



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאֵן מְהַלֵּל שֵׁם יי

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

Worship Services (also see calendar on p. 2)

Fridays

Jan. 6	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Jr. Choir and potluck dinner
Jan. 13	7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Jan. 20	5:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Ruach Shabbat Service
Jan. 27	7:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

Saturdays

Jan. 7	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Jan. 14	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Jan. 21	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service Chavurah study following service
Jan. 28	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Vol. 70

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No. 5

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

This synagogue is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, and we pay dues to that organization. I am a member of the Central Committee of American Rabbis, and I pay dues to that organization. Cantor Sharett-Singer is a member of the American Conference of Cantors and pays dues to them. Occasionally, each of us questions what we get for the dues we pay.

Once all transactions were casual, but the computer has changed that. Large companies cash our checks electronically, so they can begin making interest on our money immediately. It may be only a few cents, but multiplied by thousands of accounts it adds up.

We look all over the Internet for a place selling something we want for a few cents cheaper. After all, why pay \$14.98 for a book if you can get it for \$14.89?

In a time when pennies and seconds count, we seek out value. A friend of mine believes that is the defining characteristic of our age: the search for greater value. We are willing, says my friend, to put local stores out of business to save a few cents online. I know someone who bought a cello on eBay from China. Instead of the \$2,000 she would ordinarily pay for a beginner's cello, she paid \$200. Of course, the more expensive one is better. But not ten times better.

In a time when we seek (and find) value, what do we get for our membership dues at Riverdale Temple? Once it was a given that Jews would belong to a synagogue. You had to belong, and the dues were whatever they were. The board of directors set the dues, based on what they thought people should be paying, and people paid. Today, our dues seem like a lot of money, and we wonder why we should be paying so much. We wonder what kind of value we get for our money.

We *do* get value for our money. When you join the synagogue, you get Shabbat and holiday services. We have a lot of events at the temple that members can attend. Members get pastoral visits, religious school, even a bit of counseling if you need it. Members get weddings and funerals at no charge, baby namings and prayers for healing.

Still, in the search for value, can't you do better? You can attend Shabbat services and most holidays without being a member. Doesn't it make more economic sense to pay the synagogue for a wedding or a funeral as it comes up? Besides, even members tend to make a donation when they have an event, so how much money are they saving?

YIVO
Yidishe kultur-serye

JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2016-2017

SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 2017 | 2:00PM

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF:
THE MIGHTY AFTERLIFE OF
A BROADWAY MUSICAL

See p. 8 for details.

continued on p. 3

There are places in Riverdale where you can have a bar or bat mitzvah more cheaply than you can at Riverdale Temple, both in terms of money and time invested. The bar or bat mitzvah at Riverdale Temple is better, because you really do sort of join the community, whereas the other one is more about reading a few lines of Torah and having a party. But is the Riverdale Temple bat mitzvah ten times better? Or however many times more expensive we are?

Except that belonging to Riverdale Temple is not about the search for value. It is about the search for values. Belonging to a community is something that transcends questions of money. We do charge a lot of money, but we charge as little as we can. I need hardly mention that if everyone decided not to belong to the synagogue, but to purchase its services “a la carte,” there would be no synagogue. But we also charge so that we can be here for members who cannot pay full price.

To quote my friend again, belonging to a synagogue is not only not monetizable, it is antimonetizable. This is the place where you have to turn your back on questions of value. What do you get for your membership in the synagogue? What do you get for the time you spend here? Something that you cannot get anywhere else. Something that cannot be purchased.

There is a family in our congregation that just took their girls to Disney World. Everyone knows that is expensive. They could have found a vacation that gave more value for the money, but that misses the point. When it comes to one’s family, one should not be weighing pennies. Much money was spent, but the value of the family trip to Disney World cannot be bought.

The same is true of your spiritual life. I don’t question the value of my dues to the Central Committee of American Rabbis, because I know the existence of the organization is vital to the health of American Reform Judaism. The same is true of your support for Riverdale Temple. Your financial support, your attendance at services, holidays, and events, and your volunteer work, none of it can be weighed out and measured. None of it can be bought. It is the enduring value of holiness and meaning.

