



# The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְהֵלֵל שֵׁם יי

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

## Worship Services (also see calendar on p. 2)

### Fridays

- Sept. 6 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service  
Sept. 13 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service  
Sept. 20 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service  
Sept. 27 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

### Saturdays

- Sept. 7 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service  
Sept. 14 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service  
Sept. 21 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service  
Sept. 28 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Vol. 73

September 2019 (5779)

No. 1

## THE RABBI'S COLUMN

I hope you are all as happy to get your new bulletin as I am! We are so fortunate to have Marge Griffel as our bulletin editor. She does an amazing job producing a bulletin that is entertaining, informative, and accurate. We can't thank her enough!

I am currently reading Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's biography of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson. When Rabbi Schneerson taught the lesson that indicated that he was finally willing to accept the position of leader of Chabad, he based it on the last lesson his predecessor had written before his death. Many times during the lecture Rabbi Schneerson had to pause to weep. This would be devastating for a political candidate but was very appropriate in this situation.

In fact, Judaism is a very emotional religion. Not only do we expect people to be emotional at weddings and funerals, but our religion demands that we be emotional at specific times of the year. For example, on Tisha b'Av, which this year was on August 11, we are required to be sad. On the day that commemorates the destruction of two Temples, along with many other Jewish tragedies, Judaism requires that we not only fast, but actually feel the emotions appropriate to the day.

How does this work? We read only sad portions of the Torah, we chant in a melancholy mode. Traditionally, we sit on the floor or on low seats, like mourners, and in many synagogues the lights are dimmed. Not only that, but we build up to the day with depressing Haftarah readings. The tradition does everything it can to make each person feel the sorrow of the loss of the Temples.

On the other hand, holidays such as Simchat Torah are designed to create happiness. The music, the dancing, the grand and joyous tune that is used to call up the Torah readers, all of this gives us a feeling of real joy. Just to be sure, many synagogues make it a practice to have schnapps at the service. If Simchat Torah is not really joyful, the service leaders have failed.

As we approach the High Holy Days, what kind of emotion does Judaism expect of us? The holidays themselves are extremely important. Perhaps more than on any other day, we stand before Gd and are judged righteous or unrighteous. Perhaps more than on any other day, we realize that we are either truly doing our best or not living up to our potential. So as the High Holy Days approach, we should have the slightly uncomfortable feeling that something important is coming. A final exam, a term paper, a trial. It



## High Holy Days Services

(see p. 11 for details)

**Sat., Sept. 21, Selichot Service**

**Sun., Sept. 29, Erev Rosh Hashanah**

**Mon. Sept. 30, Rosh Hashanah Morning 1  
and Family and Children's Service**

**Tues., Oct. 1, Rosh Hashanah Morning 2**

**Tues., Oct. 8, Kol Nidre Service**

**Wed., Oct. 9, Yom Kippur Morning,  
Family and Children's Service,  
and Afternoon Service with Yizkor**

*continued on p. 3*

# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st of Elul 5779	2nd of Elul 5779 <b>Labor Day</b> Building closed	3rd of Elul 5779	4th of Elul 5779	5th of Elul 5779 7:30 pm WRJ Meeting and Knitting Club	6th of Elul 5779 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	7th of Elul 5779 Parashat Shoftim 10:30 am Shabbat Service with Torah discussion Extended Kiddush after service
8th of Elul 5779	9th of Elul 5779 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner	10th of Elul 5779	11th of Elul 5779	12th of Elul 5779 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	13th of Elul 5779 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	14th of Elul 5779 Parashat Ki Teitzei 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Extended Kiddush after service, followed by Chavurah study group 7:30 pm Wine, Cheese, and Karaoke
15th of Elul 5779 9:30 am First day of Simcha Learning Center Sunday classes 10:30 am Social Action Committee meeting 11:30 am RT Welcome Back Barbecue	16th of Elul 5779 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner	17th of Elul 5779 4:00 pm First day of Simcha Learning Center Tuesday classes	18th of Elul 5779	19th of Elul 5779 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	20th of Elul 5779 10:00 am Baking with R&R 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	21st of Elul 5779 Parashat Ki Tavo Selichot 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Extended Kiddush after service 7:30 pm Selichot Program and Service
22nd of Elul 5779 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center 11:30 am Delivery of donations to KRMH Pantry	23rd of Elul 5779 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner	24th of Elul 5779 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center	25th of Elul 5779	26th of Elul 5779	27th of Elul 5779 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	28th of Elul 5779 Parashat Nitzavim 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Torah discussion Extended Kiddush after service
29th of Elul 5779 Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	1st of Tishrei 5880 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 10:00 am Day 1 Services Noon Tashlich meets at Temple 1:30 pm Family and Children's Services					
29	30	24	25	26	27	28

is likely to be difficult. It may turn out well for us, but it may not.

