah, they have invigorated our services with new music, stimulating sermons, and enlightened Torah discussions. The energy and enthusiasm of our clergy and their spouses and children have proved contagious, as the number of attendees at Shabbat services continues to grow. Our building is a center of spirituality, filled with prayer and an enhanced sense of community as we share our space with so many wonderful neighbors.

It seems the extended period of spring-like weather we have been experiencing has added to the sense of renewal to our greater RT family, and a positive energy permeates our atmosphere. As one of my favorite television personalities used to say, "How sweet it is."

While we at RT have much to feel good about, there is also much for us to be concerned about that affects us directly and indirectly. Let us all reflect on what is taking place beyond RT, the challenges we face as Americans, and the declining prospects for harmony among the peoples of the world. It is a time for all of us to pray together for peace, understanding, and respect. Let us unite as a concerned people for the betterment of all. Each one of us can do our part as individuals, or we can go from strength to strength by praying together at our most meaningful weekly services.

May the New Year bring peace, health, and prosperity to you, your families, and friends.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

January starts the work of planning for Mitzvah Day 2016, which is April 3 this year. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND SOME TIME TO HELP OUT!

This month we start to contact community agencies to participate and also to indicate what they need so we can be of the most help to them. In later February, you should start to watch for Participant Registration Forms, since we need to have your responses back early to plan. The calendar is unusual this year with Purim coming on March 24, and about a week and a half later we have Mitzvah Day, since Passover comes later in April in 2016.

Please save shampoos, conditioners, and lotions, etc., for our grooming kits for the Midnight Run and the Zicklin Hospice at Atria. You may have traveled over the holidays and have extra supplies. Also, we shall do a clothing collection, so during wintry days, you may want to look ahead at items that you may want to donate.

A BIG THANK YOU—Thank you to everyone who donated a coat or jacket for NYCares this past December. A coat or jacket that you or someone in your family doesn't use, but sits in a closet, can be a wonderful donation for someone living on the street or in a shelter during the winter. Thanks to Phil Clarke and David Currier for taking our donations to the 50th Precinct.

KRMH Food & Hunger Project, Inc. It is after the holidays, but the coldest months are now. Please continue to donate oatmeal, soups, canned fish and meat, peanut butter, fruits, rice, beans, evaporated milk, etc. We are helping more than 40 people per week at this time and continue our year-round kosher grocery packages for homebound seniors. Thanks to Howie Malatzky for taking our donations to the KRMH Pantry at the Church of the Mediator.

NEXT MEETING: Everyone is welcome to come and participate on Sunday, February 28, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

—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 (January)

January 10	12:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
January 17	11:30 a.m.	Social Hall
January 24	12:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
January 31	12:30 p.m.	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 Minion Megillah!



ADULT EDUCATION



FREE YIVO online course starts on January 11, 2016. As we look toward the start of the new year, 2016, I am excited to share with all of you a very important effort sponsored by the YIVO. It is an online course taught over an eight-week period by Professor Samuel Kassow, a remarkable teacher who is extremely knowledgeable about Jewish life from medieval

times through the first part of the 20th century. Many of you have expressed your interest in learning more about Jewish Life in Eastern Europe. And here is your chance to do so.

This course is **free** for a limited time and is being made available to Riverdale Temple congregants and friends, starting **January 11**. It is taught online through the Internet and is viewable in the privacy of your own home. However, you need to register to get access to it. **Register now at YIVO.org/Online-Classes.**

People who heard Eve Jochnowitz's December 6 presentation at the YIVO Kulture Series event, during which she talked about "What's Jewish About Jewish Food," will enjoy viewing some of Eve Jochnowitz's YouTube videos on the subject of Jewish food. Though they are presented in Yiddish, there are English subtitles. I have posted two links to them in the Media area of our website, under the submenu area video gallery.

Hebrew Language Class Register for the Hebrew Language Class taught by Cantor Sharett-Singer every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. It starts mid-January. When you register, the day will be confirmed. The class is described in the Registration form found both in the lobby and on our website (under Study—Hebrew Language Class). The tuition for this class is paid in an installment plan described on the form.

