



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאֵוּ מִהַלֵּל שֵׁם יי

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

Vol. 73

April 2020 (5780)

No. 8

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Worship Services and Other Temple Events

**At the time of publication, all
services and events at Riverdale
Temple, including the Adult
Education, Simcha Learning
Center, and Nursery School
classes, are being offered remotely
via Facebook Live or Zoom.**

**The Second Night Seder
(April 9) will be held online
(see p. 11).**

**Please consult the e-blasts for
the latest information.**

**For all links and Facebook Live,
please go to the Virtual RT page
on our website.**

YIV
Yidische kultur-serye
See p. 8 for online courses.

As I write this, the mother of my best friend from intermediate school is in the ICU with COVID-19. Although she is Jewish, she is a very committed atheist. According to my friend, his grandfather was also very firm in his atheism. My friend, also an atheist, has been sending out a group email to keep people apprised of his mother's condition. At the end of one of the emails, he wrote, "For those of you who pray, go for it. Just be ready for my mom to roll her eyes when she gets through to the other side."

This reminded me of Rachel's joke about the guy who is desperate to park his car. He is going to be late for a very important meeting unless he can find a spot immediately, but there are no spots to be had. "Oh Gd," he prays, "If you will only help me find a parking spot, I promise I will become a better Jew! I will go to synagogue every week, I will keep Shabbat, I will start eating kosher! Please, please, just help me!" Just then, a car pulls out right in front of the building in which the meeting is to be held. "Never mind, Gd," the man calls out cheerfully, "I found one!"

Even though both my friend and his mother do not believe in prayer, they find themselves in a position in which they need divine intervention. I certainly hope his mother will come through safely and be in a position in which she will feel free to roll her eyes and say, "Never mind, Gd. I got better!"

I *have* been praying for her. I hope it will help, but I have certainly had the experience of praying very hard for people who have not recovered. We know that our prayers do not guarantee a good outcome. If they did, they would not be prayers, but magic spells, and Gd would be our servant, a genie forced to dance to our tune. Gd is not a Santa Claus in the sky, here to grant our wishes without any sacrifice on our part. This is not merely a question of my personal experience.

In the movie *Ushpizin*, a character quotes Rabbi Nachman as saying, "If a person prays and does not get what he wants, I know that he did not pray hard enough." If that were true, surely no one would have died in the Holocaust. No one would ever have been killed in a war or in a natural disaster.

That, then, brings up the question of why we pray. If prayer does not bring about a result, why do it? Isn't my friend right not to pray? Isn't his mother right? To pray, and hope that the prayer will make things better, only makes you feel worse when things do not get better. As the saying goes, the best thing about being a pessimist is that you are never disappointed.

There is a paraphrase of a quote by Abraham Joshua Heschel in our *Mishkan Tefillah* that says, "Prayer may not bring water to parched fields,

continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7th of Nisan 5780 8:30 pm A Healing Service with Cantor Sharett-Singer (FBL)	8th of Nisan 5780 4:00 pm Odds and Ends with Rabbi Gardner: Passover (Z)	9th of Nisan 5780 4:30 pm Passover Tot Shabbat (FBL) 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening service (FBL)	10th of Nisan 5780 <i>Parashat Tzav</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (FBL)
			1	2	3	4
11th of Nisan 5780 10:00 am Simcha Learning Center (Z)	12th of Nisan 5780 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi (Z) 4:30 pm Together with Cantor Sharett-Singer in Jewish Song (FBL)	13th of Nisan 5780	14th of Nisan 5780 <i>Erev Pesach</i>	15th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach I</i> 10:00 am Passover Service (FBL) 6:00 pm Second Night Seder (FBL)	16th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach II</i> 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (FBL)	17th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach III (CH" M)</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (FBL)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach IV</i>	19th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach V</i> Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi (Z) 4:30 pm Together with Cantor Sharett-Singer in Jewish Song (FBL)	20th of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach VI</i>	21st of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach VII</i> 8:30 pm A Healing Service with Cantor Sharett-Singer (FBL)	22nd of Nisan 5780 <i>Pesach VIII</i> 10:30 am Passover Services with Yizkor (FBL)	23rd of Nisan 5780 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (FBL)	24th of Nisan 5780 <i>Parashat Shmini</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (FBL)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
25th of Nisan 5780 10:00 am Simcha Learning Center (Z)	26th of Nisan 5780 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi (Z) 4:30 pm Together with Cantor Sharett-Singer in Jewish Song (FBL)	27th of Nisan 5780 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center (Z)	28th of Nisan 5780	29th of Nisan 5780 4:00 pm Odds and Ends with Rabbi Gardner: Questions about Gd (Z)	30th of Nisan 5780 4:30 pm Israel Tot Shabbat (FBL) 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (FBL)	1st of Iyyar 5780 <i>Parashat Tazria-Metzora</i> 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah celebration of Ryan Inwald (FBL)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2nd of Iyyar 5780 10:00 am Simcha Learning Center (Z)	3rd of Iyyar 5780 Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi (Z) 4:30 pm Together with Cantor Sharett-Singer in Jewish Song (FBL)	4th of Iyyar 5780 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center (Z)	5th of Iyyar 5780	6th of Iyyar 5780 4:00 pm Odds and Ends with Rabbi Gardner: Elijah (Z)		
26	27	28	29	30		

APRIL*

*All events/courses listed above are being offered via Zoom (Z) or Facebook Live (FBL). The temple itself is closed until further notice.

nor mend a broken bridge, nor rebuild a ruined city. But prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart, rebuild a weakened will.”

It is certainly true that a person who wants to mend a broken bridge is wasting her time if she does nothing but pray that Gd will suddenly make the bridge whole again. This would be like someone with a serious illness praying to recover when he should be going to the doctor or taking medicine. On the other hand, there is something that we do get from prayer, even if it is not the bridge suddenly being miraculously built, or a patient being miraculously healed without medicine.

Prayer is establishing a connection with Gd. Gd may not respond in so many words. Gd may not grant your request, perform a miracle, or even give you evidence of His existence. Nonetheless, that connection to Gd is the path to wholeness, to holiness, and to peace. In our sacred texts, Rebecca prays to Gd, and Gd speaks to her, answering her questions. Hannah prays for a son, and her request is granted. This is not usually our experience. Job prays to Gd, and Gd reveals His existence to him. Gd does not answer his questions, Gd does not grant his requests (until later, and they were requests he did not even know he was making). But Gd is there, in all of His awesome mystery and power. And that is enough for Job.

The question then is this: If I am praying for my friend’s mother, am I helping her or myself? If the purpose of prayer is to water an

arid soul, can my prayer in Yonkers help her soul in Manhattan? I do know people, some in our congregation, who say that knowing that people were praying for them helped in a time of illness. If my friend’s mother does not believe in prayer, can it help her when she is most in need of help? I believe it can. Perhaps she gets a little taste of that wholeness, lying in her hospital bed. Perhaps the thought crosses her mind, “Tom must be praying for me.” It is surely more comforting to know the doctors are doing all they can, that she is the beneficiary of thousands of hours of training, and using machines and medicines invented by wonderful scientists. It does not have to be either/or. It is best when it is both.

My friend’s mother may deny that she has a soul, but she knows that she has an essence, which is mysterious, deep, and very dear to all of her friends. That is the part of her that Gd will contact when we pray for her. And if Gd chooses to heal her illness as well, so much the better. My friend and his mother are right, not when they choose not to pray, but when they acknowledge that this is a time in which they need prayer. And for those of us who do pray, who do believe we affect both ourselves and the world through our prayer, we should indeed go for it. I can absolutely guarantee that it will not make things worse, and I can almost guarantee that it will make things just a bit better.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

We hope that you are all taking care and are all well. I pray that this terrible and frightening time will be over soon, and that we soon will be able to gather together in our Riverdale Temple, for worship, learning, and fun schmoozing. I do miss seeing you all closely very much. Just know that you are in my heart, and that I feel very grateful to have you all in my life.