Is there any kind of preparation we can do before the High Holy Days? Certainly! The month of Elul, which began on Saturday evening, August 31, is known as a month of *cheshbon nefesh*, an accounting of the soul. We should be filled with unease, a sense that things are not as they should be (except in the case of the many members of Riverdale Temple who have done absolutely nothing wrong this year). We should examine our hearts, and we should be sick and sorry about the shortcomings we find. The month of Elul is a time to commit to a better life, to apologize and make reparations for wrongs we have done, to repay debts we owe, and to give freely to charity. If we prepare in this way, the fear we feel as we approach the High Holy Days will be diminished.

Judaism calls for various emotions throughout the year. There are high points and low points. There is sadness, joy, and the thrilling experience of confronting the meaning of life. All of us together are heading toward that moment, and together we feel the experience of the roller coaster car climbing and climbing. I look forward to seeing all of you when we reach the top, when our exam begins, when all of us stand before the true Judge and make our confession. When that moment comes, may we pass our exam, may we find true meaning in our lives, and may we all be blessed with a sweet new year!

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

## THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

Shalom chaveirim,

L’Shanah Tovah Tikateivu—may you be inscribed for a good year! Another year is about to unfold, and there is so much excitement that comes with it. I have spent the summer in Israel with my family, and it was truly inspirational. Our time in the Holy Land was beautiful, warm, delicious, filled with family and friends. It felt important to get close to the spirituality that is within Israel; to pray at the Kotel (Western Wall), dip in the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), and enjoy the Israeli landscape. I am happy to share more of my experiences with you in person!

Long before the summer, Rabbi Gardner and I were planning carefully and thoughtfully the High Holy Days services using our new prayer book, *Mishkan Hanefesh*. We are uplifted by the inspirational work within this machzor, and we look forward to your experiencing it as well with us.

What do you hope to find within it? That is not an easy question to answer. But, in a nutshell, it is a machzor with a new philosophy and design. You will find inspirational readings “from feelings of awe to moments of solace,” intellectual and authentic readings, an accessible guideline to making *t’shuvah* and *cheshbon nefesh*—a return to Gd and the process of looking deeply into your soul, a variety of theological approaches, a commitment to the Reform tradition, and excellent transliterations. The machzor is contemporary, as it addresses concerns that we face today. Most importantly, this machzor is inclusive and egalitarian.

I am excited for all of us to use the *Mishkan Hanefesh*. Like any change, it will be different and scary, but I have complete faith that

quickly enough we will be inspired and focus on the prayers, as individuals and as a community. We are all in this together!

I am also very excited to share the news about my upcoming benefit concert (see below)!

Lastly, I am also excited about a new year with our Ruach Shabbat band! This year we will have our Ruach band during our Simchat Torah celebration, on October 21 at 6:00 p.m. This should be such an exciting and joyful service for everyone. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the Ruach Shabbat services, which are listed on p. 6

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

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**Cantors & Friends Cabaret!**

A Broadway Extravaganza **BENEFIT CONCERT** to raise funds to repair our roof, with special guest star Adam Shapiro of the Yiddish *Fiddler on the Roof!* Also featuring Cantors Rebecca Garfein (Rodeph Sholom, NYC), Susan Lewis Friedman (Temple Jeremiah, Chicago), Daniel Singer (Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, NYC), and myself. It includes Broadway singers Lauren Sadkin and Stuart Zagnit, as well as pianist Raphael Crystal. The date: Sunday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m.

This concert is being made available by the generosity of Martin and Helena Hoffman in memory of Martin’s beloved parents, Pearl and Milton Hoffman.

