



The Bulletin

Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהֶלֶל 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 p. 6)

Fridays

- May 2** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Family Shabbat Service
- May 9** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- May 16** 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- May 23** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
- May 30** 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service
Professional Choir

Saturdays

- May 3** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- May 10** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service,
led by WRJ
- May 17** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service,
followed by Chavurah
- May 24** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- May 31** 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Save the Dates

- Sunday, May 4: YIVO lecture
- Saturday, May 10: WRJ-led Shabbat Service
- Friday, May 16: Tot Shabbat with Potluck Dinner
- Sunday, May 18: Student Sponsorship Breakfast

Vol. 67

May 2014 (5774)

No. 9



The YIVO lecture on March 30 in the sanctuary (left). Participants enjoying the Women's Seder on April 1 at the temple (middle, right).

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

As I hope you are all aware, Riverdale Temple, through our Adult Education Committee chair, Yvette Marrin, has established a collaborative lecture series with YIVO, the Institute for Jewish Research. The most recent lecture, on March 30, "Tevye's Daughters: How East European Jewish Women Confronted Modernity," was presented by Glenn Dynner of Sarah Lawrence College. Professor Dynner shared preliminary research on a large number of "kvitlach"—correspondence written by women in Eastern Europe seeking advice and help.

The fundamental idea behind the YIVO lecture series is to familiarize our community with the experiences and ideas of a generation not unlike our own, so that we can draw insight and guidance from a part of our Jewish past that is often overlooked in the contemporary Jewish world. Over the past few years that we have cosponsored this series, this goal has been hugely successful—even inspiring a discussion group among parents of our religious school students about how to transmit a strong, healthy Jewish identity in acculturated, progressive, nontraditional families. We look forward to continuing this effort and all the other fruits of this fascinating collaboration.

Sometimes, however, the very act of sharing research about our past reveals biases and perspectives that require further thought. This most recent lecture compels us to examine this phenomenon. It is an area of concern that, you will surely understand, strikes a particular chord for me. I, therefore, would like to share a very thoughtful letter written by one of

continued on p. 3

MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p><i>1 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:30 pm Membership Committee meeting</p> <p>1</p>	<p><i>2 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Family Shabbat Service with Jr. Choir, potluck dinner</p> <p>2</p>	<p><i>3 Iyyar 5774</i> <i>Emor</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion</p> <p>3</p>
<p><i>4 Iyyar 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal 2:00 pm YIVO lecture</p> <p>4</p>	<p><i>5 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>5</p>	<p><i>6 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm WRJ meeting</p> <p>6</p>	<p><i>7 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>7</p>	<p><i>8 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>8</p>	<p><i>9 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service</p> <p>9</p>	<p><i>10 Iyyar 5774</i> <i>Behar</i> 10:30 am WRJ-Led Shabbat Service with Torah discussion; Men's Club meeting following service 9:30 pm River Music concert: N. Carlebach</p> <p>10</p>
<p><i>11 Iyyar 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am Jr. Choir rehearsal</p> <p>11</p>	<p><i>12 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>12</p>	<p><i>13 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6:00 pm WRJ paid-up membership dinner, Karaoke</p> <p>13</p>	<p><i>14 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>14</p>	<p><i>15 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God 7:30 pm Board of Trustees meeting</p> <p>15</p>	<p><i>16 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat Service 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service 6:30 pm Tot Shabbat Potluck Dinner</p> <p>16</p>	<p><i>17 Iyyar 5774</i> <i>Bechukotai</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Chavurah after service, with potluck lunch 7:30 pm Open Mic Night</p> <p>17</p>
<p><i>18 Iyyar 5774</i> 9:30 am Religious School— Student Sponsorship Breakfast 11:45 am KRMH Food Pickup</p> <p>18</p>	<p><i>19 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>19</p>	<p><i>20 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>20</p>	<p><i>21 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>21</p>	<p><i>22 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God</p> <p>22</p>	<p><i>23 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service</p> <p>23</p>	<p><i>24 Iyyar 5774</i> <i>Bamidbar</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion</p> <p>24</p>
<p><i>25 Iyyar 5774</i></p> <p>25</p>	<p><i>26 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>26</p>	<p><i>27 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club</p> <p>27</p>	<p><i>28 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School</p> <p>28</p>	<p><i>29 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lewis 6:30 pm The Evolution of the Jewish God</p> <p>29</p>	<p><i>30 Iyyar 5774</i> Nursery School 6:15 pm Shabbat Eye Service with Professional Choir</p> <p>30</p>	<p><i>31 Iyyar 5774</i> Nasso 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion</p> <p>31</p>