I am writing to you from my new “on-the-fly” home office. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Rabbi Gardner and I, together with our wonderful leadership, had to make some quick choices and find creative solutions, like holding services on our Facebook Live page, starting my new class “Together with Cantor Sharett-Singer in Jewish Song” on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., and the session of “Schmoozing with Cantor Sharett-Singer” that we recently held. These, together with all of our other new virtual sessions, are meaningful ways to reach out to one another, and to still be together as a Riverdale Temple Family from home. We hope to still be able to be there for you and your families, and I encourage you to reach out to me and Rabbi Gardner via email with any question, concern, or idea you may have. My email is cantorsharett@singer@riverdaletemple.org, and Rabbi Gardner’s is rabbigardner@riverdaletemple.org.

I also encourage you to follow the e-blasts, our Riverdale Temple Facebook page, and our new VIRTUAL RT page on our website, where you will find all links to our different virtual sessions. I know that this may be intimidating and confusing if you are not technologically savvy. We still encourage you to go ahead and try clicking on a link and see what happens! I have a good feeling that you will be successful, and if you are not, please email me and I will try to walk you through it over the phone.

I wanted to share how proud I am of our Bar Mitzvah student **Ryan Inwald**, who is our next Bar Mitzvah, on April 25, at 10:30

a.m. Ryan has worked very hard for more than a year, learning how to lead the entire Shabbat service, including chanting five Aliyot of Torah, some verses of Haftarah, and reading a sermon. We know that this is not what Ryan was hoping and planning for! Nevertheless, we will go on and still celebrate Ryan and his family on his very special Simcha through the virtual world. Please stay tuned through the e-blasts to receive a link for Ryan’s Bar Mitzvah service. We need all of your support—please be there and show up online to support Ryan!

I also wanted to share important news about our post-Bar Mitzvah student **Lev Katz**. This is what Lev has shared with us: “A few weeks ago, I went to Washington, D.C., with the Tourette Association of America to attend training to become a Youth Ambassador. This was a day-long education conference, where many kids between the ages of 12 and 17 learned how to speak publicly about Tourette Syndrome, and to educate the public on the mysterious disease that 1 out of 100 kids has. After the training day, we then went to Congress and lobbied for many bills and letters in support of Tourette Syndrome research and awareness. We actually met with a staffer from Riverdale’s own Eliot Engel’s office. My job now is to have public outreach and education on Tourette Syndrome to further raise awareness and to better the lives of many kids living with the condition today.” I am very proud of Lev for taking these important steps of doing *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. He is indeed praying with his feet and is an inspiration to us all.

Please continue to stay connected and take care of yourselves. With much love and blessings,

L’hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Among the hundreds of email messages pouring into my Inbox during the second half of March 2020 from relatives, friends, the Riverdale Temple family, Juilliard School colleagues and students (current and former), and former Hunter College colleagues and students, one sticks out in my mind. It was from a Hunter colleague who is an esteemed professor of dance now in a Midwestern university. He wrote about the past, all the wonderful days, weeks, months, and years in which we went about our lives without worrying much about plagues and famines, when we could spend time with one another and share moments of joy and laughter, give a hug to comfort one another in moments of grief and worry. His very words were: "I have been thinking a lot about how lucky we have been to have the good life we have had. At least, we did appreciate it while we had it. Let's hope that it can and will return some time in the not-too-distant future."

Yes, indeed, let us hope for a return to normalcy before too many days pass. And normalcy includes the privilege of belonging to Riverdale Temple, attending the uplifting services that Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer invariably provide, enjoying a holiday event, a bar or bat mitzvah, an adult education class, an oneg, and absorbing the smiles and handshakes of a friendly congregant. I suppose we all take these ingredients of our lives somewhat for granted; they are always there for us if we feel like taking advantage of them. Until they aren't.

