



# The Bulletin

## Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהֶלֶל שָׁם 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 p. 6)

#### Fridays

- June 6** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat  
6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat Service
- June 13** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- June 20** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- June 27** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service

#### Saturdays

- June 7** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service  
**Sydney Brianna Greene** Bat Mitzvah celebration
- June 14** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- June 21** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service,  
followed by Chavurah
- June 28** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

July and August Friday night services remain at 6:15 p.m. and Saturday morning services at 10:30 a.m.

### Save the Dates

- Sunday, June 1 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Saturday, June 21 Wine, Cheese & Karaoke
- Tuesday, June 24 WRJ Book Club

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June 2014 (5774)

No. 10



*The Student Sponsorship Breakfast on May 18: left, Elaine Katz receives an award from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; right: Rita Tenenbaum addresses the well-attended event. —Photos by Emma Katz.*

### THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Dear Temple Family,

As I write this message for the last bulletin of our Jewish year, I am looking forward to a weekend that will begin with a Nursery School Tot Shabbat attended by almost 100 people (including 45 children)! It is so exciting to witness the amount of energy and enthusiasm for an event at Riverdale Temple—organized entirely by nursery school parents. I hope photographs will be taken to show how successful this event was (“im yirtze hashem”—God willing). [See p. 6.] Then on Sunday morning (May 18) we will be holding our annual Student Sponsorship Breakfast and celebrating L’ag B’Omer and the last day of religious school. (I ordinarily wouldn’t say that we “celebrate” the end of school, but this year our older students wrote me a song for Purim, set to the Beatles’ “Let It Be,” but with the words “Let Me Sleep,” and the refrain with something about how every Sunday morning Rabbi Lewis calls to me, so we understand that we are only celebrating the prospect of being able to sleep late on Sundays for a while). In any case, my office is filled with the artwork of each of our classes, including our nursery school four-year-olds, decorating trifold foam-core project boards. It’s an inspiration to be surrounded by them. I don’t think our Lunch and Learn group minded sharing their study space with the projects!

It really is difficult to believe that the year is almost over. We look forward to preparing for Shavuot by gathering for a “Tikkun Leil Shavuot” on Tuesday evening, June 3. Dr. Mehnaz Afridi of the Manhattan College Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center will be joining us

*continued on p. 3*

# JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sivan 5774 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting 2:30 pm Sinfonietta of Riverdale	4 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	5 Sivan 5774 <i>Erev Shavuot</i> Nursery School 6:30 pm WRJ meeting 7:30 pm Learning Session	6 Sivan 5774 <i>Shavuot</i> No Nursery School 10:30 am Shavuot Services with Yizkor Reading	7 Sivan 5774 <i>Shavuot</i> No Nursery School 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting	8 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Family Shabbat Service with Jr. Choir, potluck dinner	9 Sivan 5774 <i>Beha' alotcha</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Bat Mitzvah celebration of Sydney Brianna Greene
10 Sivan 5774	11 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	12 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	13 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	14 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting	15 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	16 Sivan 5774 <i>Sh'lach</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
17 Sivan 5774	18 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	19 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	20 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	21 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:00 pm Nursery School Welcome Party 7:30 pm Board of Trustees meeting	22 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	23 Sivan 5774 <i>Korah</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Chavurah after service, with potluck lunch 7:30 pm Wine, Cheese & Karaoke
24 Sivan 5774 5774 11:45 am KRMH Food Delivery	25 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	26 Sivan 5774 Nursery School 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club	27 Sivan 5774 Nursery School	28 Sivan 5774 Nursery School (last day)	29 Sivan 5774 6:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service	30 Sivan 5774 <i>Chukat/Rosh Chodesh Tammuz</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
1 Tammuz 5774	2 Tammuz 5774					
29	30					



Olivia Koppell and Rita Tenenbaum at Student Sponsorship

to discuss the perspectives of Islam and Judaism toward the experience of revelation. I look forward to learning more about the concept of prophecy and revelation in the Muslim tradition and comparing where it is similar to and where it differs from our own. As the Lunch and Learn group has learned this year, we discover much, much more about our own tradition when we understand how and why other traditions parted ways with us.