our congregants. I hope that it will encourage all of us to engage in the process of examining the frames of reference we each bring to any subject matter and, especially, those topics that continue to be a source of pain, discrimination, prejudice, and injustice in our own lives today.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

April 4, 2014

On March 30, 2014, I attended a lecture given by Glenn Dynner of Sarah Lawrence College, at Riverdale Temple, entitled “Tevy’s Daughters: How East European Jewish Women Confronted Modernity.” There was significant reaction to my comments about the validity and nature of the speaker’s research. As a result, I would like to clarify my views about the speaker’s methodology and conclusions.

Professor Dynner’s presentation consisted of a discussion of his research, as yet unpublished, in which he reviewed petitions written by women of the Pale and Eastern European countries over approximately a twenty-year period beginning in the 1850s. These petitions to a prominent religious leader were cries for help. In their petitions the women asked the rebbe to intercede for them, to make their husbands stop abusing them, to grant them a divorce, and, in some instances, to obtain help with business deals that had gone awry.

After reviewing thousands of these petitions, the speaker concluded that the women who drafted these letters were content, and he further found that the “angry women” were those who had joined the various secular political movements of that time, that is, those seeking modernity.

During the question-and-answer period, I spoke about the danger of romanticizing women’s role in the traditional Jewish homes of the shtetls. The concept of “shalom bayit,” or maintaining peace in the home, has traditionally been seen as the responsibility of the wife. As a result of this emphasis on the centrality of women’s

role in maintaining Jewish traditions, modern Jewish women in abusive relationships continue to have enormous difficulty leaving their partners. I spoke about the significant body of research about domestic violence and Jewish women that addresses the reluctance of battered Jewish women to leave their abusive spouses. As I stated last Sunday, upon my review of the research, Jewish women remain in abusive relationships longer than women from any other racial or ethnic group. There is a dark side to romanticizing the view that women were content in the traditional life of the shtetl.

Further, labeling women who sought modernity and involvement in progressive movements as “angry” is a term fraught with gender bias and dismisses their contributions. Today, there is an enormous backlash against women as evidenced by the closure of abortion clinics in Texas, the difficulty of Orthodox women in obtaining religious divorces, the rising trend of battered women losing custody of their children to abusive fathers, and discrimination against women scholars in Israel by the ultra-Orthodox community.

Many of the comments directed at me for my questioning of the speaker’s research and conclusions were openly hostile. To his credit, the speaker apologized to me after his talk for reacting too quickly and for not considering the issue of domestic violence in his research. However, the problem of domestic violence is only one of the issues that I attempted to raise. My other concern is the dismissal of those women involved in social movements as simply “angry women.” The women of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries involved in progressive movements were highly intelligent and courageous heroines who deserve our respect. They broke barriers by becoming involved in the labor movement, the Zionist movement, and the women’s suffrage movement, to name a few. The discussion of modernity, the Enlightenment, and women is one that demands a nuanced airing of research and conclusions.

Yours truly,

Lisa Fischel-Wolovick

THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

We are very grateful to the following members for their 2013–2014 Kol Nidre contributions.

Sheila Abbott
Robert and Valerie Adelman
Salvador Amram
Senior Aronson
Shelley Ast
Jonathan Greenwald and Vicki Greenwald-Auerbach
Leo and Helene Benardo
Henry and Amy Bensen
Howard and Susan Birnbaum
Steven and Ilona Brandeis
Irene Brenner
Bernice Brier
Steven and Marilyn Ross Cahn
Harold Caplan
Harriet Charles