Study with the Rabbi Join Rabbi Gardner's fabulous course on the Talmud every Tuesday between noon and 1:00 p.m. Every Saturday morning participate in the study of the Parashah of the week at our Shabbat services. Join the interesting, thought-provoking, and stimulating discussions.

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

The **Chavurah** will meet on **January 16**, following the communal kiddush. The Torah portion for that week is *Bo*. It finds Moses and Pharaoh in the midst of their standoff, with the eighth, ninth, and tenth plagues smiting the Egyptians and God telling the Israelites to prepare for the Passover. There is great drama and much to think about in this portion, so join us for good fellowship and learning.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

THE SHINE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES AT YIVO PRESENTS

Discovering Ashkenaz

WITH Prof. **Samuel Kassow**

JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE

This online course uses YIVO's unique archive and library collections to explore the history and culture of the Jews of Poland, Russia, and Lithuania, from medieval times through the Communist era.



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
Shelley Ast	Our president, Rachel L. Radna Rabbi Gardner's teachings and services to welcome Cantor Sharett-Singer's return from maternity leave	Margot Collins Carolyn Eisen Renee I. Gallay Michael Gefter	Gertrud Hirschmann, beloved mother Miriam R. Eisen, beloved mother Alan Gallay, beloved husband of Renee I. Gallay David Gefter, beloved father of Michael Gefter
Joshua and Philip Bereano	Beatrice and Leon Bereano Fund		
Ephraim Bosgang	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner's installation Riverdale Temple's ongoing support of the Riverdale Jewish community	Margaret and Michael Griffel Dorothy and Joseph Kay	Giza Hirsch, beloved grandmother of Margaret Griffel Ruth Kay, beloved mother of Joseph Kay
Jacqueline and Stephen Gardner	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner's installation	Phyllis and Paul Lehrer	Samuel and Ethel Lehrer, beloved parents of Paul Lehrer
Bernard Greenwald/ Merck Foundation	Riverdale Temple's ongoing support of the Riverdale Jewish community	Gail and Harriet Martin	Dick Martin, beloved husband of Harriet Martin
Yvette Marrin	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner, with mazel and brochah upon your installation as our rabbi the installation of Cantor Sharett-Singer, welcome to our temple family	Richard Meisler Phyllis and David Saxe Harriette Schmertz Renee Spath	Rosalyn Meisler, beloved mother Ruth and Emanuel Saxe beloved parents of David Saxe Eric J. Schmertz, beloved husband Margaret Spath, beloved mother
Barbara Mass	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner	Sandra and Harold Weitz	Leon and Rebecca Evelyn Schenker, beloved parents of Sandra Weitz
Nili and James Schnitzer	Rabbi Gardner for officiating at my mother Hedy Schnitzer's funeral services	Judith Buder Zucker	Gary Zucker, beloved husband
Tobi and Scott Weinstein	Riverdale Temple's 2015 High Holy Days services		
Judith Buder Zucker	Rabbi Gardner for my aliyah. Thank you, Rabbi!		
DONOR	IN MEMORY		
Shirley and Eric Auerbach	Sarah Silverstein, beloved mother and grandmother		
Hermina and Daniel Birnbaum	Joseph Ackner, beloved family member of Hermina and Daniel Birnbaum		