The year may be *almost* over, but there will still be three sessions left in June of our new course on the evolution of the Jewish concept of God. Please feel free to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. We will have already discussed the early and late biblical views of God, the early rabbinic and the mystical views, and perhaps a touch of Talmud, but there's still plenty to explore. In the last week of the session we will be forced to grapple with our own personal concept of God—something far too few people ever seem to get the chance to do. The exciting aspect of Judaism, which we have already seen in some of its breadth and depth, is that there is no one point of view (about anything—not just God!). We can't even figure out what to call God, let alone how to envision something that cannot be seen, or can something emanating from God be seen? You'll have to come join the conversation to find out.

But even the course on the Jewish concept of God will be over by the end of June, and before you know it the High Holy Days will be upon us. So let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who made an effort to help us move Riverdale Temple forward this year. There was a time in the not so distant past that some of us worried about the very survival of this congregation. I think we all agree that those challenges are behind us. Still, some of us (I'm speaking for myself here) have



The Junior Choir and the cantor performing at Student Sponsorship

been operating more in "survival" mode than in expansion and growth mode. It is difficult to think about doing more when I only barely, if that, can keep up with my responsibilities as the rabbi,

the education director, the supervisor and tutor of b'nai mitzvah, the nursery school rabbi, the adult education resource, and, of course, the pastor, who must put everything else on hold when a congregant is in need. But something has happened this year that is turning things around. There have been, for as long as I have been at Riverdale Temple, a few hardy souls who seem to do *everything* here. I am delighted to say that those same people are still doing everything they have always done. But now there are a few new faces accompanying that group of stalwarts. Things are beginning to happen that have never happened before—and new people are taking responsibility for things that have always been done by others in the past—with the help and guidance of those same people. I feel like I am witnessing a miracle of renewal here in our congregation. People who have joined recently, people who have been here for years, people who were members here at an earlier time and have rejoined—all are coming together to take on new responsibilities for the health and welfare and *growth* of our community.

Rabbis know better than to start naming names, so I will only say "you know who you are." You are helping us perpetuate the successful programs that have been taking place all along and adding new programs that are bringing new people into the synagogue and reaching out to members who have been here for years but connected with us only on the High Holy Days. And much, much more.

There is only one thing I can say—and I say it with the deepest sincerity of my soul—THANK YOU!

All that has happened this year will make the summer "slow-down" a very welcome period to rest and recharge, and I am especially thankful to all those of you who will participate in the summer services. Please don't forget to let Rachel Radna know what you are willing and able to do—any Shabbat during the summer!

Thankfully, next year our calendar moves back to a more seasonable schedule, with Rosh Hashanah a few weeks after Labor Day, but we have started planning already. I wish you all a peaceful, refreshing, enjoyable summer.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

**P.S. A few people have already asked me about forming another Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. Please let me know (preferably by e-mail at [rabbijudithslewis@gmail.com](mailto:rabbijudithslewis@gmail.com), so that I have a written list where I won't lose it) if you are interested, and we will come up with a mutually convenient time to study together. If weekdays are impossible, we could hold class on Saturdays after services, or possibly even on Sundays during religious school.**

### THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summertime is mixed at Riverdale Temple. On the one hand, with many people away on vacation, things seem to be moving at a slower and more leisurely pace.

The rabbi and cantor are away for part of the summer. It is during this time, when the rabbi is away, that we conduct our lay-led services. This presents a real opportunity for you, the members, to participate in the Friday or Saturday service. Maybe you would like to read the Haftarah in English? Give a D'var Torah? Say the blessing over the Torah? Help me with the service?

Everyone is welcome to participate. Just send me an e-mail: rradna2@gmail.com.

On the other hand, summer is also a very busy time as we prepare for the High Holy Days in the fall. We plan the various mailings that go out this time of year. You might have noticed that at Riverdale Temple we are doing our part to be green. We e-mail all communications except to those of our members who do not have an e-mail address. If you are still getting snail mail from us and have e-mail, please give us your electronic address. Also in July, you will receive your membership statement.

As has been the practice in the past, High Holy Day tickets will be distributed only to members who finished paying dues for 2013–2014 and have paid or made arrangements for the current dues. It would be very helpful if you would respond to the various mailings in a timely manner, and I thank you in advance for that.

This is the last issue of the temple *Bulletin* until September.

The weekly news via e-mail from Riverdale Temple will continue through the summer.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the various summer activities and at the lay-led services.