Arnold Cohen
Marlene Cuperman
Jean Daniels
Jeffrey Dinowitz and Sylvia Gottlieb
Marcia Federman
Bert and Carole Feinberg
Jack and Phyllis Fisher
Rabbi Stephen D. and Karen Franklin
David and Ruth Fried
Steven Froot and Mary Ann Doyle
Renee Gallay
David and Gerri Glickenstein
Stuart and Jean Goldshein
Milton and Florence Greenberger
David and Rochelle Greenfield
Joshua Greenfield
Bernard and Merryl Greenwald

L. Michael and Margaret Ross Griffel
 Fred Haber
 David Hamerman and Laura Lowy-Hamerman
 Michael and Janet Heller
 Stephen and Linda Kaplan
 Robert Kastner
 Craig L. Katz and Linda Chokroverty
 Elaine Katz
 Robert Katz and Sherrill Spatz
 Joseph and Dorothy Kay
 Linda Kleinman
 Martin Kleinman and Ronni Stolzenberg
 Guy and Ellen Knafo
 G. Oliver Koppell and Lorraine Coyle Koppell
 Olivia Koppell
 Ida Krausz
 Helen Meltzer Krim and Tom Krim
 Henry and Leah Kurtz
 Sandra Lerner
 Martin and Donna Linda
 Joyce Liskin
 Ruth A. Loebmann
 Laura Lowy
 Helen Madow
 Howard Malatzky and Susan Carr
 Rose Marcus
 Yvette Marrin
 Scott and Susan Matluck
 Norman Mazin
 Charles Mikell and Isadora Botwinick
 Steven Parker and Lynne Brunswick
 Jennifer Petras
 Rita Pochter-Lowe
 Emil and Marilyn Propper
 Mac and Gloria Psachie
 Claude Rabinowitz
 Richard J. and Rachel Radna
 Sidney and Joyce Reiser
 Renee Renner

Steven and Lori Rosenfeld
 David Roskind
 Peter Sack
 Kay Samalin
 Cordell Schachter and Jacqueline Kuhls
 Sylvia Schneider
 Hedy Schnitzer
 Bruce Schwartz and Beth Greenberg
 Frederick and Jacqueline Schweitzer
 Robin Segal
 Frances Segan
 Leonard and Phyllis Selk
 H. Eric Semler and Tracy Chutorian
 Jack and Jill Shaifer
 Arnold and Roberta Shapiro
 Barbara Silber-Weinstock
 Renee Spath
 Phyllis Steele
 Barrett and Marjorie Stern
 Hilda Stewart
 Leon and Ann Stone
 Harvey and Judy Tauber
 Sean and Karen Trebach
 Ronna Weber
 Irving and Evelyn Weiler
 Harold and Sandra Weitz
 Joyce White
 B. L. Wyckoff
 Vladimir and Eugenia Zakharov
 Steven Zerkowitz and Amy Samuelson
 Judith Zucker

If your name is not listed, our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2014. Won't you please consider helping us reach 100 percent participation? The entire Riverdale Temple community ***needs to be invested*** in the future of our temple, not just for today to fill our immediate needs but for the future of our children and our children's children!

—Rachel Radna



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.

Bulletin Board

May Events

“The Evolution of the Jewish God” with Rabbi Lewis	May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Membership Committee	May 1
YIVO lecture	May 4
WRJ-led Shabbat Service	May 10
WRJ Paid-Up Membership Dinner	May 13
Tot Shabbat with Potluck Dinner	May 16

Open Mic Night	May 17
Student Sponsorship Breakfast	May 18
KRMH Food Pickup	May 18

Coming Up in June

“The Evolution of the Jewish God” with Rabbi Lewis	June 5, 12, 19
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Dates are subject to change. Go to www.riverdaletemple.org for updates.

Congratulations!

Aliya Nicole Hyman and family on her bat mitzvah celebration
Elaine Katz on her special birthday

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.

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.

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



Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by May 15. You can e-mail it directly to rivtemple@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 House Committee

Our mission is to ensure that the building and grounds of our synagogue best respond to the spiritual, educational, cultural, and social needs and activities of our congregation. We are concerned about safety, cleanliness, comfort, and appearance and maximizing the functionality of our facilities. The committee works closely with the maintenance staff to ensure that the facilities are well managed and meet the needs of our community efficiently and economically. The committee benefits from members with varied experience in facilities management, engineering, construction, and related fields. If you are willing to join the committee, please contact Helen Krim at helen.krim@gmail.com.

