



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְדֻלָּל שֵׁם יי

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

Vol. 67

January 2014 (5774)

No. 5

Worship Services (see p. 6 for details)

Fridays

- Jan. 3** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Jan. 10** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat with Junior
Choir, followed by potluck dinner
- Jan. 17** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Jan. 24** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- Jan. 31** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

Saturdays

- Jan. 4** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 11** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 18** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Jan. 25** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

**Save the Date: Mitzvah Day
April 6, 2014**

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Tot Shabbat—Kabbalat Shabbat—Shabbat—Who's on First???

Okay, that was to try to get your attention. I want to make sure that everyone knows that this month both Tot Shabbat and Kabbalat Shabbat will take place on the SECOND Friday of January, instead of the first. In February we will resume our usual schedule.

But what I'd really like to discuss with you in this column is the meaning of "Kabbalat Shabbat" and my fantasy about what a Riverdale Temple "Kabbalat Shabbat" should—and can—be.

I know that at Riverdale Temple "Kabbalat Shabbat" has traditionally referred to the family service at the beginning of the month, where our Junior Choir leads much of the singing, and the service is followed by a potluck dinner. (I'd like to point out that the potluck dinner was an innovation of necessity brought about by our lack of a kitchen—but I think it has enhanced the whole evening, now that people share their own food with each other.) To the rest of the Jewish world, though, Kabbalat Shabbat refers specifically to a series of psalms that are usually chanted before the actual Sabbath Evening Service (ma'ariv) begins. The word "kabbalat" means "welcoming" or "receiving" (the "reception" area of a hotel in Israel is called the kabbalah). The custom of chanting special psalms before the regular service on Friday night was apparently instituted by the mystics of Tzefat in the late Middle Ages, along with many of the other customs that focus on welcoming the Divine Presence into one's midst on the Sabbath. The singing of L'cha Dodi is an intrinsic part of the Kabbalat Shabbat ritual.

As most of you know, I grew up in a classical reform congregation that avoided all those rituals that would mark a service as Jewish—no bowing, no shuckling, no silent recitation of the Amida or Tefillah at one's individual pace, no chanting, and, certainly, no turning to the west to welcome the Sabbath Bride. We were rationalists! One should not need to engage in particularistic, sectarian choreography to experience the beauty of the Sabbath and God's Presence. Rather, the worship was supposed to be dignified, majestic, the kind of thing that makes one's spirit soar. God was Transcendent Reason. Our worship aimed high.

It really wasn't until I came to Riverdale Temple that I was forced to learn to feel comfortable engaging in more traditional physical rituals. (My former congregation had in its by-laws that

continued on p. 3

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
4 <i>Shevat 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am Social Action meeting—Mitzvah Day planning 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal Noon Purimspiel rehearsal	5 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	6 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Executive Committee Meeting	7 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	8 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	9 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting 7:45 pm Purimspiel rehearsal	10 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Family Shabbat with Jr. Choir, potluck dinner	11 <i>Shevat 5774</i> <i>Beshalach</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
11 <i>Shevat 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School 10:00 am South Africa Talk: A. Currier 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal Noon Purimspiel rehearsal 1:00 pm WRJ Card Party	12 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	13 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:00 pm Knitting for Charity 7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal	14 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	15 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:30 pm Board of Trustees meeting 7:45 pm Purimspiel rehearsal	16 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	17 <i>Shevat 5774</i> <i>Yitro</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Chavurah follows service, with potluck lunch	18 <i>Shevat 5774</i> <i>Mishpatim</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
18 <i>Shevat 5774</i> No Religious School—MLK Weekend 10:30 am Men's Club meeting	19 <i>Shevat 5774</i> No Nursery School Martin Luther King Day	20 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School	21 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal	22 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis	23 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	24 <i>Shevat 5774</i> <i>Mishpatim</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion	25 <i>Shevat 5774</i> <i>Bo</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
25 <i>Shevat 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School 11:45 am KRMH Food Delivery Noon Purimspiel rehearsal	26 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	27 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club	28 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School	29 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 7:45 p.m. Purimspiel rehearsal	30 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	31 <i>Shevat 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	