So when you get your bill for membership, when we ask for a donation or for a volunteer, when you are considering joining, and you ask yourself, “Wait, what am I getting for this?,” stop and remind yourself, “That’s the wrong question. Riverdale Temple is my synagogue.” And the value of that cannot be measured.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

Once there was a tree ... and she loved a little boy.

And the boy loved the tree ... very much.

And the tree was happy. (Shel Silverstein, *The Giving Tree*)

Growing up in Israel, I especially loved planting a tree every year during Tu BiSh’vat, the holiday that marks the Birthday of the Trees. Planting the seeds in the ground, surrounded by friends and family, was a pivotal moment in my Jewish upbringing because it was teaching me the important value of *L’dor Vador*, from generation to generation. I appreciated the trees that my ancestors planted, and I looked forward to planting for the generations to come. Moreover, Judaism teaches us that the future is just as important as our past and our present, as it is written in the poem *Adon Olam*, which we sing on *Kabbalat Shabbat*, “and He (God) was, and He is, And He will be for Glory.” Even though it is important to stay in the moment and seize the day, it is crucial that we look ahead to our future, plan and protect those who will come after us.

Our Torah mentions planting “all manner of food-bearing trees” (Lev. 19:23). “The Holy one, blessed be he, said to the people Israel: Even though you have found [the land] full of plenty, you shall not say: We shall sit and not plant, rather proceed with caution in your

planting ... For as you have entered and found the fruits of others’ labor, you so shall plant for your children” (Midrash Tanhuma).

The Jewish National Fund, the JNF, a major Zionist organization, helps people to plant trees in Israel, especially for the occasion of a birth, birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, or in memory of a loved one. By doing this beautiful mitzvah we send a clear message: with every passing milestone we want to connect Jews to the Land of Israel. The JNF has helped shape the modern Israeli landscape. Over the course of the last century, the JNF has planted more than 240 million trees throughout Israel and is known for blanketing the countryside, hilltops, and valleys with its trademark imported pine trees.

As we approach Tu BiSh’vat, on February 11, let us plant a seed that will help nourish our souls. There are many seeds, as there are many different kinds of trees. In the Book of Deuteronomy (20:19), we are told, “A person is a tree of the field,” from which we can understand that we should treat trees like people. What would it mean for us this Tu BiSh’vat to invest in a person? It could be done through a renewed effort to help a friend, a loved one, or a stranger in need, or to plant a seed in our own congregation that would eventually blossom into a beautiful “forest” of people.

L’Shalom,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Rabbi Gardner has written a spiritually uplifting and insightful column for this issue of the Bulletin on why membership in Riverdale Temple is a beautiful, inimitable part of our lives. What I wish to add is surely more mundane, but I hope it can somehow add to the power of his message.

As members of the Riverdale Temple congregation, we gain certain rights and privileges that nonmembers simply do not have. For one thing, as dues-paying members, we have a say—a vote—

at the Annual Meeting every May or June in determining and approving some very important matters, such as the annual budget, the election of officers and trustees, and revisions to the bylaws. Similarly, our voices are heard at any special meeting that may be called when an important and urgent matter arises. Furthermore, any member who is at least 16 years old has the right to serve as a trustee of the temple (if nominated and elected), and, similarly, any member who is 21 or older may serve as an officer.

Only members are entitled to attend our profoundly moving High Holy Day services on Rosh Hashanah evening, the first morning of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur evening (Kol Nidre), and Yom Kippur morning. While many of us Reform Jews do not find the time, or make the time, to attend weekly services, very few of us would feel “right” if we did not pray together on the High Holy Days. Similarly, most parents of Jewish children are determined to have their sons and daughters celebrate becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We think of our own parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles, and we feel the importance of carrying on certain traditions of our ancestors. Only dues-paying members are entitled to have their children receive preparation for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration and to enjoy the glow of that incomparable service at our temple when that day comes.