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



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This publication is intended for members of Riverdale Temple. Any other use or publication in whole or in part without Riverdale Temple’s prior consent is prohibited.

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, May 2	5:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat
	6:15 p.m.	Family Shabbat with Junior Choir, followed by potluck dinner
Saturday, May 3	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
Friday, May 9	5:45 p.m.	Rehearsal of the Adult Volunteer Choir
	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, May 10	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service, led by WRJ, with Torah discussion
Friday, May 16	5:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat, with potluck dinner
	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, May 17	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion; Chavurah following service
Friday, May 23	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, May 24	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion
Friday, May 30	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service with Professional Choir
Saturday, May 31	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion

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!

River Music at Riverdale Temple Presents



Neshama Carlebach in Concert

Saturday May 10, at 9:30 p.m.

For more information, go to
www.neshamacarlebach.com/home.htm

New Adult Ed Course: The Evolution of the Jewish 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 begin on **Thursday, May 1**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and will meet every Thursday for 8 sessions, in the social hall. It is taught by Rabbi Judith Lewis.

The next meeting of the Riverdale Temple Membership Committee is on Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., in the social hall.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Save the date: Potluck Dinner for Nursery School Families—Friday, May 16. The parents of Riverdale Temple Nursery School are sponsoring a special vegetarian potluck dinner for current and prospective Riverdale Temple Nursery School families following Tot Shabbat services. Tot Shabbat is held every first and third Friday of the month from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. It is led by Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Sharett-Singer and includes singing and guitar playing. It's a family-friendly service that is appropriate for all ages, especially children five years old and

under. The dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. and will go as long as our kids are still awake!

Join us. Let's make this first Tot Shabbat Potluck Dinner a big success. If you would like to RSVP or would like to help plan this event, please e-mail Michelle Roos at michelleroos@gmail.com. We will 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.

RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

Dear Temple Family,

Please plan to join us on Sunday morning, May 18, at 9:30 a.m. for our annual Student Sponsorship Breakfast. This year, May 18 happens to be L'ag B'Omer—the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer—a measure of grain the ancient Israelites were commanded to offer to the Temple each day between Passover and Shavuot. The origins of L'ag B'Omer as a festive day are obscure. Many people are aware that weddings are traditionally not held during the period of the Omer, except on the 33rd day, but few scholars agree on why or when this custom came into being. One explanation, however, is most relevant to our celebration this year. L'ag B'Omer is sometimes called the “Scholars’ Day”—having to do with students of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, and a siege, or a plague (depending on whom you read), that miraculously ended on that day. Whatever the historical reality behind the day, it is certainly fitting to celebrate our school, our students, our teachers, and, most importantly, an individual in our congregation who devotes enormous energy and effort to sustaining us—**Elaine Katz**.

As many of you know, children of temple members do not pay tuition for our religious school from kindergarten to third grade. We have two extraordinary teachers in those grades who introduce our students to a love of Judaism and a thirst for Jewish knowledge with kindness, caring, creativity, and I can only describe it as *love*—for their subject matter and their students. **Zoe Magid** came to our school three years ago to teach. The next year she brought her sister, **Michelle Shteingart**. They will be honored with the Rita and Charles Tenenbaum Hebrew Scholarship Award

at the breakfast (although, sadly, Zoe will be in Texas, where her husband has just been transferred—but don't worry, we have an excellent replacement for next year!).

Elaine Katz is one of the people who helps to ensure the fiscal stability of our congregation. Without her efforts, we would not be able to run our religious school. But that is only the tip of the iceberg of what she does for Riverdale Temple. Elaine is equally involved in our Women of Reform Judaism. Elaine is the unseen mover behind almost every communal celebration. You will quite often find her in the kitchen, making sure that whatever oneg or kiddush we are holding meets her exacting standards. Most of all, however, Elaine is the person I turn to when I need a straight answer. She is my trusted adviser, counselor, and friend. If she tells me I've done something well, I know that I can feel good about it. If she points out something I could have done better, or need to do, I learn and grow from her because she does it purely out of love for this congregation—and she's always on the mark!