“Oriental” melodies were not permitted, so my classical reform background was quite at home there.) I still feel funny here when I turn to the ark for the Barchu and the Tefillah. You’ll notice that I rarely rise up on my toes for the Kedushah (although I do make sure to stand with my feet close together—ask our religious school students why!). I am uneasy engaging in rituals that require one to be “initiated” and that might make the uninitiated feel out of place. But these concerns are trivial in the context of creating a satisfying worship experience for a diverse group of people. Each one of us can, and should, feel completely entitled to choose to observe those rituals that are meaningful to him or her, although we may choose to replace them with something that feeds our spiritual needs more effectively.

Ultimately, however, we want the congregation to come together and worship as a community. That’s where things get tricky! So instead of sharing with you any (secular) New Year’s resolutions, I’m going to share my fantasy of Kabbalat Shabbat at Riverdale Temple.

We are a congregation with a wide range of generations, but not so evenly distributed. We are well blessed with the grandparent generation (not to say they all have grandchildren, but they chronologically could). We also have a fairly healthy, and growing, generation of families with young children. We also have plenty of the empty-nester middle generation (I never really got to that status because my grown children kept moving home, and then before I knew it, I was a stepgrandmother). Those families, though, are not well represented at the average Friday evening service. I understand. As reform Jews, we delight in participating fully in secular society, and middle-age empty nest is the most mobile, flexible time of life, so there may be other Shabbat-worthy activities on a Friday night that people find more compelling than attending services. As long as you remain members of the congregation, I’m not one of those rabbis who will berate you for showing up only on the High Holy Days. And especially since more and more of you are showing up on Saturday morning, I’m going to assume that whatever you are doing on Friday evening is consistent with the spirit of Shabbat in some way.

So, for those of you who do attend on Friday evening,

here’s what I would love to have you experience. My fantasy involves a good fifteen minutes to a half hour of mellow but high-quality congregational singing. We’ve made a good deal of progress in getting congregational participation. Our junior choir has been instrumental in helping us achieve that. They know the entire medley of Kabbalat Shabbat songs, and they sing them sweetly and enthusiastically. If they can do it, certainly the adults should be able to.

Now that they know so many of the words of the psalms, my vision would be to move, gradually, toward slightly more sophisticated melodies. Shabbat is important for developing strong Jewish identities in children, but it shouldn’t alienate adults, and since we have so many adults who appreciate good music, I am searching for ways to introduce melodies that have a little more complexity and grandeur than the folk songs we currently sing.

Our formal Friday evening service (ma’ariv) does not actually begin until 6:30. I know that’s still too early for a great many people, and I regret that, but after lengthy discussions in the Pulpit and Ritual Committee, and after surveying the congregation, it seems that 6:30 is the best compromise for the majority of people who do regularly attend. On the Friday evening of Thanksgiving weekend, we had an amazingly wonderful turnout of all the generations, there to light our Chanukiyot together and celebrate Shabbat.

Which brings me to a very sensitive topic—how we behave during services, especially when my fantasy is fulfilled and all the generations are gathered together to pray. That topic is dealt with on the Religious School page. If you have young children, we want you to attend services, not just the first Friday evening of the month (or the second, January only!), but also every Friday evening you can. I am going to end this message with just one plea: when you do bring your young children, which we definitely want you to do, please help them make services even more enjoyable for those who do not have children with them (see my Religious School column!).