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## THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Another summer is drawing to a close, and Riverdale Temple is gearing up for the fast-approaching High Holy Days. Having attended a good number of Shabbat services during the summer, I can say that we are a lucky congregation to have clergy and lay leaders who can uplift and inspire us with words and songs even when there is no keyboard to accompany them, even when the weather is hot and humid, even when everyone is tired and worn out and in need of a vacation! Special thanks to Rachel Radna and

Shelley Ast for conducting most of the lay-led services during the short period when both Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer were on their well-earned vacations. Other congregants who enriched our Shabbat services during the clergy’s vacation weeks include Amy Bensen, Carol and Lucy Kassel, Craig and Lev Katz, Ruth Loebmann, Ronna Weber, and Lisa Wolovick.

Rosh Hashanah arrives this year on the evening of September 29. We have sent you mail in recent weeks to remind you that

you need to mail (or give) the temple office your ticket request and updated information form—and, of course, pay your annual membership dues—by September 5, so that you can pick up your High Holy Days tickets from the temple office as of September 15. Another mailing, sent by our Women of Reform Judaism, offered congregants an opportunity to send New Year’s greetings to family members, friends, children’s teachers, congregants, and others by ordering jars of honey from the temple (for \$11.50 per jar). The WRJ will do all the packaging and shipping of the jars for you. This order needs to be sent to the temple by Friday, September 6.

We look forward to many wonderful times together with you in the coming year: Selichot, the High Holy Days, our Sukkot services and celebrations, dancing with our Torahs on Simchat Torah, the start of another joyous year at the Simcha Learning Center, reconnecting with our littlest ones in the Nursery School,

and the resumption of a full set of clergy-led adult education classes. Also, the temple will offer this year’s first YIVO talk on October 27, when Jonathan Brent, the distinguished CEO and executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, will discuss recent events in Poland and the USA and the fundamental problems of Jewish–Polish dialogue.

Please know that if you wish to become more involved in participating in Riverdale Temple activities or would like to be considered for membership on its Board of Trustees in the near future, or on any of the temple’s committees, please let Rachel Radna or me know of your interests. You can write us at [president@riverdaletemple.org](mailto:president@riverdaletemple.org). Rachel and I take this opportunity to wish you a 5780 filled with sweetness, peace, and the best of health!

—L. Michael Griffel, Co-President



### Baking with R&R

Learn to create a round braided challah for the High Holy Days with our Rebbitzen and Rachel—Friday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m. \$18. Sign up by September 11 at [Riverdaletemple.org](http://Riverdaletemple.org) or send a check with “challah bake” in the memo line.

Join your Riverdale Temple family as we come together for our Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast traditional dairy meal immediately following Yom Kippur services on Wednesday evening, October 9. Advance reservations/payments are a must! Information available soon!



## SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

As Labor Day approaches, we hear the crickets outside a little less, the humming of the air conditioning dying down, and the streets a little emptier as people are away for the last summer outing before school gets started. However, we at Riverdale Temple and the Simcha Learning Center are busy and in full force eagerly preparing to welcome back our students, families, teachers, and several new children and teachers to the SLC. This year the theme for our school will be Torah: the values of Torah, the history of Torah, Tzedakah and Mitzvah of Torah, the traditions of Torah, and the holidays of Torah. In addition to the various ways of learning in the classrooms, our children will experience Torah with stories, games, art projects, music, Tefillah-worship services, and discussions related to Torah. We will be having a special program with a Sofer, a scribe, during which our students will experience first hand how a Torah is written and have the opportunity to use a calligraphy pen to write their Hebrew names. An exciting year is ahead of us.

I look forward to greeting everyone on the first day of classes: **Sunday, September 15, at 9:30 a.m.** Please spread the word that registration is ongoing and to contact me for additional information.



Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah—a good year!

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist

## Bulletin Board

### Upcoming in September\*

WRJ Meeting and Knitting	Sept. 5
Wine, Cheese, and Karaoke	Sept. 14
Social Action Committee Meeting	Sept. 15
Baking with R&R	Sept. 20
Selichot Program and Service	Sept. 21

Social Action Grocery Delivery	Sept. 22
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	Sept. 29
Rosh Hashanah Services Day 1	Sept. 30

\*Dates subject to change. Check [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org) and e-blasts for updates.