—Rachel Radna, President

### Riverdale Temple

invites you to an **Erev Shavuot learning session Tuesday, June 3**, at 7:30 p.m., in the social hall.

Rabbi Lewis, in dialogue with Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, director of the Manhattan College Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center, will compare the concept of revelation in Islam and Judaism.

**Dr. Afridi** will discuss the Islamic tradition that teaches how Mohammed received the word of God.

**Rabbi Lewis** will compare that tradition with the Jewish point of view in the Bible and elsewhere.

Refreshments will be provided by WRJ.



### 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.

### Congregational Meeting June 1

Our annual Congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m., in the social hall. We have important business to discuss, and it is important for members to be there. Please make every effort to attend. As required by our by-laws, the business of the annual meeting shall include the President's Annual Report to the membership; the Rabbi's Annual Report to the membership; the presentation and submission for approval of the annual budget; election of trustees and officers; reports of the various standing and ad hoc committees to the membership; and any other business that may properly be brought before the meeting.



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

**Mark  
Mandarano,  
Artistic Director**

**JUNE 1, 2014**

Serenades

Johannes Brahms, Serenade No. 1 in D Major (nonet version)

Walter Piston, Divertimento

John Adams, Serenade

2:30 p.m. at **Riverdale Temple**

Tickets: \$35 Adults, \$25 Seniors, \$15 Students

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!

The next meeting of the Riverdale Temple Membership Committee is on Thursday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m., in the social hall.

**Wine, Cheese & Karaoke**

**Save the date**

**Saturday, June 21,  
at 7:30 pm in the social hall.**

**You bring the wine, the temple supplies the snacks.**

**Still only \$10, a small price for big fun!**



**Bulletin Board**

**June Events**

Annual Congregational Meeting	June 1
Sinfonietta of Riverdale	June 1
WRJ Meeting, Learning Session	June 3
“The Evolution of the Jewish Concept of God” with Rabbi Lewis	June 5, 12, 19
WRJ Book Club	June 24

**Coming Up in September**

Social Action Meeting Sept. 10

Dates are subject to change. Go to [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org) for updates.

**The bulletin resumes publication in September.**

**Congratulations!**

**Sydney Brianna Greene** and family on Sydney’s upcoming Bat Mitzvah celebration.



Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **August 15**. You can e-mail it directly to [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@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.

Visit our new and improved website at [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://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 [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@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](http://www.riverdaletemple.org). You can support Riverdale Temple by buying a mug for just \$10.

<b>Riverdale Temple</b>	Rabbi	4	
<b>Telephone Extensions (718-548-3800)</b>	Cantorial Intern	5	
	Emergencies	7	
Temple Office	0 or 1	General Information	8
Bookkeeper	2	Other	9
Nursery School	3		

**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](http://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](mailto:registry@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 are willing to join the committee, please contact Helen Krim at [helen.krim@gmail.com](mailto:helen.krim@gmail.com).

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



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### Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Services

The first Friday night service, which begins at 6:15 p.m. and is called Family Shabbat, aims to be a lively service filled with songs and stories and is directed primarily at families with young children. As in the past, it features our Junior Choir and is followed by a potluck dinner. Our other Friday night services also begin at 6:15 p.m. with a Kabbalat Shabbat, in which the special series of Psalms that usher in Shabbat are sung, followed at 6:30 p.m. by the formal evening service.

Friday, June 6	5:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m.	Family Shabbat with Junior Choir, followed by potluck dinner
Saturday, June 7	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; <b>Sydney Brianna Greene</b> Bat Mitzvah celebration
Friday, June 13	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, June 14	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
Friday, June 20	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, June 21	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Chavurah following service
Friday, June 27	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, June 28	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion

**July and August Friday night services are at 6:15 p.m. Saturday morning services are at 10:30 a.m.**

### NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

On May 16, Riverdale Temple hosted a special Tot Shabbat Service, followed by a nut-free vegetarian potluck dinner for current and prospective Riverdale Temple Nursery School (RTNS) families and teachers. Almost 100 people attended, including more than 45 kids! Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Sharret-Singer led a beautiful service that included singing and guitar playing; and RTNS mom Shara Yolkut led a wonderful bedtime story after dinner. The food was great, the kids and parents had a wonderful time, and we hope to host these types of events more often. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Michelle at michelleroos@gmail.com.

—Photos by Judy Zucker (above) and Michelle Roos (right).