I wish you all a healthy, happy, fulfilling secular New Year and pray that it will bring many opportunities for us to worship, celebrate, and socialize together as one extended family.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Allison Currier Talks about South Africa at Riverdale Temple on Sunday, January 12, 2014

Allison Currier, daughter of Joyce and David Currier, is an activist and a senior studying environmental justice and human rights at Ithaca College. This past semester, she had a unique opportunity to spend four months in South Africa 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 lived with four different South African cultures, exploring how race and class affect lifestyle and economic opportunities for individuals after apartheid. While presenting her research about the importance of relationship-building in activism, Allison will also explain her theories on philanthropy and how people can get involved. The presentation is sponsored

by the Riverdale Temple Men’s Club. It will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the social hall of the temple.

While a mazal tov should go to Joyce and David Currier for raising a wonderful and civic-minded daughter, I would like to think that Allison’s Hebrew School experience and the teachings of Reform Judaism, especially the concept of *Tikkun Olam* (fixing the world), contributed to Allison’s awareness and desire to help disadvantaged people around the world. We need more people like Allison to get involved to make this a better world.

So, Yasher Koach Allison! And we can all group-Kvell because when one of our children does well, we all get to be proud; that is what belonging to a temple is all about!

Please make sure to attend this special event.

—Rachel Radna

Women of Reform Judaism invite you to attend a
Card Party

Sunday, Jan. 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bring friends, bring games, bring good humor!

Light refreshments will be served.

There is no better way to enjoy an afternoon with friends on a cold Sunday afternoon!

\$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

Send in your checks made out to WRJ of Riverdale Temple or pay online at www.riverdaletemple.org.

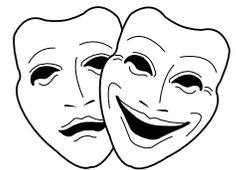
Open to men and women in the community at large.



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

Purimspiel Rehearsal Schedule

Sun.	Jan. 5	noon	Sun.	Feb. 9	noon
Thurs.	Jan. 9	7:45 p.m.	Tues.	Feb. 11	7:45 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 12	noon	Sun.	Feb. 16—Presidents' Day Weekend—	no rehearsal
Tues.	Jan. 14	7:45 p.m.	Thurs.	Feb. 20	7:45 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 16	7:45 p.m.	Sun.	Feb. 23	noon
Sun.	Jan. 19—Martin Luther King Weekend—	no rehearsal	Thurs.	Feb. 27	7:45 p.m.
Wed.	Jan. 22	7:45 p.m.	Sun.	Mar. 2	noon
Sun.	Jan. 26	noon	Wed.	Mar. 5	7:45 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 30	7:45 p.m.	Sun.	Mar. 9	noon
Sun.	Feb. 2	noon	Tues.	Mar. 11	7:45 p.m.
Wed.	Feb. 5	7:45 p.m.	Sat.	Mar. 15	2:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal



JUNIOR RISING STARS
PROUDLY PRESENT:

Directed By: **Julian Rozzell Jr.**
Musical Direction By: **Justin Fischer**



Saturday, January 11 - 7:00pm
Sunday, January 12 - 1:30pm
Saturday, January 18 - 7:00pm
Sunday, January 19 - 1:30pm & 5:30pm

For tickets & information visit
RiverdaleRisingStars.com or RiverdaleY.org



Knitting for Charity

Knitting for Charity will meet next on
January 14, at 7:00 p.m.

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



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@vcpicerink.com for details

5900 Broadway,
Bronx, NY 10471

To benefit Riverdale Temple with a percentage of ticket
sales, use code RIVTEMP when purchasing tickets online.

Bulletin Board

January Events

Purimspiel Rehearsals 26, 30	Jan. 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, 22,
Mitzvah Day Planning	Jan. 5
South Africa Talk	Jan. 12

WRJ Card Party	Jan. 12
Membership Committee Meeting	Jan. 14
KRMH Grocery Collection	Jan. 26

Coming Up in February

Purimspiel Rehearsals	Feb. 2, 5, 9, 11, 20, 23, 27
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Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by January 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!

Sylvia Gottlieb and Jeffrey Dinowitz on the marriage of their son Eric to Tamar Schwartz

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.