### Congratulations!



**Amy and Henry Bensen** on their special wedding anniversary

**Michael Friedman** and **Jeannine Fetsco** on their wedding

**Tessa Kleinman Bershod, Juliette Kleinman,** and **David Bershod** on Tessa's Bat Mitzvah celebration



Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is due by **September 16**. You can email it directly to [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.com) (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



<b>Riverdale Temple</b>	Rabbi	4
<b>Telephone Extensions</b> (718-548-3800)	Cantor	5
Temple Office	0 or 1	6
Bookkeeper	2	7
Nursery School	3	8
	Simcha Learning Center	9
	Emergencies	7
	General Information	8
	Other	9

### Registry of Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor or a 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 [ushmm.org/resourcecenter](http://ushmm.org/resourcecenter) and click on Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center to complete the form. Contact information: Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; tel: 202-488-6112; fax: 202-314-7820; email: [resource-center@ushmm.org](mailto:resource-center@ushmm.org).

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



Visit our website: <https://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 give 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 with our logo 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.

**Please volunteer to serve on this committee by writing to [rivotemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@aol.com) or [president@riverdaletemple.org](mailto:president@riverdaletemple.org)**

Riverdale Temple is now part of the organics/compost pilot program in the Bronx. We can now recycle our food scraps. Please observe the different signs on the garbage receptacles and put throwaways in the proper container. We are pioneers in a wonderful program—please join the effort in caring for our environment. Thank you!



Recapture the joy of reading through the JBI Library for visually impaired, blind, and reading-disabled individuals,

all provided free of charge and delivered to your doorstep. Call 1-800-433-1531 or visit JBI's website at [www.jbilibrary.org](http://www.jbilibrary.org).

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## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



It was an amazing summer! We had our third year of summer camp and the children had a wonderful time. Summer camp has grown to three groups. We had one Two-Year-Old Group, one Three-Year-Old Group, and a Fours/Fives Group. The Twos Group was especially magical. Many of the children had never been in school before, and they immediately felt comfortable and at home in our space. We had farm-animal visiting, the “Balloon Rebbe” creating balloon animals, a face painter, Greenburgh Nature Center, and a magician. AnnMarie Melia, Robin Meyiri, Lorena Hildago, Albert Delatorre, Mandy Haxhija, Ortal Shamur, Sandi Daniels, and Penny Linden were our incredible teachers. We were so blessed to have amazing teenage volunteers from RKA, whom the children loved! We did lots of crafts, woodworking, painting in the playground, and, of course, water play.

This year we are adding a second Two-Year-Old Class. The teachers are Anna Walko and Mandy Haxhija. They have had playgroups with families before school started, to help the children and families feel more comfortable about coming to school. Anna also teaches children’s yoga, so these little two-year-olds will be doing yoga poses in their class.

We are excited to have the Afterschool Enrichment program. We will be having Story Time and Cookies with Linda on Mondays that will be free, but children will need to be with a caretaker. All are welcome! We will have MadScience on Tuesdays, soccer on Wednesdays with Happyfeet, and Jewish enrichment on Thursdays with our incredible Sandi Daniels.

Our wonderful Cristin Messinger will be doing Mommy and Me on Tuesdays in the library at 9:15 a.m. It is an incredible way for children to get used to coming to school and trying new activities with other children. Cristin is warm and welcoming, and all the little ones always want to stay and play longer!!

We will continue to work on kindness as a community. We will read books about kindness and talk about it. We will do projects

as a whole community to remind us about how important it is to be kind in the world.

We are also going to have a Parent Support Group this year. Parenting is hard work, and we want our families to have a safe space to ask questions, share their thoughts, and be a part of a community. Rebecca Zinger will be leading it. She is the mother of Asher and Ruby and the wife of Leon.

We had our annual Before School Picnic in our playground on August 25, which featured muffins and fruit, bubbles for children, and projects for them to work on. It included a face painter and our wonderful movement teacher, Kara Tatelbaum. Our incredible families and teachers are what makes Riverdale Temple Nursery School so special.

On September 4 at 6:00 p.m., the Nursery School will have Parent Orientation. Parents will meet the teachers, meet other parents, learn what their child’s curriculum will be, and hear about all the wonderful events Riverdale Temple Nursery School is planning for the school year.

On Friday, September 13, we will have an Ice Cream Social at 3:00 p.m. at the playground. All are welcome!!

Our Harvest Fair will be on Sunday, September 22. Classes will have tables with crafts, and, of course, there will be food. It will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please come and bring your friends and family!