Members are encouraged to ask questions about how they can become more active in the life of Riverdale Temple. How can they join a committee? How can they become more involved in religious services? How can they avail themselves of the educational opportunities the temple provides? Ask the rabbi such questions, ask the cantor, ask the co-presidents and other officers, ask board members, ask the temple administrator. Telephone numbers are printed in this bulletin, and e-mail addresses of the clergy, the co-presidents, and the administrator are sent to you in the weekly e-blast. New members, shy members, younger members, all members—we want and need you to help us grow and stay strong as we move into the new secular year.

—L. Michael Griffel, Co-President

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, such as tuna salad, egg salad, hummus, or anything you would like to make (dairy only, please). 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.



Tot Shabbat Services

Tot Shabbat services usually take place twice a month on Friday (see the calendar on p. 2, as times vary). 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 younger.



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.



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. The available dates are listed in the WRJ article on p. 7.

To My Fellow Congregants,

Now that we are all familiar with our new prayer books and have a sufficient supply for our Shabbat and Festival services, I am eager to activate the **Dorothy and Joseph Kay Prayer Book Fund** in order to purchase new books for the High Holy Days services. I’m sure you will agree that the books presently being used for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are outdated and difficult to follow. Sufficient transliterations and translations are lacking, which makes it difficult for many people to follow these all-important services.

In activating the **Dorothy and Joseph Kay Prayer Book Fund**, I will donate seed money, but your contributions are needed so that we can reach our goal of purchasing enough new books in time for the 2017 High Holy Days season.

Those of you who attend services on Saturday morning also know that we desperately need more copies of the new Plaut Commentary books, and the **Book Fund** will also aim to cover this cost, as well.

The Riverdale Temple family has always come through when a need arises, and I am hoping that you will consider making a contribution to the **Book Fund** so that all of our services, led by our wonderful clergy, can have these beautiful new books. Contributions to the **Book Fund** can be made if you are sending in a donation to the temple for any reason—perhaps you are celebrating a birthday or other important life event, such as a memorial for a loved one, or an honor for a special person. I ask that you please think of the **Book Fund** and help us reach our goal to afford new High Holy Days prayer books and new Plaut Commentaries for our Torah discussions.

We are planning to have an indicator in the lobby showing our progress. Please be a part of this fundraising effort. I thank you in advance and I look forward to a successful outcome.

—Dorothy Kay

Bulletin Board

January Events

Social Action Committee Meeting	Jan. 8
Riverdale Sinfonietta	Jan. 8
WRJ Meeting (note new day)	Jan. 11
Audiology Seminar	Jan. 12
WRJ Book Club	Jan. 12
Men's Club Meeting	Jan. 14
KRMH Food Donations Pickup and Delivery	Jan. 22
YIVO Lecture: <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> — The Mighty Afterlife of a Broadway Musical	Jan. 29

Upcoming in February

Wine Cheese & Karaoke	Feb. 4
Tu BiSh'vat	Feb. 11

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

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **January 12**. You can e-mail it directly to [rivtemple@aol.com](mailto: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	Rabbi	4
Extensions (718-548-3800)	Cantor	5
Temple Office	0 or 1	Emergencies 7
Bookkeeper	2	General Information 8
Nursery School	3	Other 9

Registry of Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor or the family member of a survivor, you can register to be included in the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. For more information and to download the Survivors' Registry Form, go to www.ushmm.org, 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: 202-2488-6130; fax: 202-488-314-7820; 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.

Please volunteer to serve on this committee by writing to [rivtemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.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



Every day I stand at the door to welcome families. Each day I am amazed by the love, care, and support that we have from our families. Riverdale Temple Nursery School is an incredible community. Families go above and beyond to support each other and our teachers. Each day I watch the children

talking to their friends, sharing, learning to take turns, learning to listen to other points of view, learning to celebrate other children's work. These children give me great hope about the future of our world!