This extraordinary woman deserves everyone's respect and admiration, and I urge you to be there as we honor her and our teachers, observe first hand some of the work our students have been doing in class all year, enjoy a delicious brunch, and, most of all, support our religious school by filling in the gap between what it costs to pay our teachers and purchase our supplies, and what we receive through tuition. We want our school to transmit to our children a love of and pride in their Jewish heritage. Please show your support and add your help by joining us on May 18.

—Rabbi Judith Lewis

Calendar for May

- 4 Religious School
- 6 Hebrew School (Yom Ha'atzmaut)

- 11 Religious School
- 13 Hebrew School (Last Day)
- 18 Religious School—Student Sponsorship Breakfast

ADULT EDUCATION

YIVO
Yidische kultur-serye

JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2013-2014

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014 | 2:00PM

**THE BUSINESS OF MASS JEWISH
MIGRATION TO AMERICA**

EIGHTY PERCENT OF AMERICAN JEWS TODAY are descended from men and women who decided to leave Eastern Europe and seek fortunes elsewhere. Jews were seven times more likely to leave than your average Russian and three times more likely to immigrate than a typical Pole.

In this lecture **REBECCA KOBRIN**, Columbia University historian, explores: Why did so many more Jews decide to leave Eastern Europe? What pushed them to leave their places of birth and venture across the seas? How did they finance their trips?

ADMISSION: \$10 | Learn more at riverdaletemple.org/

We are excited about the two events taking place in May that are sponsored by the Adult Education Committee. Come and learn with us. **Study with Rabbi Lewis:** I want to remind you to register for Rabbi Lewis's **new course**, “The Evolution of the Jewish God,” which explores the origins of Judaism. Registration forms are in the lobby on the shelf next to the office, and you can leave them in the box called Adult Education. The course is free and open to the community. It

starts on Thursday, May 1, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and continues every Thursday in the social hall until June 19.

YIVO Jewish Culture Series Sunday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m. We will present the third lecture in this year's series, “The Business of Mass Jewish Migration to America.” The lecture is presented by Rebecca Kobrin, Columbia University historian. See the description (left) for the details.

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

The Chavurah will meet on May 17, following the Shabbat service. The Torah portion for that day is Bechukotai. In this reading God enumerates the rewards for keeping the commandments (e.g., rain in its season, hearty crops, enemies that are easily defeated) and the punishments for violating them (e.g., illness that fills the spirit with grief). Join us for a potluck dairy lunch followed by study and discussion.

In addition, be sure to put Shavuot on your calendar. Erev Shavuot is Tuesday, June 3, and commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. Shavuot is traditionally celebrated with study and the eating of dairy products. Although the study

session is still being planned, it is not too soon to think about what delightful dairy dessert you can bring to the temple to feed the

body, as study feeds the soul.

—Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

SOCIAL ACTION

Riverdale Temple's Mitzvah Day 2014 was accomplished with the help, kindness and support of the following:

Rabbi Judith Lewis, Dr. Rachel Radna, Terri Truesdale, Eurides Osorio, and Mr. Santana (administration)

Howie Malatzky did all the shopping for needed items and Shelly Ast was a donor.

The volunteers for the diverse Mitzvah Day activities were:

Part of the Solution (POTS) Bagged Lunches: David Currier, J. B. and Nancy Barricklo, Jen Petras, Terri Levine, Rachel Buchsbaum, Pam Danzig, Gwen Jurmark, and Phil Clarke; Rose Marcus's fifth and sixth graders from the Religious School

Midnight Run and Atria Hospice Grooming Kits: Howie Malatzky, Ruth Loebmann, and Michelle Shteingart's kindergarten, first, and second graders from the Religious School. (We have already received a thank-you letter from the Midnight Run, which explained that the kits were quickly distributed to homeless people in need the same week of Mitzvah Day 2014. The letter is posted on the glass in the main office.)

Clothing Drive for Big Brothers/Big Sisters: Rita Pochter Lowe, Janet Neufeld, Jack and Phyllis Fisher, Terri Levine, Helen Madow, Martin Ochoa-Dreyfus, Zoe Magid's second and third graders, and Michal Birnbaum's seventh graders from the Religious School. We also want to acknowledge the many donors of quality clothing from the temple and the community at large.