Registry of Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor or the family member of a survivor, you can register to be included in the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. For more information and to download the Survivors' Registry Form, go to www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry. Send the completed form to Registry of Holocaust Survivors, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; tel: 202-488-6130; fax: 202-314-7820; e-mail: registry@ushmm.org.

If you need transportation to and from services at the temple, please call the office at 718-548-3800, ext. 0 or 1, to make arrangements.



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Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Services



Our Family Shabbat, previously known as our Kabbalat Shabbat, aims to be a lively service filled with songs and stories, and 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. This month, it takes place on the second Friday night, but it normally occurs on the first Friday of the month. Our other Friday night services also begin at 6:15 p.m. with an actual 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.



Friday, Jan. 3	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Jan. 4	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Jan. 10	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat with Junior Choir, followed by potluck dinner
Saturday, Jan. 11	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Jan. 17	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Jan. 18	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service, followed by Chavurah
Friday, Jan. 24	6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, Jan. 25	10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Jan. 31	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

We are delighted to report that the first semester of Riverdale Temple's "new" nursery school, under the direction of Laurie Steinmetz and Bea Jackson, has been a wonderful success. I am proud and pleased to be able to report that from first-hand knowledge! It has been my privilege to celebrate Shabbat with our students each week. Thanks to that regular interaction, I am able to observe the growth that is taking place in each individual student. You know how everyone with grown children always tells new parents to cherish every day because it all flies past so quickly? Well, I can see these young people changing by leaps and bounds from week to week. Each week we go around the room and say "Shabbat Shalom" to each student individually, as they share their own names out loud. Sure, the 4-year-olds are pros at the routine, and the 3s are amazing, too. When we first began, the 2s took a little longer to figure out what was expected of them, but I'm happy to report (as I write this fresh from a Shabbat visit with them) that they are also now confidently calling out their names as we greet them



with "Shabbat Shalom." There's nothing quite as exciting as seeing a flower blossom right before your eyes—and I get to see those flowers blooming each week. It's always a high point of the week, and a wonderful way to prepare for my own celebration of Shabbat. Thank you, nursery school children—and families.

Many of our temple families may not be aware of our participation in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, or UPK. With our mayor-elect placing so much emphasis on it, you might be interested to know that all of our 4-year-olds are eligible to receive a half-day class funded by the city. That class must, as public education, be nonsectarian, so Shabbat celebrations take place at the end of the morning for anyone who chooses to participate. We gather together in the social hall and go through the rituals and songs of Shabbat. When I asked one of the parents who sat in on our ritual whether they were affiliated with any religious institution, she named a local church. Nothing could be more consistent with our philosophy: we are ardent supporters of a strict separation between church and state and therefore now refrain from introducing religious rituals into UPK classroom activity. At the same time, we are clearly succeeding in sending the

message that our doors are open to anyone who would like to celebrate with us—or just observe our celebrations. If we can teach our children respect for differences among people, perhaps one day they will be able to bring a little more peace to our world.

PLEASE REMEMBER: TOT SHABBAT IN JANUARY WILL BE HELD ON THE *SECOND* AND THIRD FRIDAYS AT 5:30 p.m.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

Religious School and Hebrew School meet every week this month EXCEPT Sunday, January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend).

Continued Thoughts from Rabbi's Message on p. 1:

Dear Parents,

It is always a pleasure to see you at Shabbat Services. The presence of families with school-aged children brings a sense of hope and promise to the entire congregation, and children are welcome at any and every service. Some families have, however, shared with me a feeling that not all congregants are pleased to see children at services.

Please let me reassure you that anyone who cares about the future of Riverdale Temple understands that you are our future. That being said, people who are not surrounded by little noise machines all day may find it disturbing to try to pray or listen during services while children are doing what children do naturally, expressing themselves. I've gotten to the point, myself, where I share the challenge of hearing what I'm trying to hear over other "ambient" noise. I've found that our children are quite empathetic to my problem. If I say to them, "I can't hear what anyone is saying when everyone is talking," they immediately quiet down and raise their hands.