We had a wonderful Holiday Celebration in the ballroom this year (see p. 11 for photos). Our Three and Four Year Olds made all the decorations for the scenery and each class sang two songs and then we all ate latkes, jelly donuts, and bagels! Delish! The most amazing part of the celebration was the incredible sense of community. The ballroom was filled with families, talking, eating, schmoozing. The energy in the air was electric!

The Twos had their own celebration! They danced, sang lots of songs, and ate latkes and jelly donuts. It was great fun with Mrs. Cutler and Mrs. Turner and all of the Twos' families.

Our wonderful UPK teachers and program are having their first school visit on January 23. I am so proud of all the work that they do with the children and families. They are truly a showcase!

Tours

Tours have begun for the 2017–2018 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.rtms@gmail.com. I have already had a few tours and applications for next year and we do have limited space.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

On January 17, the children at Riverdale Temple Nursery School will have a sing celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It will be led by our wonderful music teacher, Shara Yolcut. It will be in the ballroom at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to come and sing with us!

Friendship Curriculum

The theme for story time is friendship. We will be reading lots of stories about friends and working things out. My favorite stories are Arnold Lobel's Frog and Toad tales. We will also be reading stories by William Steig. Even if you are an adult, you should read Amos and Boris; it is truly magical.

Baby Sign Class

We have been so fortunate this year to have Gemma White, speech and language pathologist, to lead a Baby Sign Class every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in our new library. They are free and all are welcome! Gemma has handouts for what is done in class so that parents or caretakers can practice easily at home. It is a gift to have Gemma here and see the wonderful work that she does with families and babies!

School Openings and Closings:

January 3—School reopens

January 16—Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Just a lovely quote from Margaret Wise Brown:

In this modern world where activity is stressed almost to the point of mania, quietness as a childhood need is too often overlooked. Yet a child's need for quietness is the same today as it has always been—it may even be greater—for quietness is an essential part of all awareness. In quiet times and sleepy times a child can dwell in thoughts of his own, and in songs and stories of his own.

—Linda Herman, Director

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL



The little kids in Religious School made Noah's Arks, and the big kids made books, writing the Sh'ma with quill pens. On our last Sunday of 2016 we had a grand Chanukah celebration, with five different kinds of latkes, pin the candle on the menorah, and, of course,

the dreidel game! Who won the Golden Spatula Award? Well, most kids liked Rachel Radna's latkes the best (is there nothing that she cannot do?), with Helen Krim's a close second. But the real winners were the kids.

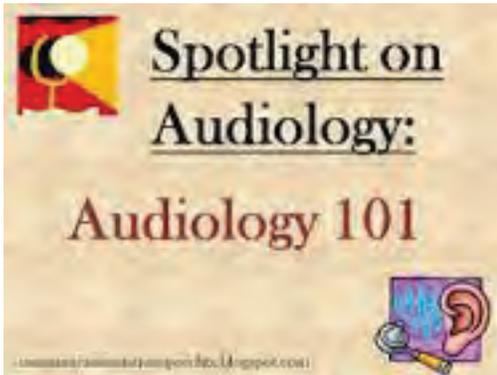
—Rabbi Tom Gardner

Babysitting Service

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.

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

WRJ and the Men's Club of Riverdale Temple are pleased to invite you to a talk given by Lynn Kase, director of audiology at the Dunshaw Audiology and Hearing Aid Center. The presentation, on January 12 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Riverdale Temple (3rd floor sanctuary) will provide an overview of "everything you wanted to know about hearing loss and hearing aids." Those attending the meeting will be entitled to a free screening and a free caption phone with an office visit. Please RSVP by January 9 to the Dunshaw Center at 718-549-5753.



The Book Club will be reading *On The Chocolate Trail—A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao* by Rabbi Deborah Prinz. All are welcome on Thursday, January 12, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the West Lounge.



WRJ thanks coordinators Susan Birnbaum, Linda Herman, Joanne Heyman-Greene, Cristin Messinger, Rita Pochter-Lowe, Rachel Radna, and Ronni Stolzenberg, as well as the bakers and volunteers who worked to organize our annual Artisan and Fair Trade Craft Sale. It was an exciting intergenerational event and a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Girl Scouts and the Nursery School.