Riverdale Temple Nursery School is happy to announce that we have hired **Suzanne Boydston** to be the new director of our Nursery School. Suzanne has been a preschool administrator for 15 years. She believes that each school has had its own culture, which has presented her with opportunities to continually learn and grow. One of her great joys is watching how small children develop when they are part of a nurturing and stimulating school environment. As a director, she enjoys an open door policy with children and their

parents. She has a calm and gentle manner and a good sense of humor, traits that she feels have been valuable to her in gaining the trust of countless numbers of parents and children over the years.

The Second Annual RTNS Truck Day took place on May 21 in the temple's parking lot. Children got to enjoy posing for pictures on the garbage trucks, fire engines, ambulances, and cherry pickers and got to hear from firefighters, EMTs, and sanitation workers all about their vehicles. Many teachers based their week's lesson plans on trucks and heavy machinery in order to get the kids ready for all the activity. We were visited by our State Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and our City Council member Andrew Cohen. Safe to say, the truck that excited everyone regardless of their age was the Mister Softee ice cream truck, provided by Councilman Cohen's office.

Please join us for a Wine and Cheese Welcome Celebration as we introduce Suzanne Boydston to the parents of our Nursery School children, all prospective Nursery School parents, and anyone else who would like to meet her, **June 19**, at 7:00 p.m., in the social hall. RSVP to RTNSdirector@gmail.com.



### BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATION

**June 7**

**Sydney Brianna Greene** is a seventh grader in the Full Honors Program at the RKA Middle School. She is a spirited, fun-loving person who enjoys spending time with her family and friends (she sincerely hopes these people feel the same way!). She loves art, acting, reading, karate, her cats, Marvel comics (and DC also!), stand-up comedy, British comedy (really, anything that has to do with comedy), classic Rock & Roll, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Over the past six months, as I have been “officially” the co-president of the WRJ, I have had a front row seat to the planning of multiple WRJ events and have assumed the stance of “looking back and looking forward.” What has been successful and why? What needs some tweaking? How can we plan for next year?

What have I learned from my behind-the-scenes vantage point? I have learned that there’s a cadre of WRJ members who give tirelessly of their time and energy. They are the planners, shoppers, stuffers, bakers, schleppers, decorators, callers, etc., who guarantee that every detail of a WRJ event is well planned and ready for “opening night.”



Dorothy Feldman addresses the WRJ dinner on May 13.

While some events built on well-established WRJ/Riverdale Temple tradition, such as the Women’s Seder, others, like the Mishloach Manot packages for Purim, established a new tradition. In the planning stage is another new tradition: the coordination among the Membership and Adult Education Committees, along with WRJ, to schedule speakers on a wide range of topics of interest

to all members and all ages of the Riverdale Temple community. Consistent with this collaboration is the development and dissemination of a survey (initiated by the Membership Committee) to aggregate the interests, skills, and expertise of our congregation. We hope to tap into our own reserve of talent as we plan for next year. And speaking of new traditions, did you participate in the Friday night postservice oneg/book discussion of *My Promised Land*? It was a most remarkable evening, with an exchange of ideas, discussion, and questions moderated by Rabbi Lewis. Perhaps this will become a “new tradition”?

Please plan to attend the WRJ meetings the first Tuesday of each month. Your voice and your presence are most welcome! The next meeting is June 3, at 6:30 p.m., followed by the learning session (see p. 4 for details).

—Dorothy Feldman, Co-President, WRJ

For **Tuesday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m.**, we plan to have some summer fun with a mystery called *Invisible City* by Julia Dahl. It is the debut novel in what will be a series of mysteries featuring Rebekah Roberts, a NYC reporter who gets pulled into crime-solving. In *Invisible City*, Rebekah’s case takes her deep into the closed world of the ultra-Orthodox.

On **Tuesday, July 29**, we will discuss *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker. In the work, a meeting between mythical beings takes readers through turn-of-the-century New York.

The Book Club will not meet in August or September.

—Ronni Stolzenberg

## ADULT EDUCATION

As summer approaches and you determine that some of it will be spent reading, you might find it helpful to check out the bibliographies listed for your information under **References** in the **Adult Education** section of the Riverdale Temple website. Take advantage of this information. I update it periodically. And, please suggest titles to me that you think fellow congregants would appreciate knowing about. I will put them up on the website.