Your children spend at least some part of every religious school day learning what happens at services, and how to participate. Even our youngest students can sing many of the songs from both Friday evening and Saturday morning. When I meet with them on Sunday mornings, we also spend some time talking about how to behave in the sanctuary. I know that sitting in the pews is uncomfortable for children whose feet cannot reach the floor (that's why nursery school chairs are the size they are!). A certain amount of wiggling is to be expected and accepted. The children learn why they should not put their feet on the cushions. I always explain to them that people come to services in nice clothing, and if they sit where our students have put their shoes, they may wind up with a footprint on their nice clothes. Our kindergartners and first-graders seem to understand this perfectly (and find it amusing), though they have to be reminded every now and then. It's not something they are motivated to remember, since sitting with their feet on the cushion is often more comfortable. When we explain our request for feet off the cushions in the context of being considerate of

other people, we are transmitting an important value to our children. The same goes for "using library voices" or whatever other line they are being taught in regular school. Children love to learn. Teaching them how to behave during services is not "disciplining" them—it is helping them grow. Shabbat comes with its very own tool for teaching. I always approach a noisy group of children celebrating Shabbat with the question "What sound does Shabbat begin with?"

"Shhh" is also the sound of "shalom"—it's a natural. So if your child needs to ask you a question, or just decides to be vocally expressive at a time during services when other people are trying to listen, or perhaps meditating quietly, or of course during the Kaddish, you can easily teach them how to be considerate of others by reminding them that this is a "Shhh" moment. I do not want children to feel stifled during services. I want them to feel comfortable, welcome, and engaged. If you present appropriate behavior positively, they will strive to achieve that as their own goal. I know this for a fact, because I see our children doing that almost all the time. The rare occasions that your child's expressiveness might prove distracting or disruptive to people at services who are not accompanied by small children are wonderful "teaching moments" for you to reinforce what they are learning in religious school. Please remember one fact: Children read stress instinctively, so don't stress out about it! If you feel anxious, they will pick it up, and when they become anxious, they need to make noise! If you feel relaxed and engaged in the worship experience, they will want to imitate you.

There is one additional consideration I'd like to raise: our potluck dinner should be a dinner for all generations as well, but it doesn't take much to dissuade our "grandparent" generation from coming downstairs. If you've ever had an injury that made you feel vulnerable, you may be able to relate to a feeling of downright fear around children. Their movements are unpredictable and the last thing one wants to do is trip and fall. I would love to see more generations stay for dinner on Family Shabbat nights. Perhaps we can work together to make it feel safer for everyone.

My prayer for this new secular year is that every one of our families of every generation will make worship a part of their Sabbath experience, at least on occasion. Remember, every service should be a family service!

—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.

In the wake of **Typhoon Haiyan**, which struck the Philippines on November 9, the **URJ General Disaster Relief Fund** is collecting donations that will be distributed to aid groups working in affected areas. To contribute online, go to <http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/>. Contributions may also be mailed to: Disaster Relief Fund, Union for Reform Judaism, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

ADULT EDUCATION



I have been reminding you about articles and books on aspects of Jewish life of interest listed under the study area under references on the Riverdale Temple website (see study). It occurred to me that most of you, however, have not gone to the YIVO site to explore its online *Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. There is a description of this large trove of information describing lives of Jews in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries or earlier in Europe that might be representative of the lives your grandparents and great-grandparents—where they lived, what their daily lives were like, their art, history, and culture, and more.

The YIVO describes this large compendium of information as:

The only resource of its kind, this encyclopedia provides the most complete picture of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present. This website makes accurate, reliable, scholarly information about East European Jewish life accessible to everyone.