Thank you to our December oneg hosts: Robin Segal, Heather Bloomfield, Barbara and Stanley Ferber, Dorothy Feldman, and Judy Zucker. Available oneg dates are: February 10, 24; March 31; April 14; May 26; June 9, 23, 30, and all Fridays in July and August. Please contact Irene Brenner at 718 548 6558 if you would like to recognize a special occasion by sponsoring an oneg.

WRJ's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the West Lounge. We look forward to greeting you.

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

MEN'S CLUB

It isn't very difficult to say good-bye to the year 2016. The year was filled with surprises throughout the world and here in the USA. Only time will tell if the November surprise we experienced will prove beneficial to our country and to the world at large.

Despite the numerous doomsayers and all the ugly rhetoric, I personally hold out some level of optimism for our future. The American people are becoming more participatory in the governing process and we will hold our leaders more accountable for their actions or lack thereof as we move forward. This will improve the transparency of our government and perhaps help improve efficiencies and the quality of our leadership.

As we look toward 2017, I wish all of you health, happiness, peace and prosperity in the new year. I especially extend get well wishes to Jack Fisher, our long-time vice president. Jack, I look forward to your return and to your steady leadership and support.

The next meeting of the Men's Club will be on January 14, following services.

Join us as we cosponsor the Audiology Seminar with the WRJ on January 12 (see above for details).

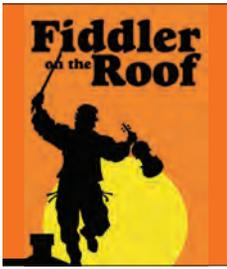
—Steve Rosenfeld, President

Women's March on Washington January 21

The Riverdale Temple Rally Bus has been canceled based on the doubled cost and the company's lack of responsiveness to the question of the increased costs. The National Organization for Women NYC (NOW-NYC) is running buses to the March out of New York for \$60 (price guaranteed); most of the buses are leaving from 32nd Street and 9th Avenue. The link to sign up for the NOW bus is <http://nownyc.org/political-action/get-bus-womens-march-washington-january-2017>. It's very easy to sign up. NOW is a cosponsor of the March and will provide signs and make sure we get to and from where we need to be!

We have also asked if they might be able to run a bus out of Riverdale, and they are open to that possibility if enough people sign up. When you register, in the Note column write "Riverdale Group." **For more information or if you or someone you know would like to attend but needs financial assistance, contact Janet Heller at janetrh1@oponline.net.**

ADULT EDUCATION



YIVO Jewish Culture Series Presents
“*Fiddler on the Roof*—**The Mighty Afterlife of a Broadway Musical**”
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017, 2:00 P.M.

Award-winning drama critic and director of the Arts & Culture concentration in the M.A. program at Columbia University, Alisa Solomon, in a multimedia presentation traces how and why the story of Tevye the milkman, the creation of the

great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, was reborn as blockbuster entertainment and a cultural touchstone, not only for Jews and not only in America. It is a story of the theater, following Tevye from his humble appearance on the New York Yiddish stage, through his adoption by leftist dramatists as a symbol of oppression, to his Broadway debut in one of the last big book musicals, and to his ultimate destination—a major Hollywood picture.

Alisa Solomon reveals for us the surprising and enduring legacy of this rich, entertaining, and original show about tradition that itself became a tradition. This FREE lecture will take place in the Riverdale Temple Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

The YIVO Jewish Culture Series is an educational outreach program designed to introduce various aspects of Eastern European Jewish culture and history to the public. The faculty for the series draws on the extensive network of scholars affiliated with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Riverdale Temple, in partnership with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, created the YIVO's first outreach program in 2011. From that time this program has enabled many more people in the Bronx and adjacent communities to have the benefit of attending lectures and dramatic or musical presentations to learn about aspects of Jewish culture and literature from experts they might not otherwise have had a chance to meet.