Schervier Afternoon Social Activity: Jeff, Jennifer, and Jeremy Sklar, Tom and Helen Krim, and three volunteers from Riverdale Presbyterian Church: Joan Aldred, Shirley Maragh, and LaFredia Davis.

Many events took place on April 6 in the community and the city. We are especially grateful to those from the temple and friends from the larger community who donated precious time to accomplish Mitzvah Day 2014.

ALS Walks: For people who enjoy doing walks for charities, there will be two ALS walks: May 3, 2014, at Hudson River Park, pier 45 in Manhattan; and on June 14, 2014, at Manhattanville College, Purchase, New York. You can register at www.ALSWALKS.org.

KRMH Grocery Deliveries: The May donations to the KRMH Food Pantry will be on May 18, at 11:45 a.m. June donation will take place on June 22. We want to especially thank Rachel Buchsbaum's Nursery School children and parents, who made a special collection and donation on Mitzvah Day.

Best wishes for health and joy now that spring has finally arrived. Anyone interested in joining Riverdale Temple's Social Action Committee and in planning new and continued activities for 5775 should contact Dr. Frances Segan and David Currier.

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

MEN'S CLUB

I hope that all of you celebrated the Passover holiday. As I reflect on the Passover experience and the significance of the freedom from bondage, I would love to share some of what was discussed at a recent Chavurah meeting. We took a look at an article by Dr. Eliezer Diamond, who is the Rabbi Judah Nadich Associate Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at The Jewish Theological Seminary. The article is entitled "'This Year We Are Slaves': How and Why Do We Celebrate Freedom in the Face of Oppression?" and considers what it means to celebrate Passover in the shadow of death? In the article, Rabbi Diamond asks what we can learn from the fact that even in gulags and death camps some Jews were able to celebrate the festival of freedom. He turns to the words of Simcha Bunim Unsrdorfer, a former inmate at Buchenwald, from his memoir, *The Yellow Star*, about the events of Passover in 1945. Unsrdorfer wrote out a Haggadah from memory, used a rusty cup of coffee as a substitute for the four cups of wine, and managed to scrape up enough flour for three small matzot.

Unsrdorfer points to the passage in the Haggadah that reminds us that in every generation there have been those who tried to destroy us, and concludes that the very act of continuing to observe the Passover Seder is a source of the courage and strength the Jewish people has needed to survive.

In Rabbi Diamond's words, "The Haggadah tells us that we were redeemed by God, and I believe that this is true. But I believe that redemption also comes through stubborn and unselfish

commitment and hope. And this is what I learn from Unsrdorfer and others like him. He teaches me that my celebration of the Seder is important simply because I do it. I am announcing, 'I am here. I am taking up the legacy entrusted to me by the Jews who came before me, and I am passing it on to my children and my children's children. And I achieve this by remembering and doing.'"

We all sometimes question why we should observe one or another ritual or tradition. Perhaps what Rabbi Diamond learned from Unsrdorfer can be a lesson for us all. Sometimes the doing is the answer itself. So when you wonder why you should participate in any of the activities, rituals, study sessions, and programs at Riverdale Temple, just try one and you may find your answer. To borrow a saying from another famous source: "Just Do It."

The next Men's Club Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 10, following services.

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

Save the Date
Saturday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m.
Open Mic Night
Sponsored by the Men's Club



There is an old saying that “seeing is believing.” The saying is particularly true if you had attended, been a witness to, one of the most pleasurable Women’s Seders held in recent memory. Both Susan Birnbaum and Rachel Radna, who assumed the responsibility of chairing a committee of dedicated women, to its successful conclusion, are to be commended. “Seder,” as we know, means *order*. Order is what Rabbi Lewis adhered to as she conducted the ritual ceremony, while leading us in prayer. Student cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, with baby Amit in her arms, sang traditional melodies with considerable emotion—it was hauntingly beautiful. We all sang “Dayeynu” with such intensity, some of us pounding the tables with our fists, while others danced using the tambourines and timbrels we were given.