Find Adult Education on the website under the menu section called Study. Then click on **References**. The Reference section of **Adult Education** is divided into four subject areas: *Articles of Interest*, *Yiddish Literature/Culture/History/Identity*, *The Jewish Experience*, and *Torah Study/References*.

Under *The Jewish Experience*, you might especially enjoy exploring the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* ([www.yivoencyclopedia.org](http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org)). Clicking on *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* takes you directly to this important reference tool. You can spend many hours browsing about Jews in countries your family members may have originated from. Additionally, the YIVO has recently launched another digital reference area about Polish Jews: <http://polishjews.yivoarchives.org> provides you with a direct link to this collection of material on the subject.

**Rebecca Kobrin** of Columbia University, in the most recent YIVO lecture, sparked interest about books on the immigration of Jews to America. Much has been written about this subject. Listed below are the titles she provided to me to post on the website for your convenience:

Gur Alroey, *Bread to Eat and Clothes to Wear: Letters from Jewish Migrants in the Twentieth Century* (Wayne State University Press,

2011). On emigration from Russia.

Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora* (Indiana University Press, 2010).

Rebecca Kobrin, ed., *Chosen Capital: The Jewish Encounter with American Capitalism* (Rutgers University Press, 2012).

Tony Michels, *A Fire in Their Hearts: Yiddish Socialists in New York* (Harvard University Press, 2005).

Moses Rischin, *Promised City: New York’s Jews, 1870–1914* (Harvard University Press, 1962). On Jewish immigrant life in New York.

**Don’t forget! There are three sessions left in June (5, 12, 19) on Thursdays of Rabbi Lewis’s course, *The Evolution of the Jewish Concept of God*. You can still come and learn with us. Join the stimulating discussion.**

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

The **Chavurah** will meet on **June 21**, following the Shabbat service. We will read and discuss that week’s Torah portion, *Korah*. In this portion, Korah and his followers accuse Moses and Aaron of taking power and prestige for themselves at the expense of the community, and they pay dearly for their actions. Join us for a potluck dairy lunch and lively conversation about this timely and controversial Torah portion.

—Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

## SOCIAL ACTION

Riverdale Temple accomplished several social action and tikkun olam activities across fall and spring of 2013–2014.

The Social Action Committee is most grateful for your participation in the special Rosh Hashanah–Yom Kippur food collection, your ongoing donations to feed the hungry through KRMH Food & Hunger Project Pantry, the annual donation and collection of new pajamas for children/teens through the Pajama Program, donation of used coats for NYCares, and participation in Mitzvah Day activities, such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Clothing Drive, the bagged lunches for Part of the Solution, and grooming kits for the Midnight Run and residents at the Atria Zicklin Hospice. Special thanks are extended not only to all volunteers but also to members of the Riverdale Temple Social Action Committee, who spearheaded and helped to implement many of these mitzvahs.

While we all turn our thoughts to enjoying the warmer weather

and spring/summer activities, unfortunately, HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION. Please remember to continue to donate groceries, especially during the month of June, and secure the groceries with Mr. Osorio or Terri.

The KRMH Grocery collection delivery is on June 22, at 11:45 a.m.

We anticipate having a Social Action meeting on Sunday, September 10, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please contact Frances Segan or David Currier if you have ideas you would like to suggest for 2014–2015. We welcome additional members to become more involved with Riverdale Temple's Social Action Committee.

Wishing all a healthy and happy summer!

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

### **Adult Education Course: The Evolution of the Jewish Concept of God**

The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and even Moses is very different from the God of Saadia or Maimonides, and the God of the medieval scholars is very different from the God of the Kabbalah, which is different still from the God of the moderns—Hermann Cohen, Leo Baeck, Mordecai Kaplan, or Abraham Joshua Heschel. Needless to add, none of them agrees with any other!

Judaism tells us very little about the God in whom we believe, beyond the fact that God cannot be more than One, and can have no material existence. Each generation of Jews has struggled to find a vocabulary with which to articulate its theological quest, and each generation has found new concepts to integrate “The Divine” into its own reality. Join us as we attempt to trace this evolution of the Jewish God—and to continue the process through our own explorations.

The course will continue to meet on June 5, 12, and 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It is taught by Rabbi Judith Lewis.