Founded in 1925, the YIVO Institute is headquartered in New York City, in the Chelsea area of lower Manhattan. It is the world's premier academic institute devoted to teaching and the study of East European Jewish history, language, and culture and its influence in America. Riverdale Temple as host to the partnership provides the YIVO Jewish Culture Series to the public four times a year. The next event will take place on April 2.

Rabbi Gardner's Classes—**Lunch and Learn:** Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m., in the social hall—The Jewish Prayer Book

The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: a multiweek course, also on Tuesdays, meets at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall.

Cantor Sharett-Singer's Classes—**Hebrew Language Class**—A class geared to learn how to read and understand our Shabbat Siddur (prayer book). Every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Those who are interested in enrolling as new students should e-mail the cantor at cantorsharett@singer@riverdaletemple.org. There is a tuition fee for this course.

Haftarah Trope Class: Contact the cantor for details; it is free to all who attend and meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m.

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

The Chavurah will meet following the Shabbat service and communal kiddush on January 21, 2017. *Shemot* starts the book of Exodus and introduces Moses. This portion rapidly moves from the birth of Moses to his demand that Pharaoh let the Israelites go. This is an example of how, at times, the Torah slows down time and goes into great detail, while at other times it covers long stretches of time in a few words. All are welcome to join our discussion of this Torah portion and puzzle through the layers of our ancient text.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

SOCIAL ACTION

A new secular year, new beginnings, and many opportunities to do mitzvahs. Watch for information on new/additional Riverdale Temple social action initiatives in subsequent bulletins and e-blasts.

Next Social Action meeting is January 8, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the first floor conference room.

Please join us as we start to prepare and plan for Mitzvah Day 2017 (April 23, 2017).

All are welcome. Your ideas and feedback are important. We do outreach to community agencies in January. In February we prepare the registration form so that you have March to select and prepare how you want to participate in April, right after Passover.

Next KRMH Pantry Donations is on January 22, 2017, at 11:30. Please let us know if you can help deliver needed grocery donations from Riverdale Temple.

Please remember that we need hot cereals, soups, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, as well as canned fish and chicken breast.

As we start 2017, we want to express our appreciation for your participation in ongoing grocery donations for KRMH Food & Hunger Project, the Pajama Program, and gently used coats and jackets for NY Cares.

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

The Social Action Committee would welcome additional members. We have only a few meetings a year but do a lot of service projects that include the entire temple in feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, and planting in the community, to bring comfort and hope.