Young children, as well as adults, shared in reading the Women’s Haggadah. There were shouts of joy when the children found the Afikomen. The coming together of the young, and those a bit older, is not only heartwarming, it is impressive as to its diversity. I cannot say what made this night different from all other nights. Perhaps it was the congeniality everyone experienced. One guest remarked on the use of rectangular, rather than round, tables, which brought back memories of her attending Seders at her grandparents’ home. Her comment, “It was a hamish dinner, shared with so many women, some of whom I hadn’t seen in a while,” might explain the successful night enjoyed by all. The dictionary defines success as, “To accomplish something desired or intended; having a favorable outcome.” It certainly was!!

Join Rabbi Lewis and the members of the Women of Reform Judaism in prayer, song, and meditation on Saturday morning, May 10, when we, as a community, conduct services.

In order to demonstrate our appreciation for those women who support the temple and who attend our events, there will be a **Paid-Up Membership** gathering, with a light supper, on Tuesday, **May 13**.

It’s been said that Dorothy Feldman and I are similar to salt and pepper, since we work so well with one another. It’s my hope you will get to know her as I do. This is but a brief description of her talents:

After working as an educator/administrator for 40 years with the NYC Department of Education, teaching every grade from kindergarten to college, providing hundreds of professional development workshops, chairing a major education conference for 15 years, and holding positions in various professional organizations, she decided, in 2003, to retire and become a woman of leisure. She began to travel. Her first trip to Israel took place in 2012 with Rabbi Lewis. Dorothy said it was “the best introduction to Israel and a wonderful way to meet fellow congregants.” Recently, she traveled to Costa Rica, Italy, and, again, Israel. Building on her training and background in art as a graduate of the High School of Music and Art and a fine arts major at Hunter College, she now takes drawing and watercolor classes and has received honors for paintings that have been exhibited. Most importantly, she has agreed to become co-president of WRJ and has begun to organize the many events our members have come to expect and participate in.

The first Tuesday of each month (May 6), at 7:30 p.m., is dedicated to the WRJ meeting. It’s open to any female congregant of the temple. Dorothy and I look forward to welcoming you.

—Elaine Katz, Co-President

Book Club: Our next meeting will take place on **May 27** at 7:30 p.m. The book we will discuss is *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*. It is a collection of short stories by Nathan Englander, a talented young writer who comes from the Orthodox community in Hempstead, Long Island. His short fiction and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The Washington Post*.

—Ronni Stolzenberg

WRJ-led Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Lewis will guide the WRJ (Sisterhood) in a lay-led Shabbat Service with opportunities for women to participate.



Riverdale Temple cordially invites you to attend our annual **Student Sponsorship Breakfast** in celebration of Jewish education

Honoring

Elaine Katz

and presenting the Rita and Charles L. Tenenbaum Hebrew Chair

Award to

Michelle Shteingart and Zoe Magid

Sunday, May 18, 2014

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Riverdale Temple Social Hall

Featuring poster sessions and presentations by the students of Riverdale Temple Religious School and music provided by the Junior Choir

To reserve space for your family, please return the donation cards or go to riverdaletemple.org and make your donation through the website.

All donations are appreciated. Donations above the Donor level will receive special acknowledgment. You can also RSVP via e-mail to rivtemple@aol.com.