### **Riverdale RiverFest 2014**

### **Project of the Friends of the Hudson River Greenway in the Bronx**

Sunday, June 15, noon to 6:00 p.m., at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale Avenue and W. 263rd Street

For more details, go to [www.riverdaleriverfest.org](http://www.riverdaleriverfest.org).

Riverdale Temple is, once again, among the endorsing organizations of this event.

## MEN'S CLUB

### **A Mensch Is Honored at Riverdale Temple's Student Sponsorship Breakfast**

My guess is that anyone reading this column will know that the word *mensch* means an honorable person. Some of us may not know that the word was coined as a gender-neutral alternative to “man.” It is true that the word *mensch* means an honorable person, but the true meaning of this Yiddish term also goes much deeper.

A mensch is a person who helps others, someone who speaks up for the members of their community, someone who befriends a new member of the congregation. A mensch is someone who helps out without ever expecting something in return.

On Sunday, May 18, Riverdale Temple honored a true mensch. Elaine Katz was recognized at the annual Student Sponsorship Breakfast for all she has done over the many years as a Riverdale Temple member.

I surely do not have enough space to enumerate the many, many mitzvot Elaine has performed on virtually a daily basis since I have known her. Elaine has chaired many committees here at RT, and she was a member of many of the other committees that she didn't chair.

Elaine is a RT trustee, the co-president of Women of Reform Judaism (my favorite RT organization), and a regular Shabbat service attendee. She is a dear friend, and I am delighted that she was honored this year for her continuous efforts on behalf of others. May Elaine always go from strength to strength.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all of the members of the Men's Club who were active participants during this year's meetings. Our membership hasn't increased in actual numbers; however, this year we had much greater attendance at meetings and a much more active calendar. I hope this momentum will continue and that the Men's Club can once again offer new and exciting programming for the greater Riverdale Temple community.

To all of you I wish a happy, healthy, and spiritually rewarding summer.

B'Shalom

—Steve Rosenfeld, President



## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

<b>ELAINE KATZ, ON HER 85TH BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>IN MEMORY</b>
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Phyllis and Jack Fisher	Dorothy and Joseph Kay	Bernard Katz, beloved father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather
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Helen Madow	David Roskind	Andrew Sternberg, beloved father
Beatrice F. Mandely	Hedy Schnitzer	Sheldon Cohen, beloved brother of Marilyn Propper
Men's Club	Renee Spath	Meyer Propper, beloved father of Emil Propper
Ellen and Milton Pincus	Nathan Sackstein	Bridie La Cava, beloved sister-in-law
Rita S. Pochter-Lowe	Dr. Frances Segan	Bernard Schnitzer
Lori and Steven Rosenfeld	Joel, Ellen, Brenda Segel	Richard Spath, beloved husband
Kay Samalin	Stuart Wessler	Jack Sackstein, beloved family member
Bernice Shulman		Claire Sackstein
Leonore Siegel and Alan P. Augarten		Florence Rapaport, beloved mother of Lise Rapaport
Lydia S. Silverman		Corinne Wessler, beloved family member
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Ephraim Bosgang	Rabbi Judith S. Lewis's continuing commitment to the RT congregation	
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	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer and her handsome young son, Amit	
Elaine Katz	Steve Altarescu, on his ordination	
	Drs. Rachel and Richard Radna on their daughter's completion of her master's degree	
Kenneth Lerer	Rabbi Judith Lewis, for my aunt Claire Sackstein's funeral	
Rita S. Pochter-Lowe	Rabbi Judith Lewis, for providing wit, wisdom, and beauty to our services	
Lise Rapaport	Rabbi Judith S. Lewis with deep gratitude for my mother Florence Rapaport's funeral	