The lesson I am learning is that what happened to our ancestors in the Bible, what happened to legions of people throughout the Middle Ages, what happened to the population of 1918—all these things are not just history that we learn about in school; they are here and now and about us. We pray that everyone we care about will get

through this ordeal in one piece. When we do, however, I imagine that we will never again feel the same sense of security that we once did. At the same time, I think we will cherish more than ever the opportunities that being alive affords us, the chance to walk in the park, to play ball, to go to a concert or play, to eat at the local deli, to stand in line at the checkout in the supermarket, to help our aging relatives and friends to cross a street safely, and so much more.

I also think that our Riverdale Temple will mean more to us than ever before. A place to congregate, pray, sing, nosh, do charitable work, celebrate, debate, learn, teach, bake a challah. We will appreciate our clergy, staff, teachers, and each other with a new sense of what it means to appreciate. We will give thanks to Gd in an altogether more personal, more emotional, more profound way than ever before.

Please know that our devoted and gifted clergy have been providing religious services online since the middle of March. Also, that the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees, the clergy, and our devoted Building Committee chairs, Cristin Messinger and David Greenfield, have been spending much time every day thinking about our temple, making calls, sending email messages, meeting online in order to engage with and protect the Riverdale Temple community to the greatest extent possible. At all times, the health and safety of our congregants are at the heart of the conversation.

The officers and Board members of Riverdale Temple wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy passage through this storm, as well as a meaningful Passover, with time spent empathizing with those who have suffered, thinking about where we are in the present, and planning for a bright and shiny future, resplendent with recovery and a return to happy times.

—L. Michael Griffel, Co-president

SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

Our last in-person day of the Simcha Learning Center took place the weekend of Purim, a week before the concept of social distancing and closings. However, we started this even before it was the new normal, and to be overly cautious that day, we sat outside with the children and parents at a distance from each other and enjoyed watching the human-size Megillah, which the entire school painted the prior week, and each child had an opportunity to pop their head inside the Megillah (see below—photos by Rabbi Gardner). This was a unique and festive experience for all.

Although our classes are no longer meeting in person, our community continues to gather weekly with a morning service led by the clergy and a story from me. Our teachers are busy engaging all of their classes by offering them on Zoom, sending home videos to watch, or sharing stories and activities for each grade. We are

staying connected while keeping our distance physically. Our Sunday morning service and meeting have welcomed more than 26 families at a time. That is close to two thirds of our families. Parents and children crowd around the screen of their computers to take part in these meaningful and fun gatherings.

We will have Tefilah schoolwide led by the rabbi, cantor, and me on Zoom at 10:00 a.m., followed by individual Zoom classes for each grade on Sundays, April 5, 19, and 26. Tuesday classes for 4–8th grades will be offered on April 21 and 28, 4:00–5:00 p.m. For more information, contact me at Judyw.Rt@gmail.com.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Passover.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist



Bulletin Board

No events will be held at the temple until further notice.

Please consult the temple website and check e-blasts for updates. Some activities will take place via Zoom or Facebook Live.

Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by **April 15**. You can email it directly to rivtemple@aol.com (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



**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. You can support Riverdale Temple by buying a mug with our logo for just \$10.

Riverdale Temple	Rabbi	4
Telephone Extensions (718-548-3800)	Cantor	5
	Simcha Learning	
Temple Office	0 or 1	Center
Bookkeeper	2	Emergencies
Nursery School	3	General Information
		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 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.

Riverdale Temple House Committee

Our mission is to ensure that the building and grounds of our synagogue best respond to the spiritual, educational, cultural, and social needs and activities of our congregation. We are concerned about safety, cleanliness, comfort, and appearance and maximizing the functionality of our facilities. The committee works closely with the maintenance staff to ensure that the facilities are well managed and meet the needs of our community efficiently and economically. The committee benefits from members with varied experience in facilities management, engineering, construction, and related fields. **Please volunteer to serve on this committee by writing to rivtemple@aol.com or 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!



The temple needs a volunteer accountant!

If you are a qualified accountant, please contact Joanne Heyman, temporary treasurer of Riverdale Temple, at 718-548-3800.