Please know that my door is always open! If you have questions or concerns or ways to make our school better, I would love to hear your ideas.

We know it is going to be a wonderful 2019–2020 school year!

“If you have good thoughts/They will shine out of your face like sunbeams/And you will always look lovely. —“The Twits” by Roald Dahl

—Linda Herman, Director



### Tot Shabbat Services

These services, held during the school year on certain Fridays at 5:00 p.m., are led by Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer. They include singing and guitar playing. For potluck dinners, we try to make every possible accommodation for food allergies and kashrut observance (all dishes are labeled). There are no Tot Shabbat services in September. The first is scheduled for Oct. 18.

# SAVE THE DATES

# RUACH SHABBAT

5779–5780 🌾🌾 2019–2020

OCTOBER 21	RUACH SIMCHAT TORAH	6 pm
NOVEMBER 15	RUACH SHABBAT	7 pm
DECEMBER 13	PRE-CHANUKAH RUACH SHABBAT	6 pm
JANUARY 10	RUACH SHABBAT	7 pm
MARCH 20	RUACH SHABBAT	7 pm
APRIL 3	PRE- PASSOVER RUACH SHABBAT	6:30 pm
MAY 1	ISRAEL RUACH SHABBAT	6:30 pm

## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

### WELCOME 5780!!

When I woke up the other morning and ventured outside to walk my dog, I noticed that the air was crisp. As I looked around the neighborhood, I saw beginning signs that autumn was coming. I didn't need the "Back to School" ads or "Pumpkin Spice" flavors to remind me. Although, I am happy that apple season is coming, more importantly, A NEW YEAR IS COMING! As I think about our New Year at Riverdale Temple, I am delighted that our RT calendar is filling up quickly with wonderful events for the whole family to participate in. WRJ anchors many of these, and we look forward to your help and participation.

Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the west wing. We will review our calendar, talk onegs, Lunch in the Sukkah, reviving the Book Club, and many more items, including, of course, Knitting!

It's going to be a great year! And we look forward to your joining us.

—Joanne Heyman, President



**Wine, Cheese, and Karaoke**  
on Saturday, September 14, 7:30–  
10:30 p.m.

You bring the wine, the temple  
provides the snack. Still only

\$10 for an evening full of feel-good fun!

Riverdale Temple Welcome Back  
Barbecue  
Sunday, September 15  
11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.



## MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

### Hate Has No Home Here

Recently, while passing through a small town on my way to Canada for a short fishing excursion with my son, I noticed a sign on the front lawn of a house that stated: "Hate has no home here." As I continued driving, I noticed several more homes also displayed the same sign on their property. Throughout the long fishing weekend, my mind reflected back on the sign and the thoughts the message provoked in me. When I returned home, I decided to investigate the origin of the sign. The "Hate Has No Home Here" sign began as a project with a group of neighbors from North Park, a Chicago neighborhood characterized by its diversity of age, race, nationality, and ethnicity. Many ties bind the residents of North Park to one another; the most notable is the neighborhood school, an elementary school, where the student body mimics the demographics of the neighborhood and where educators and families are committed to celebrating diversity. The phrase used in this sign was imagined by a third grader and kindergarten at Peterson Elementary School. The Hate Has No Home Here project seeks to declare neighborhood residences, businesses, and places of community free from hate speech and behavior, providing safe places for conversation, work, learning, and living.

Hate Has No Home Here encourages other communities to participate in combating hateful messages and behavior in their neighborhoods by going beyond the sign. In the North Park neighborhood, the project creators have used this opportunity to gather neighbors, start conversations about protecting and encouraging each other, and make plans for using resources to educate others. I couldn't help but see the parallels between the communities of North Park, Illinois, and Riverdale Temple. We, as members of the Riverdale temple community, often have different viewpoints on a particular subject. Yet we are all free to speak and to express our sentiments without fear of retribution.

We are also feeling a sense of the rejection of our values by the leadership in our government, and this sense of rejection can

weigh heavily on our minds. Clearly, this is a time for a show of hope and faith that better times are ahead for us. Having hope for a better future will sustain us through the dark times and the most perilous of situations we face presently. Hope for the future is the greatest tool for consolation in the present.