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
Shira, Jorge, and Arturo	Riverdale Temple's custodial staff for the Nursery School Shabbat with potluck dinner on Dec. 18	Carolyn Eisen	Miriam R. Eisen, beloved mother
Shelley Ast	My aliyah on Parashat Toldot and in appreciation to Rabbi Gardner for his wellness blessing	Carole Feinberg	Grace and Harry Feinberg, beloved mother-in law and father-in-law
	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer for my gelilah on Dec. 10 and the beautiful Ruach Shabbat services she has initiated	Beth Fertig-Friedman	Joseph and Hattie Fertig, beloved father and grandmother
Ephraim Bosgang	A speedy recovery to my friend Jack Fisher Riverdale Temple	Michael Friedman	William Friedman, beloved father
Susan Carr and Howard Malatzky	Riverdale Temple's Friday night onegs/kabbalat shabbat	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner	Theresa Russo, beloved wife of Michael Friedman
Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer	Michael Gefter	David Gefter, beloved father
Bernard Greenwald/ The Merck Foundation	Riverdale Temple's ongoing support of the Riverdale Jewish community	Margaret and Michael Griffel	Giza Hirsch, beloved grandmother of Margaret Griffel
Merryl and Bernard Greenwald	Riverdale Temple	Dorothy Kay	Ruth Kay, beloved mother of Joseph Kay
Amy Handelsman	Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner	Harriet and Gail Martin	Dick Martin, beloved husband of Harriet Martin
Leah and Henry Kurtz	Rabbi Gardner for Henry Kurtz's aliyah	Meryl Meisler	Rosalyn and Lawrence Meisler, beloved family members
Ruth A. Loebmann	My Parashat Vayetze aliyah on Dec. 10	Kathleen and Jonathan Parker	William Parker, beloved grandfather of Jonathan Parker
Ali Micelli	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer	Susan Sawyer	Stella and Bill Greenblatt, beloved parents
Marilyn and Emil Propper	Riverdale Temple	Judge David Saxe	Ruth and Emanuel Saxe, beloved parents
Kathy and Dan Roger	Riverdale Temple	Jill and Jack Shaifer	Abe Shaifer and Rose C. Harren, beloved father and mother of Jack and Jill Shaifer
Renee Spath	For my aliyah For the Saturday Extended Kiddush	Harriette Schmertz	Eric J. Schmertz, beloved husband
DONOR	IN MEMORY	Martin Schneider	Irving Schneider, beloved father
Shirley and Eric Auerbach	Sarah Silverstein, beloved mother of Shirley Auerbach	Steven Weasen	Ethel Weasen, beloved mother
Irene Brenner	Milton Richman, beloved brother	Sandra and Harold Weitz	Rebecca Evelyn Schenker and Leon Schenker, beloved parents of Sandra Weitz
Harold W. Caplan	Sadie and David Caplan, beloved parents	Judy Zucker	Gary Zucker, beloved husband
Linda Chokroverty and Craig Katz	Himansu Chakrabarti, beloved uncle of Linda Chokroverty		
Margot Collins	Gertrud Hirschmann, beloved mother		
Jean Daniels	Jerry Daniels, beloved husband		