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 toll free at 1-800-433-1531 or visit JBI's website at www.jbilibrary.org

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NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Right now, it is so very quiet at Riverdale Temple Nursery School. All the children and teachers are home doing distance learning and social isolating.

The teachers have been wonderful with distance learning. Each day they use Zoom and greet all the children in their class. They have Morning Meeting, where the children talk about the calendar, the weather, who is here, and who is absent. They then sing a song. Many of the classes are learning Passover songs. We have some classes where families are teaching the children songs. Then the teacher leads the class in a project. It is a simple project, one that families can do at home with materials that they have there. We have also sent the families videos of teachers reading stories that we love. Our yoga teacher, Anthony Purdy, is doing yoga and mindfulness for all the children. Each week there is a new video for the children to follow.

We are also creating an All School Garden. Each child in the school is making a flower. They can do it any way that they like. They can draw a picture of a flower, paint a flower, collage a flower, make a clay flower, or even a Lego flower. The child's parent will take a picture of the flower and send it to Rachel Goldner, the wonderful Nursery School administrative assistant.

She will create a giant Riverdale Temple Nursery School garden. It will go up on our website and on our Facebook page.

We have a wonderful new Facebook page with lots of pictures of children at work. It is pretty magical. Please "like us" on Facebook.

We are accepting children for our Two's program for next year. If you are interested, please contact Linda Herman at nsdirector.rtms@gmail.com or 718-796-0335.

We are having our wonderful, zany, fun, silly, splashy camp this summer. It is only for preschool children. If you are interested, or you know friends who are, please contact Linda at 718-796-0335 or nsdirector.rtms@gmail.com.

We hope that we will be back at school in the not-too-distant future. We miss all the children and families. And mostly, we hope that everyone is healthy and safe. Our prayers and hearts are with all!

A lovely quote... "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." –C. S. Lewis

—Linda Herman, Director

Purimspiel 2020 at Riverdale Temple

Photos by Rob Katz



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

April's WRJ column is usually very easy to write. I usually boast of how incredible the Women's Seder was. How our beloved cantor outdid herself and how much fun everyone had dancing. I would thank everyone who brought hard boiled eggs (you know who you are), and, of course, a huge "Thank you" to Susan Birnbaum, who does everything and makes the evening a one-of-a-kind event. Then I would go right into our next event.

Unfortunately, the times they are a-changin' (to quote Mr. Dylan). How many times have you washed your hands today? Did you listen to any news conferences? Are you practicing social distancing? One thing that remains consistent is that I know that there are people who want to make a difference, who

want to volunteer, who will step up and have their voices heard. So, thank-you to those people—the volunteers who are making phone calls, checking in on neighbors, running errands, and helping those in need.

One day this crisis will be over, and we will need everyone more than before. We will need to come together again and rebuild. Although our front doors may be closed, we will need everyone more than ever. So, I hope that when the May column comes around, I will be thanking everyone who has volunteered to keep Riverdale Temple strong.

—Joanne Heyman, President

Challah Bake on February 27 at Riverdale Temple

Photos by Rob Katz



Go to: <https://urj.org> for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION

A POSITIVE THOUGHT: Spring has arrived early or on time this year. Nature has not cancelled out on us.

When walking, look for crocuses, daffodils, trees starting to flower. With so many things needing to be cancelled, the sight of plants, flowers, and robins, and hearing birdsong can help to give us some hope and peace in this difficult time.

MITZVAH DAY: It doesn't seem as if we will be able to have Mitzvah Day 2020 on April 26. If we can return at all this spring, we may try to have a few special projects at a given time. If not, with everyone safe and well, we can do a Mitzvah project in the fall after the holidays and plan for Mitzvah Day 2021.

KRMH FOOD & HUNGER PROJECT: We are currently coordinating with Riverdale Y to still purchase and have them pack and deliver kosher groceries for permanently homebound

seniors. Since it is housed at the Church of the Mediator, we had to close the KRMH Pantry through the end of March. Depending on everyone's health and safety needs, we hope that distribution of groceries might return in late April or May. Since many of you stocked groceries, when we are able to reopen, please think ahead to what extras you might be able to donate. We have to keep the health and safety of our volunteers and recipients as our #1 concern. When we are able to return, we will distribute outdoors.