This past Shabbat (Aug. 17), we read the Torah portion *Vaetchanan*, which described Moshe's final appeal to Gd to enter into the promised land. This important Torah reading begins the seven-week period of reflection before we proceed into the High Holy Days. Moshe's final heartfelt appeal to the merciful Gd is refused and of no avail. He will not be allowed to enter the Land of Israel. One can only feel the bitter disappointment and frustration that he must have experienced at this response. Nevertheless, he continues in his role as teacher and leader of Israel even until his final day. Although Moshe was answered in the negative, this did not affect his attitude toward the Jewish people, let alone the Gd of Israel. On the surface there appear to be relatively few times in our painful history of exile and persecution when comfort and contentment are afforded to us. We have to make do with glasses that are only half full, physically speaking. However, the Jewish people always had an overflowing cup when it came to spirit, holiness, and Torah scholarship. This was always our vessel of hope and optimism. The Jewish people always believe that there are better days ahead. That belief alone sustains us through the darkest of times and the most perilous of situations. Our generation has lived to see a physical and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people, unimagined a century ago. These weeks of consolation and preparation for the great days that soon will be upon us should strengthen us in our resolve and spirit and will truly remain a great source of inspiration.

I welcome everyone back from their summer activities and invite you all to join our clergy in the celebration of our weekly Shabbat services.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

## SOCIAL ACTION

As we move from the hot days of summer to the start of fall and Rosh Hashanah, we hope many of you will participate in the Social Action activities of Riverdale Temple. Everyone is welcome to come to our first meeting on Sunday, September 15, from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Conference Room.

### Some September Activities

Sept. 15: Social Action meeting

Sept. 22: Delivery of groceries collected at Riverdale Temple for the KRMH Pantry at the Church of the Mediator, 11:30 a.m.

Sept. 29–30: Rosh Hashanah and start of distribution of paper grocery bags with handles (donated by Key Food at 235th St.). During September, as you do your holiday shopping, please remember to buy extra, healthful items to give during the special holiday collection. Suggested items: canned fish, soups, vegetables, fruits, oatmeal, evaporated milk, rice, etc. Please be sure all donated items are current, with no expired dates. NO MATZOHS, PLEASE!!!

### Looking Ahead

Oct. 11–Nov. 10: Annual Pajama Program Collection. If you see sales in stores or online, plan ahead to purchase at least 1 pair

of new pajamas for a boy or girl, sizes 4–XL. We have been able to donate at least 4 boxes of pajamas each year (about 50+). Please help support this effort for needy children, who do not own a pair of pajamas. The program enables children to pick a pair they like, and some programs also enable them to come to a reading program. If you want to know more, check out The Pajama Program on the web.

Dec. 15: KRMH Holiday Treat Bag Packing at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Bags are filled and given to children from the Women's Shelter on the Grand Concourse, the Men's Shelter at the Society for Ethical Culture, the Shelter at HIR, the homebound elderly through the Riverdale Y, children in the Church of the Mediator area, and KHCC.

April 26, 2020: Mitzvah Day. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

### KRMH Pantry: Riverdale Temple Deliveries

Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15; 2020: Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 22, April 19, May 17, and June 22

Wishing everyone a sweet New Year, filled with health, peace, contentment, and time to help others.

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

## ADULT EDUCATION



**Adult Education welcomes you to our 2019–2020 study year.** Please join us in our adult education activities. **All courses by the Rabbi, the Cantor's course on cantillation, and the YIVO lectures are free of charge.** We look forward to a productive learning year.

### Study with Rabbi Gardner

Mondays, Noon–1:00 p.m. **Lunch and Learn:** 613 Mitzvot, continued (beg. Sept. 9)

Mondays, 4:00–5:00 p.m. **Reform Responsa**—A course that takes a fascinating look at how the top Reform rabbis harmonize Jewish Law and the modern world (beg. Oct. 28)

**Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah** (beg. Oct. 29); alternating between Tuesdays and Sundays, noon–1:00 p.m. More details to follow next month.