To

Ronnie Schwartz and Michael Selk

Condolences

On the loss of

Leonard Selk, beloved father, long-time member



The Departed Whom We Now Remember
January Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Sylvia Brown | 7 Clara E. Newman | 16 Hyman W. Rosenblum | 26 Sol Brill |
| 1 Fannie Fein Lakritz | 7 Helen S. Taylor | 17 Nathan Amols | 26 Dr. Siegfried Loewentritt |
| 1 Rosanne Martin | 7 Steven Paul Weintraub | 17 Henny Barrow | 26 Frieda Margulies |
| 1 Phyllis Selk | 8 Ernst Fraenkel | 17 Rose Berman | 27 Frances E. Friedman |
| 1 Pearl Togut | 8 Mary Franklin | 17 Jenny Dilloff | 27 Julius H. Ginewsky |
| 1 Rose Weintraub | 8 Ed Lowe | 17 Fanny Levy | 27 Aaron M. Steren |
| 2 Henry Abrahamson | 8 Shirley Mandel | 17 Sydel Rosenberg | 27 Samuel Wechsler |
| 2 Sadie Brill | 8 Benjamin Silverman | 18 Irving Arrow | 28 Fanny B. Appel |
| 2 Sylvia Mills | 8 Jeanne Sundheim Spiegel | 18 Harry Davidoff | 28 Helene-Ronnie Bloch |
| 2 Alfred E. Simmons | 8 Laura Glickstein Willing | 18 Rose C. Harren | 28 Fannie Grossman |
| 2 Simon Steinglass | 9 Yetta Kovitz | 18 Sidney Reiser | 28 Betty Levene |
| 2 Rebecca Weisberg | 9 Regina H. Rothman | 19 Samuel D. Dorfman | 28 Mitchell LoPato |
| 3 Lila Chessler | 10 Sol Biegen | 19 Estelle Weiss | 28 Jean Monat |
| 3 Ida Greenberg | 10 May Manheimer | 19 Walter Yohalem | 29 Elias Blaustein |
| 3 Abraham Hochroth | 11 Lillian Burgeman | 20 Melvin I. Cannold | 29 Milton Eisen |
| 3 Jennifer Sack | 11 Lillian Diamond | 20 Siegfried Hermann | 29 Florence Kern |
| 3 Harry Soicher | 11 Bernard H. Gordon | 20 Ida Klugman | 29 Judith R. Klein |
| 4 Sylvia Alwaise | 11 Milton Seelig | 20 Betty Ranfeld | 29 Mildred Levitt |
| 4 Frances Braunstein | 12 Sally Entin | 20 Mollie C. Rothberg | 29 Henrietta Felicity Radna |
| 4 Ira Handwerker | 12 Isidore Leibowitz | 21 Julia Steiner Halprin | 29 Abraham Yarlow |
| 4 Sarah L. Mandel | 12 Peter Howard Manheimer | 21 Phyllis Platzner | 30 Ida Feinman |
| 4 Liza Lakritz Perelmutter | 12 Maurice Sigel | 21 Sally Tessler | 30 Lottie Golubock |
| 4 David Spivack | 12 Louis Weiner | 22 Louise Amram | 30 Theodore Klebanoff |
| 4 Shirley Waldstein | 12 Jean Wolfman | 22 Ethel Fondiller | 30 Susan Leber |
| 4 Bernard Willing | 13 Erna Abrahamson | 22 Hertha Gottschalk | 30 Dorothy Reingold |
| 5 Netta Avedon | 13 Lester Fisher | 22 Pearl Hoffman | 30 Dr. Sidney Sommers |
| 5 Blanche Breindel | 13 Emma Shapiro Friedman | 22 Estelle Lasky | 31 Kathryn Bloomfield |
| 5 Lena Cassel | 13 Samuel Isaacson | 23 Lou Wiggs | 31 Irving Fritz |
| 5 Yvette Djivre | 13 Jennie Rabinowitz | 23 Mark Zelkowitz | 31 Lena Jacobson |
| 5 Samuel Haupt | 13 David Rapaport | 24 Samuel Bialek | 31 Dr. Gabrielle Koppell |
| 5 Sol Levine | 13 Joseph Rapaport | 24 Beulah M. Cohn | 31 Miriam Leff |
| 5 Samuel Jay Resnick | 14 Stanley Sundheim | 24 Lawrence Goldberger | 31 Ali Malak |
| 5 Carl Seefer | 15 Albert Block | 24 Alfred Silverman | 31 Harry Wagonfeld |
| 5 Jacob White | 15 Diane Geller | 25 Ralph Batt | 31 Diane Wild |
| 5 Louis David Wile | 15 Mollie Liebowitz | 25 Selma Friedman | |
| 6 Esther Einschlag | 15 Cynthia Mason | 25 Betty Kahn | |
| 6 Peter Einschlag | 15 Ernest Small | 25 Mary Parker | |
| 6 Sophie Ginsberg | 15 Julian Spiegel | 25 Rose Saraga | |
| 7 Sophie Froehlich | 16 Beatrice R. Bereano | 25 Lillian Steren | |
| 7 Eleanor Gerber | 16 Irving Goldshein | 26 David Bauer | |



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.



Nursery School director Linda Herman (left) and Judy Zucker (right) at the Nursery School table of the Crafts Fair on December 4.
 –Photo by Margaret Ross Griffel



Audience members (left) enjoying the Nursery School holiday sing by young performers (right).
 –Photos by Judy Zucker



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

Jazz Masters at Riverdale Temple, January 8, 2017, 2:30 p.m.

The Sinfonietta presents the return of the Riverdale Suite, written by jazz saxophonist Chris Byars and his cohort of the hottest jazz players in town, initially premiered by the Sinfonietta in 2013. Also, Randall Bauer, pianist and composer, has created a new “jazz concerto” for piano soloist and instrumental ensemble that will receive its world premiere at this concert.

Chris Byars, Riverdale Suite for jazz musicians and ensemble

Randall Bauer, New Work for jazz piano and ensemble

Tickets are \$35, \$25 for seniors, and students are free of charge.



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

Cantor of the Congregation

Inbal Sharett-Singer

Rabbis Emeriti of the Congregation

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

Judith S. Lewis

Co-Presidents of the Congregation

Dr. Rachel Radna

Dr. L. Michael Griffel

Nursery School Executive Director

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