“The YIVO Encyclopedia is so compulsively browsable that you can disappear within its pages for hours without a trace, the equivalent of diving into the coolest, deepest of pools.” —Kenneth Turan, *L.A. Times*

Above are some images that attracted my attention in the *Encyclopedia*. The first is by Marc Chagall, the second illustrates

a sport that was popular before the First World War, and the third shows a family celebrating a holiday. The images are used by permission of The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Now that winter is upon us, you might find yourself at home with a little extra time to explore at greater depth descriptions of Jewish life and communities. Perhaps they might have been of your grandparents and great-grandparents before they came to America. I am looking forward to the spring YIVO lecture at the temple around March (we are in the process of selecting the speaker), where we will pick up the story of Jewish lives as immigrants in America. There is much more we can learn about ourselves and those who came before us. Here’s the link to the online *YIVO Jewish Encyclopedia* <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/>.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis continues weekly on Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. (the first meeting is on January 9).

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** meets on **January 18**, following the Shabbat service. The portion for that week is *Yitro*, named for Moses’ father-in-law, who gives Moses some advice regarding organizational management. However, the real drama comes when the Eternal tells Moses to prepare for a great revelation on Mount Sinai. We then stand before the mountain and, with smoke, lightning, and shofar blasts, hear the Ten Commandments. We cannot reproduce the smoke, lightning, and ram’s horns, but we can and will read the portion and reflect on the Ten Utterances and their place in our lives today. Join us for a potluck dairy lunch followed by study and good fellowship.

—Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

SOCIAL ACTION

It is January 2014, so the Social Action Committee is starting to do outreach to organizations to register for Mitzvah Day 2014, which is April 6, 2014, before Passover. We like to find out what they need or what type of help they would like.

Everyone is invited to our planning meeting on Sunday, January 5, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Meanwhile you can:

1. Start reviewing your closets and drawers to see what clothing/shoes you would like to donate on April 6 for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual collection.
2. Starting February 15, please donate soap, deodorant, hair combs, toothbrushes, mouthwash, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shaving cream (all in travel size and NEW). We can use your donations for the grooming kits that we make for men and for residents at Atria. There will be a small box in the lobby for your donations.

3. Start to donate creamy peanut butter and grape jelly so we can purchase less for making the sandwiches for the bagged lunches that we prepare for Part of the Solution (POTS).

4. Start to think of ways that you can help with Mitzvah Day 2014. It is early this year, so many activities will take place indoors. Feel free to contact David Currier or Frances Segan with ideas and offers of help.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated used coats for the NY Cares Coat Drive. To help our fellow New Yorkers keep warm during the cold months is a mitzvah.

KRMH Grocery Collection: The grocery collection is ongoing. The January delivery date is Sunday, January 26, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy 2014!

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

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Wow! It's 2014—time certainly flies by. You must be saying to yourself, what happened to 2013? As far as WRJ is concerned, it was a prosperous year in that some members who were ill have recovered; we were delighted to learn our children or grandchildren got into the colleges of their choice; several announced the marriage dates of members of their families. During 2013, many folks attended and enjoyed the annual WRJ card party, particularly the raffle prizes. We returned from touring the Good Housekeeping facility impressed as to what we learned. The WRJ-led Sabbath was beautifully done and intensely spiritual. We learned many mothers were grateful we had the Mother's Day plant sale. The luncheon served in the succah was not only ample, it was well attended. The accolades received after the Paid-Up Membership Dinner and the Women's Seder satisfied the chairladies who worked so hard to achieve their goals. The Charity Knitting Group never failed to help those in need, while the Book Club continued to increase its membership. The men and women who volunteered at the Holiday Gift & Craft Show helped make it an enormous success. There was never a Friday oneg that disappointed our congregants' palates. Women dedicated to the concept of charity begins at home, our home being Riverdale Temple, ensured 2013 was a colossal, triumphant year.

Credit is to be given to both Jean Daniels and Helen Krim, who overcame many obstacles to ensure the mission of WRJ was being fulfilled.

Helen, the superwoman of the Purimspiel, has assumed another challenge. She is now chairlady of the temple's House Committee, a huge undertaking. As a result, Helen had to give up the title of WRJ copresident.