### Study with Cantor Sharett-Singer

**Liturgical Hebrew:** Designed to enable our congregants to read the prayers and blessings of our services and rituals. The course is very individualized so that Cantor Sharett-Singer is able to teach students who are reading at a beginner's level. Each class will also provide opportunities to practice speaking modern Hebrew. The first cycle is on the following Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.: Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3. Second cycle: Dec. 10, 17; January 7, 14, 21, 28. Tuition is \$125.00 for each of the six-week cycles, which conclude in May. To register, email [cantorsharett@singer@riverdaletemple.org](mailto:cantorsharett@singer@riverdaletemple.org)

**The Art of Torah Cantillation:** Learn step by step the knowledge of the Torah trope cantillation system, as well as the skills of being a Gabbai, the one who assists the Torah reader during the service. This class is intended for those who possess a basic level of Hebrew-reading fluency, as well as those who wish to fine-tune their cantillation skills. Highly recommended for the Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. Free, open to temple members. Ten sessions on the following Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:15 p.m.:

March 4, 11, 18; April: 1, 22, 29; and May 6, 13, 20, 27.



Come learn with Riverdale Temple and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research!

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2:00 p.m. Nationalism, Religion, Anti-Semitism: The Nexus of Hate in Eastern Europe Today. Dr. Jonathan Brent, CEO of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, discusses the disturbing recent events in Poland (and America), and the fundamental problems of Jewish-Polish dialogue.

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m. What's Jewish about Jewish Folklore. Folklorist and author Itzik Gottesman looks at how Jewish folklore is different from other folklores around the world, while, at the same time, how it shares many of the same characteristics.

Sunday, May 24, 2020, 2:00 p.m. A Jewish Refugee Woman in New York in the 1920s through the Lens of a Yiddish Novel. Professor and author Dr. Anita Norich examines acculturation and the challenges and fears faced by Jewish refugees who were able to escape to the United States as war broke out in Poland.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

**The Chavurah** will meet on **September 14**, following the Shabbat Service and communal lunch. The Torah portion for that day is Ki Teitzei. In it, Moses continues his lecture to the Israelites, focusing on rules regarding family relationships, justice, responsibility, work, and sexuality. That's a lot of laws. We will also study the upcoming holidays of Selichot (Sept. 21), Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1), and Yom Kippur (Oct. 8–9). Please join us for what will be a fascinating discussion.

—Dr. Ronna Weber



## CONTRIBUTIONS

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**Condolences**

To	On the loss of
Marilyn Ross Cahn and Steven Cahn, Margaret Ross Griffel and L. Michael Griffel	Kathryn Grant Belleau, beloved cousin
Miriam Manber	Dr. Helen Muhlbauer, beloved mother
Michael and Cristin Messinger, Darryl Messinger, Jeffrey and Michele Messinger; Hannah, Emilia, Mackensie, Nora Lynn, and Lavender Messinger	Francine Messinger, beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother
Audrey Ott	Mark Reibeisen
Lisa and David Wolovick, Anne Fischel and John Regan, Jonathan Fischel and Fury Gold, Joshua Fischel and Lauren Roman, Michael and Sara Wolovick, Sascha Freeman Fischel	Maxine Fischel, beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother

*The Departed Whom We Now Remember: September Yearzeit Observances*

1 Norman Baron	9 Charles Lasky	15 Irving Oberstein	23 Alexander Krausz
1 Millard Joseph Bleier	9 Anita Rosenblatt	15 Sol Stafford	24 Beatrice R. Bennett
1 Milton Gordon	9 Richard Simmons	15 Dr. David Stolzenberg	24 Yakov Dechter
1 Gregory Grinn	10 Dora Baron	15 Ray Weinberg	24 Albert Lett
1 Julius Richman	10 Gerard M. Bloomfield	16 Munia Gefter	24 Adrienne Semmel
1 Morris Wachtel	10 Harry Hartman	16 Leo Herrup	25 Daniel Chazen
2 Max Fondiller	10 Pauline Kalinowsky	16 Karin Joan Singer	25 Rita Gefter
2 Nathan Horn	10 Ethel Wolf Miller	17 Solomon Haas	25 Julius Meltzer
2 Seymour Schneider	10 Benjamin Silverman	17 Helen B. Karger	26 Max Friedman
3 Robert Benenson	11 Helen Arzt	17 David Morris	26 Max Halper
3 Jack Grushoff	11 Jack Bross	18 Judith Gorlin Deutsch	26 Elizabeth N. London
3 Judith Saxe Kuvin	11 Ethel Epstein	19 Yetta Bennett	26 Meta Strauss
3 Karl F. Ross	11 Anna Guenzig	19 Ruth Fox Blumenthal	27 Dr. David Borak
4 Diane Stern	11 Marcel Kwal	19 Helen Cytryn	27 Irmgard Hermann
5 Jean Deutsch	11 Alan Richman	19 Clara Dancis Bereano	28 Morris Caplan
5 Max Grossman	11 Anna Tauber	19 Joan D. Leslese Halpern	28 Martin Cohen
5 Hyman Jaffe	12 Sidney Leichter	19 Richard Kasner	28 Gertrude Fuhrman
5 Mary Kenig	12 Mae Mendlinger	19 Jack Locke	28 Jeannette Small
5 Mildred Martin	12 Warren Raynes	19 Israel Silberkleit	29 Oscar Greenberg
5 Stanley Popelsky	12 Jack Wiener	20 Samuel Breindel	29 Henry L. Grunbaum
5 Jacob Strisik	13 Joseph Eisen	20 Meyer Cohen	29 Valentina Krasnopolksky
6 Ethel Parker Dubrov	13 Simon Giserman	20 Riva Goldstein	29 Elizabeth Levy
6 Seymour Greisman	13 Conrad I. Haber	20 Dorothy Kleiman	29 Kate Lubell
6 Elias Rushfield	13 Frances Perchick	20 Olle Schlifman	29 Gene Offenbach
6 Ida Wilensky	14 Pauline Fox	21 Hilda Stoll	29 Dr. Rudolf Radna
7 Constance Spath Osach	14 Vivian Lea Gorlin	22 David Lerman	29 Lillian A. Ripps
8 Irving I. Appel	14 Samuel Z. Kleiman	22 Benjamin Rettich	29 Morris F. Rothberg
8 Helen C. Barkin	14 Isidore Licker	22 Henry Vogelhut	30 Joseph Ackner
8 Bertha Wormser Crager	14 Howard Poblner	22 Alma Weiler	30 Arthur Karger
8 Alexander Haines	14 Esther G. Rosenberg	22 Samuel Young	30 Julius L. Lubell
8 Johanna Jelin	14 Nat Seefer	23 Anne G. Aronson	30 Eugene I. Weiler
8 Minnie G. Traugott	15 Melvin L. Morris	23 Adele Greenglass	

## *Riverdale Temple*

### Schedule of High Holy Days Services 2019/5780

Selichot Program and Service	Sat.,	Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Service*</b>	Sun.,	<b>Sept. 29, 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service*</b>	Mon.,	<b>Sept. 30, 10:00 a.m.</b>
Family and Children's Service (free to public**)	Mon.,	Sept. 30, 1:30 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service (free to public**)	Tues.,	Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Kol Nidre*</b>	Tues.,	<b>Oct. 8, 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Yom Kippur Morning*</b>	Wed.,	<b>Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m.</b>
Family and Children's Service (free to public**)	Wed.,	Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m.
Afternoon Service with Yizkor (free to public**)	Wed.,	Oct. 9, 3:30 p.m.


\* All Riverdale Temple members in good standing will be able to pick up tickets at the temple for all High Holy Days services. Please note that tickets are required for everyone at all services during the High Holy Days. Tickets are required for all starred services and are nontransferable. Services in bold are open to members and their guests only.

\*\* Individuals interested in attending our free services should register through our website: [www.riverdaletemple.org](http://www.riverdaletemple.org). The links for free ticket registration can be found by clicking the "High Holy Days" tab. There you will find a complete listing of all of our holiday services, with the registration links to our free services below it.

Please note that tickets will not be mailed out. They will be available for pickup at the temple office as of September 15. They are nontransferable and must be presented in the lobby before each High Holy Days service.

Should you have any questions regarding the registration procedure or any difficulties, please feel free to contact our office administrator at 718-548-3800, ext. 1.





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# RIVERDALE TEMPLE

4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

BRONX, NY 10471

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patron of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

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### **Rabbi of the Congregation**

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

### **Cantor of the Congregation**

Inbal Sharett-Singer, B.Mus., M.S.M.

### **Rabbis Emeriti of the Congregation**

Stephen D. Franklin, D.D., D.H.L.  
Judith S. Lewis, D.D.

### **Co-Presidents of the Congregation**

Rachel Radna, Ph.D.  
L. Michael Griffel, Ph.D.

### **Nursery School Executive Director**

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### **Religious School Education and Engagement Specialist**

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