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

Linda Chokroverty and Craig Katz

On the loss of

Himangshu Chakrabarti, beloved uncle



The Departed Whom We Now Remember

January Yahrzeit Observances

1 Irving Arrow	7 Alfred Silverman	14 Stanley Sundheim	24 Dorothea J. Steindl
1 Sylvia Brown	7 Steven Paul Weintraub	14 Diane Wild	24 Henry Taig
1 Harry Davidoff	8 Ralph Batt	15 Cynthia Mason	25 Rose Saraga
1 Fannie Fein Lakritz	8 Ernst Fraenkel	15 Julian Spiegel	25 Lillian Steren
1 Rosanne Martin	8 Selma Friedman	16 Beatrice R. Bereano	26 David Bauer
1 Sidney Reiser	8 Betty Kahn	16 Sheryl Gilman	26 Sol Brill
1 Pearl Togut	8 Ed Lowe	16 Irving Goldshein	26 Dr. Siegfried Loewentritt
2 Henry Abrahamson	8 Shirley Mandel	16 Benjamin Krisiloff	26 Pauline Seeferberblatt
2 Sadie Brill	8 Mary Parker	16 Hyman W. Rosenblum	27 Adele Baltuch Blum
2 Samuel D. Dorfman	8 Jeanne Sundheim Spiegel	17 Rose Berman	27 Frances E. Friedman
2 Sylvia Mills	9 Yetta Kovitz	18 Louis Friedman	27 Aaron M. Steren
2 Alfred E. Simmons	9 Frieda Margulies	18 Rose C. Harren	28 Fanny B. Appel
2 Simon Steinglass	9 Regina Rothman	18 Elaine Heller	28 George Aronson
2 Estelle Weiss	10 Julius H. Ginewsky	18 Sara B. Merson	28 Helene-Ronnie Bloch
2 Walter Yohalem	10 May Manheimer	18 Frieda Steinhauser	28 Fannie Grossman
3 Melvin I. Cannold	10 Samuel Wechsler	19 Lore Kornberg	28 Seraphine Fellner Hirschl
3 Lila Chessler	11 Lillian Burgeman	19 Abe Molsky	28 Jay Jacobson
3 Ida Klugman	11 Mitchell LoPato	20 Rose M. Evans	28 Betty Levene
3 Mollie C. Rothberg	11 Milton Seelig	20 Siegfried Hermann	28 Jean Monat
4 Sylvia Alwaise	12 Elias Blaustein	20 Ralph Hochroth	29 Charles Jaffe
4 Frances Braunstein	12 Milton Eisen	20 Grace Kahn	29 Mildred Levitt
4 Julia Steiner Halprin	12 Sally Entin	20 Muriel Kaufman	29 Margot Manasse
4 Ira Handwerker	12 Florence Kern	20 Betty Ranfeld	29 Henrietta Felicity Radna
4 Liza Lakritz Perelmutter	12 Judith R. Klein	20 Jacob Weinberg	29 Diane Wild
4 David Spivack	12 Peter Howard Manheimer	21 Ida Baron	29 Abraham Yarlow
4 Sally Tessler	12 Maurice Sigel	21 Eppie Begleiter	30 Gussie Gold
4 Shirley Waldstein	12 Louis Weiner	21 Max Kaplan	30 Leopold Hirschl
5 Netta Avedon	13 Erna Abrahamson	21 Martin Marsh	30 Brana Rozenfeld
5 Blanche Breindel	13 Ida Feinman	21 Phyllis Platzner	30 Dr. Sidney Sommers
5 Ethel Fondiller	13 Emma Shapiro Friedman	21 Lillian Salb	31 Philip S. Birnbaum
5 Hertha Gottschalk	13 Lottie Golubock	22 Louise Amram	31 Irving Fritz
5 Samuel Haupt	13 Theodore Klebanoff	22 Estelle Lasky	31 Gussie Gold
5 Pearl Hoffman	13 Susan Leber	22 Abraham J. Lester	31 Ray B. Horowitz
5 Samuel Jay Resnick	13 Jennie Rabinowitz	23 Selma Leslie	31 Lena Jacobson
6 Sophie Ginsberg	13 David Rapaport	24 Samuel Bialek	31 Dr. Gabrielle Koppell
6 Lou Wiggs	13 Joseph Rapaport	24 Sallee Brust	31 Miriam Leff
6 Mark Zerkowitz	13 Dorothy Reingold	24 Beulah M. Cohn	31 Irving Sorger
7 Eleanor Gerber	14 Kathryn Bloomfield	24 Nettie J. Fondiller	31 Harry Wagonfeld
7 Lawrence Goldberger	14 Ali Malak	24 Jenny Seelig	

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