There will be a **Card Party** on Sunday, **January 12**, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Admission, at the door, is \$18. If you reserve

in advance, the cost is \$15. You can pay online by going to www.rivtemple@aol.com or send your check to 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471

To ensure continuity within our ranks, Dorothy Feldman has graciously accepted the responsibilities, and joys, of being copresident. Let's all welcome Dorothy, who is a dedicated, organized, resourceful team worker. Along with Dorothy, and all the dedicated members of WRJ, I look forward to seeing you at WRJ events. Working together, we can make 2014 a winning year, as was 2013.

—Elaine Katz, WRJ President

Our next Book Club meeting will take place on Tuesday, **January 28**, at 7:30 pm. The book we will be discussing is *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* by Gary Shteyngart.

The novel introduces Vladimir Girshkin, a twenty-five-year-old who works as a lowly clerk at the Emma Lazarus Immigrant Absorption Society. When a wealthy but psychotic old Russian war hero appears, Vladimir embarks on an adventure of unrelenting lunacy that takes us from New York's Lower East Side to the hip frontier wilderness of Prava (Prague). With the help of a fun-loving Russian mafioso, Vladimir infiltrates the Prava expat community and launches a scheme as ridiculous as it is brilliant.

Bursting with wit, humor, and insight, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* is a highly imaginative romp and a serious exploration of what it means to be an immigrant in America.

All are welcome to join us.

—Ronni Stolzenberg

MEN'S CLUB

The December Men's Club meeting was memorable both for the enthusiastic participation of the attendees and for the number of people who attended. Don't look now, but it seems as though there is a resurgence of the Men's Club taking place. We nearly ran out of chairs at our December meeting. Please don't let the thought of not having a seat at a future meeting deter you from attending!

Did I mention the engaging discussions that took place and the numerous suggestions for new events being considered? In addition to the upcoming presentation by Allison Currier on South Africa (see p. 3), there will be a book reading/book signing forthcoming from another member of our congregation. Yes, Josh Greenfield is planning a reading from his latest book, *The Obsessive Chronicles*. The date will be announced shortly. We are also planning another "Open Mic" night, a dance program featuring lessons, and an evening of putting the lessons into practice.

Finally, let's try and make an effort to attend a Shabbat service in the near future. We are so fortunate to have such fantastic spiritual leadership at Riverdale Temple. I know you will be compelled to attend services regularly if you just experience what takes place in our spiritual home each week.

There is much more to share with you, but not enough space in this issue. The next meeting will take place on January 19 at 10:30 a.m., downstairs, in the social hall.

So stay tuned for more information in the next issue. In the meantime, I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year.

P.S. Don't forget to send in your dues! I realize we didn't include a stamped envelope with the annual dues letter, but please do not let that stop you from sending them in. We have much to do in the year ahead, and every dollar we receive is very meaningful.