## Condolences



**To:**  
**Lise Rapaport and Family**

**Nathan Sackstein and Family**

**Kay Samalin, Michael Samalin, and Family**

**On the loss of**

**Florence Rapaport**, beloved mother, grandmother, long-time member of Riverdale Temple

**Claire Sackstein**, beloved sister, aunt, long-time member of Riverdale Temple

**Harry Samalin**, beloved son, brother

### *The Departed Whom We Now Remember—June Yahrzeit Observances*

1 Sidney Simon Holzman	9 Mitchell S. Nalitt	17 Dorothy Giserman	24 Max Levy
1 George Samalin	10 Wolf Avrach	17 Dr. Mae Maskit Lord	24 David Socolof
1 Celia S. Wendrow	10 Debra Evers	17 Rose Schwartz	24 Jacob Aaron Stam
2 Rose Burns	10 Nathan Sumner	18 Mayer M. Ackerson	25 Sara Sawyer
2 Sam Hamada	10 Helen Taig	18 Dr. Max A. Bruck	26 Mabel Adler
2 Isidor Rothstein	11 Irving Bennett	18 Murray Goldberg	26 Edith Alin
2 Sitta Spatz	11 Alex Gottlieb	18 Rachel Kramer	26 Ethel Bernstein
3 William Fuhrman	11 Phillip Hoffman-Levene	18 Rose Hindlin Kurtz	26 Elizabeth Herrup
3 Max Kovitz	12 David Fenster	18 Bertha Lipshultz	26 Rose Poster
4 Charles J. Bensley	12 Dorothy Karsh	18 Richard Neubauer	26 David Silverman
4 Rabbi Charles E. Shulman	12 Melville C. Levene	18 Rose Noy	26 Zona Silverstein
4 Ilene Zolt	12 Chaim Poster	18 Noel Robert Rubinstein	27 Dr. Jordan Tobias Rosenbaum
5 Sheila Brenner	12 Libby Silverman	19 Harriet Ivers	27 George Rosenblum
5 Max Handler	13 Rabbi Dr. Arnold Lazarus	19 Ira Kleinman	27 Lena Zwickel
5 Morris Kolin	13 Rose Morris	19 William Shalof	27 Dorothy Zwyer
5 Minnie Siegel	13 Steven Ott	20 Rose R. Aronson	28 Nathan Bernstein
5 Augusta Trager	14 Pauline Avedon	20 Dr. Daniel Brown	28 Ethel Regan
6 Donald E. Brotherson	14 Hyman Bialek	20 Lawrence Fox	29 Bertha Holzman
6 Samuel Hirshowitz	14 Louis Feinman	20 Abraham J. Horowitz	30 Hilda Bensley
6 Marcus Lessin	14 Lillian Fuhrman	21 J. Edward Bennett	30 Jean P. Bloustein
6 Morris J. Levy	14 Isidore Reibeisen	21 Philip Carlinger	30 Dora Brill
7 Ray Kolin	15 Frieda Blaustein	21 Susan Fisher	30 Ruth Richman
7 Hertha Osborne	15 Dr. Reuben Gell	21 Anne Kaiser	30 Vera Shatin
8 Max Heimowitz	15 Harry Kalinsky	21 Irving Schneeweiss	30 William Sherit
8 Dr. Charles K. Jaeger	15 William Ripps	22 Harry David Wachs	30 Betty Tager
8 Rose Seefer	16 Robin Agusta	23 Pauline Kalinsky	
9 Ira Arnowich	16 Rita Resnick	23 Morton David Stein	
9 Ettie Brandt	16 Ilyse Segal	24 Dr. Hyman A. Elman	
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*The Departed Whom We Now Remember—July Jahrzeit Observances*