Please respond by May 12, 2014

718-548-3800

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

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

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 HONOR
Charles and Pauline Albert	Michael Heller and the Purim Players	Ruth Loebmann	Riverdale Temple, for my aliyah on Shabbat Tzav
Sandra Arnowich	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday	Rachel Radna	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday: Me'Ah V'Esrin!
Deborah S. Berkowitz	Jade Jacunski-Bloomfield's birthday!	David and Linda Spatz	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday
Ephraim Bosgang	Riverdale Temple, for its generous Purim gift bag Rabbi, Cantor, and Congregants—Happy Passover	Ilse Spatz	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday
Irene Brenner	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday	Mae H. and Hope Zuckerman	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday
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Kevin J. Fried	Jade Jacunski-Bloomfield's birthday!	Shelley Ast	Harry Ast, beloved father
Monica Friedman and Ruth Hecht	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday: may this be a year of good health and happiness!	Lillian Axel	Rodolphe Axel, beloved husband
Stuart J. Goldshein	Elaine Katz, for her milestone 85th birthday Riverdale Temple, for sponsoring YIVO's May 4 lecture	Ellen Rae Batt	Sophie Batt, beloved mother
Riva K. Goldstein	Riverdale Temple, for its generous Purim gift bag	Irene Brenner	Malcolm Brenner, beloved husband
Margaret and L. Michael Griffel	Elaine Katz, on her special birthday	Teri S. Gamble	Jennie Reaboy, beloved grandmother
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Elaine Katz	Rabbi Judith Lewis	Margaret and L. Michael Griffel	Joseph Griffel, beloved father of L. Michael Griffel
Gladys Katz	Elaine Katz, on her 85th birthday	Beverly Hamada	Ruth L. Krisiloff, beloved mother
Ellen and Guy Knafo	Riverdale Temple, for its generous Purim gift bag	Sherry and Carol Kassel	Edmund Fox, beloved uncle of Carol and Sherry Kassel
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Roslyn Levy	Elaine Katz, for her 85th birthday	Jill and James Lipton	Ann Lipton, beloved mother of James A. Lipton
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		Jill H. Shaifer	Dora Shaifer, beloved mother of Jack Shaifer
		Patricia and Richard Taich	Richard Spath, beloved husband of Renee Spath
		Evelyn and Irving Weiler	Hilda Weiler, beloved mother of Irving Weiler



Condolences

To:

Joshua and Meryl Elkin, Ruby, and Ezra
Sylvia Klein Paff Kovar;
Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker and Marty Becker;
Lance J. Kovar, Galina, and Sophia

On the loss of

Edward Elkin, beloved father and father-in-law, grandfather
Lester J. Kovar, beloved husband, father, grandfather;
former president of Riverdale Temple

Leah Kurtz
Pollak family

Harry Wexler, beloved cousin
Herta Pollak, beloved mother, long-time member of Riverdale Temple

The Departed Whom We Now Remember—May Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Richard M. Kronman | 7 Bridie LaCava | 13 Jessie Ludwig | 19 Lewis C. Leighton |
| 1 J. Burton Orr | 7 John J. Loebmann | 13 Evelyn Rose Spanier | 19 Jack Sackstein |
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| 3 Dr. Leo Charles | 8 Ruth Silver | 15 Anna Lerman | 21 Edith Oppenheim |
| 3 Rose Cohen | 8 Joseph Silverstein | 15 Betty Lett | 22 Dr. Philip Bereano |
| 3 Charles Gallub | 8 Isidore Weiss | 15 Joseph Schoen | 22 Helen Lippmann Block |
| 3 Samuel Jacob Geyer | 9 Daniel J. Pinsky | 15 Robert Wagonfeld | 22 Celia Kantor |
| 3 Meyer Propper | 9 Elysse Gabrielle Roger | 16 Louis Angstreich | 23 Sheldon Cohen |
| 3 Roslyn Socolof | 10 Helen N. Kabak | 16 Francis J. Bloustein | 23 Hyman Golden |
| 4 Edward Eichenwald | 10 Mariann Kovar | 16 Louis Silver | 23 Irving Isaacs |
| 4 Max Faro | 10 Hyman H. Kramer | 17 Fred Gottschalk | 24 Harry Fried |
| 4 Ethel B. Liebowitz | 10 Dr. Bezalel Levi | 17 Julia Heimowitz | 24 Jacob Fritz |
| 4 Sandra Nadine Lopato | 11 Bernard A. Guenzig | 17 Ludwig Kahn | 24 Adele Diane Gray |
| 5 Jack Bernstein | 11 Nathan Halpern | 17 Bernard Schnitzer | 24 Vera T. Rosenblum |
| 5 Lee S. Haber | 11 Abner Kurtin | 17 Aaron Seelig | 27 Abraham "Allie" Pochter |
| 5 Harry Leff | 11 Julius Pargh | 17 Hon. Howard Silver | 27 Rose Reinhart |
| 6 Eva Dilloff | 12 Bernard H. Friedman | 17 Corinne Wessler | 29 Meyer Karsh |
| 6 Ruth L. Krisiloff | 12 Arthur London | 18 Eva Arnovich | 29 Bella Perlstein |
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