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Susan Birnbaum Mazel tov! And welcome to the new family addition	Sharett-Singer family	Mr. and Mrs. L. Djivre	Yvette Djivre, beloved mother of Lucretia Y. Djivre
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Ephraim Bosgang A great credit to her community	Rabbi Lewis	Rabbi Stephen D. Franklin	Mary Franklin, beloved and cherished grandmother
Ephraim Bosgang For its continuing dedication to the Jewish Reform community	Riverdale Temple	David and Gerri Glickenstein	Irving Geller, Diane Geller, and Barbara Glickenstein, beloved mother and father of Gerri Glickenstein and beloved mother of David Glickenstein
Ephraim Bosgang For the Chanukah celebration/services	Riverdale Temple	Elaine Katz	Rose Katz, cherished mother-in-law
Elaine Katz Mazel tov on the marriage of their son Eric to Tamar Schwartz!	Sylvia Gottlieb and Jeffrey Dinowitz	Herbert and Helene Lewis	Ethel Liebowitz, Sol Liebowitz, Ida Baron, and Joseph Baron, beloved family members
Nina Krauthamer For all that you have done for Ellen Batt. You are terrific!	Rabbi Lewis, Riverdale Temple community	Harriet Martin	Dick Martin, beloved husband
Dr. Rachel L. Radna Mazel tov on the marriage of their son Eric to Tamar Schwartz!	Sylvia Gottlieb and Jeffrey Dinowitz	Ellen B. Nenner	Dr. Oscar Richter, beloved father
Dr. Rachel L. Radna Mazel tov on the birth of their son, Amit Barry!	Inbal Sharett-Singer and Jonathan Singer	Esther Papierman	Hy Papierman, beloved husband
Amy Samuelson and Steven Zelkowitz For officiating at my father's unveiling	Rabbi Judith Lewis	Morton J. Rothberg	Mollie C. Rothberg, beloved mother
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Beatrice and Howard Seelig	Celia and Milton Seelig, beloved parents of Howard Seelig	Ronni Stolzenberg	Samuel Stolzenberg, beloved father

The Departed Whom We Now Remember—January Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Sylvia Brown | 11 Grace Kahn | 23 Wallace R. Cotton | 28 Helene-Ronnie Bloch |
| 1 Julius H. Ginewsky | 11 Muriel Kaufman | 23 Augusta G. Patek | 28 Samuel H. Fondiller |
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| 2 Sadie Brill | 12 Max Kaplan | 24 Lillian G. Meltzer | 29 Mildred Levitt |
| 2 Mitchell Lopato | 12 Peter Howard Manheimer | 24 Natalie Reibesen | 29 Henrietta Felicity Radna |
| 2 Sylvia Mills | 12 Martin Marsh | 24 Frieda Schneider | 29 Diane Wild |
| 2 Alfred E. Simmons | 12 Lillian Salb | 24 Jack Wittenberg | 29 Abraham Yarlow |
| 2 Simon Steinglass | 12 Maurice Sigel | 25 Elias Blaustein | 30 Clara Bruck |
| 3 Lila Chessler | 12 Louis Weiner | 25 Harry Goldberger | 30 Dr. Sidney Sommers |
| 3 Florence Kern | 13 Emma Shapiro Friedman | 25 Rose Saraga | 31 Ira Adler |
| 3 Judith R. Klein | 13 Abraham J. Lester | 25 Lillian Steren | 31 Michael Altman |
| 4 Sylvia Alwaise | 13 Jennie Rabinowitz | 26 George Aronson | 31 Anna Brown |
| 4 Frances Braunstein | 13 David Rapaport | 26 David Bauer | 31 Max Cohen |
| 4 Ida Feinman | 14 Selma Leslie | 26 Max Belkind | 31 Philip Dubrow |
| 4 Lottie Golubock | 14 Stanley Sundheim | 26 Sol Brill | 31 Irving Fritz |
| 4 Ira Handwerger | 15 Sallee Brust | 26 Anna Davidoff | 31 Robert G. Golbach |
| 4 Theodore Klebanoff | 15 Nettie J. Fondiller | 26 Carl Fisher | 31 Lena Jacobson |
| 4 Liza Lakritz Perelmutter | 15 Cynthia Mason | 26 Joseph Gilman | 31 Dr. Gabrielle Koppell |
| 4 Dorothy Reingold | 15 Jenny Seelig | 26 Tillie Kaplan | 31 Miriam Leff |
| 4 David Spivack | 15 Julian Spiegel | 26 Dr. Siegfried Loewentritt | 31 Louis Ranfeld |
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| 8 Ernst Fraenkel | 20 Charles Jaffe | | |
| 8 Ed Lowe | 20 Margot Manasse | | |
| 8 Shirley Mandel | 20 Betty Ranfeld | | |
| 8 Jeanne Sundheim Spiegel | 20 Margo Gold | | |
| 9 Yetta Kovitz | 21 Leopold Hirschl | | |
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