1 Annie Becker	10 Gilmore Bales	16 Carrie Blumenthal	24 Troy Theodoratos
1 Norma D. Haber	10 Cele Corn	16 Sylvia Denker	24 Emanuel Traugott
1 Yetta Weinberg	10 Yetta Rosner	16 Trude Stransky	25 Frances W. Aaron
2 Lillian Benardo	11 Albert B. Avedon	17 Fannie Haas	26 Minnie Fass
2 Herman Fein	11 Esther Dubinsky	17 Toni Raffkind	26 Elaine Ruth Isenberg
2 Ida Loveman	11 Harriet Morse	17 David Ungar	26 Bernard L. Spanier
2 Fred Rapp	11 Frances Selma Siegel	17 Gene Weissman	27 Albert Barshatzky
2 Bessie Solowey	12 Philip Greenglass	17 Charlotte Wiener	27 Ichel Blumenstock
3 Helena Barcia	12 Henry Groner	18 Marion Harriet Kaplan	27 Leon Djivre
3 Rae Lillian Gillman	12 Joseph F. Loveman	18 Walter F. Spiegel	28 Louis Crager
3 Sidney Rogofsky	12 Samuel R. Ripps	19 Lola Friedman	28 Jack Frei
4 Albert Feit	12 Mary Robinson	20 Susan Dwork	28 Stanley Tenenbaum
4 Abe Spierer	13 Anna Dalick	20 Helen Knopping	29 Jean Greisman
4 Eva Zerkowitz	13 Sophie K. Dancis	20 Harriet Landau	29 Elliot Liskin
4 Pearl Zolt	13 Marcelle Dubrow	20 Emily Felsenthal Loeser	29 Albert Pearlman
5 Phyllis Post Goodman	13 Walter Jaffe	21 Abraham Cohen	30 Tillie Binder
5 Max Shankman, M.D.	13 Julius Samuelson	21 Celia H. Seelig	30 Rebecca Gluck
5 Miriam Yohalem	13 Lillian Waill	21 Leo Segan	30 Irene Kleinberg
6 Frances Messing	14 Selma Genevive Miller	21 Edna Turteltaub	30 Wallace Ott
6 Harvey Martin Wessler	14 Clara Propper	22 Hannah Batkin	30 Abraham Zolt
7 Julia Hartman	15 Moe Elias Greisman	22 Constance Gordon	31 Eric Alan Elias
8 Philip (Skitch) Ivers	15 Rhea Katz	22 Joan Paula Resnik	31 Mollie Geyer
8 Anna Kovar	15 Sidney Lyman	23 Steven Wolfe Alpert	31 Jeanette Krein
9 Rose R. Fein	15 Rose Poster	23 Harry Mendelson	31 Nathan Turteltaub
9 Olive Rosenfield	15 Julia Sundheim	24 S. Robert Friedman	

*The Departed Whom We Now Remember—August Jahrzeit Observances*

1 Herbert Maier	11 Anny Ross	21 Mildred Rosenthal	28 Nathan Horn
2 Morris Cohn	11 Louis Schwartz	22 Charles H. Goodman	29 Rachel Leah Fritz
2 Roslie Small	12 Marsha Blum	22 Anna Schulman	29 Judith Saxe Kuvin
3 Mildred Jaffe	12 Larry Brockman	23 Bernard Kramer	29 Karl F. Ross
3 Hazel Nalitt Kaplan	12 Wilhelm Schwarz	23 Irving Margulies	30 Harry Fuhrman
3 Betty R. Rosenberg	12 Hellen Tausk	23 Erwin A. Merson	30 Dr. Frederic Stern
3 Louis Solowey	13 Esther Amols	24 Mac S. Albert	31 Joseph Arnowich
3 Dora (Devorah) Wachtel	13 Anna Kaminer	24 Rita Fauer Franklin	31 Hyman Jaffe
4 Philip Reaboy	13 Morris Semmel	24 Louis Froehlich	31 Jacob Strisik
5 Nathan E. Rosenthal	13 Julia Silberkleit	24 Philip Knopping	
5 David Rosner	13 David Weiner	24 Harry Schlifftman	
6 Abraham Max Brown	14 Philip M. Dancis	25 Frederick David Bernstein	
6 Herbert Pinsley	15 Jacob S. Pinsky	25 Freda Block	
7 Saly Haas	16 Samuel Bloustein	25 Abraham Heisner	
7 Alfred E. Hochstein	16 Dr. Henry Horn	25 Seymour Hirsch	
7 Joseph Silverstein	16 Gary Lichtenstein	25 Harry Kaplan	
8 Ben Rattner	17 Jessie Glick	25 Alexander Lessin	
8 Dr. Solomon M. Robinson	17 Frances Goldsmith	25 Stanley Roger	
8 Susan Angstreich Rosenblum	17 Morris Kramer	25 Samuel Schneeweiss	
9 Mary Fisher	17 Louis Posin	26 Martha Lazarus	
9 Paul Hirschl	18 Annie Eisen	26 Joseph Sawyer	
9 Abraham Wiener	18 Charles Rapaport	27 Gregory Grinn	
10 Benjamin Michael Kurtz	18 Charles R. Seidner	27 Herman Kronman	
10 Irving C. Nachbar	19 Fred Alwaise	27 Morris Wachtel	
10 Samuel Wessler	19 Dorothy Raffkind	28 Margaret Elkus	
11 Alexander Gordon	20 Morton Kleinman	28 Max Fondiller	
11 Dr. Charles Mandel	20 Sam Snyder	28 Valeria Gerard	

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### **Rabbi Emeritus of the Congregation**

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

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Dr. Rachel Radna

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