Wishing everyone continued health and peace! May you enjoy your Passover holiday in health and quiet contemplation of how we all can help each other as we try to renew our efforts of *tikkun olam!*

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Study with Rabbi Gardner



Join the Zoom meeting for Lunch and Learn. It is very easy to connect to this online class. Look for an email each week inviting you to join with a link to the class.

Rabbi Gardner will be conducting Lunch and Learn online every Monday from noon to 1:00 p.m. The theme of each of the classes will compare two stories in the Torah.

YIVO. org

YIVO's website allows you to access many free online resources. For example, it has talks that have been presented in the past (they are on video), its online museum, its online Jewish encyclopedia, and more. Go to <https://YIVO.org>

All of YIVO's Shine Online courses are now free.

As restrictions continue to be imposed to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, YIVO is offering its entertaining and enlightening Shine Online courses for free. These courses provide meaningful content to sustain our minds and souls during these uncertain times. YIVO invites you to use this time to broaden your knowledge and learn about Jewish music, theater, literature, folklore, and the history of our people. The courses have all been prerecorded.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair Adult Education Committee

Dear Chavurah Lovers:

While we may not be meeting in person on April 18, I am hoping to establish a ZOOM account so that we can be together virtually and still be able to study together. The Torah addresses most of our earthly concerns, and contagion is included. There are several references to illnesses and afflictions in our Bible. Absent the germ theory of disease, the fall-back position was that these maladies were punishment for sin. But, in spite of that belief, the Torah recommended isolation of the sufferer and welcoming him or her back into the community after a specific period of time. What wisdom! If you know of references to hand washing, let me know.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

CONTRIBUTIONS

The following funds are represented in the entries below: Bible and Prayer Book 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, Dorothy and Joseph Kay Prayer Book Fund, Leon and Beatrice Bereano Pulpit Flowers Fund, Rabbi's Special Fund, Religious School and Nursery School Parents Associations, Soviet Émigré Fund, Charles Tenenbaum Fund, Torah Repair Fund, Youth Activities Fund.

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Michael Friedman	Lillian Friedman	Judith Zucker	Roberta Katz, beloved mother of Craig Katz, mother-in-law of Linda Chokroverty and grandmother to Maya and Lev
Sylvia Gottlieb	Alice Gottlieb		
Dorothy Kay	Joseph Kay		

A thank-you from WRJ to the following people who provided mishloach manot to the **entire** congregation. As a thank you, these people will eventually be getting a challah baked by Rachel.

MISHLOACH MANOT DONORS

Shelley Ast
 Amy and Henry Bensen
 Susan and Howard Birnbaum
 Linda Chokroverty and Craig Katz
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 Steve and Lori Rosenfeld
 Bruce Schwartz and Beth A. Greenberg
 Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer and Jonathan Singer
 Lydia Silverman and Victor Malafronte
 Scott Sirkin and Fay Statsky
 Ronna Weber
 Judy Zucker

If you would like to pick up your Purim bag, please email Linda Eisenkraft at administrator@riverdaletemple.org to make arrangements.

Condolences



To	On the loss of
Craig Katz and Linda Chokroverty, Maya and Lev; Nanci Mendes and Rui, Jessie, Jack, and Alex; Howard Katz	Roberta Katz , beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, wife

The Departed Whom We Now Remember: April Yahrzeit Observances

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Chas. A. Becker | 12 George Dworkin | 22 Evelyn Fenster |
| 1 Dr. Herman R. Cohn | 12 Batsheva Fain | 22 Ralph Ripps |
| 1 Edmund Fox | 12 Leo Fass | 23 Irene Bodenchuck |
| 1 Sofie Shapiro | 12 Irving Grossbard | 23 Esther Hirschberg |
| 2 Estelle Fried | 12 Mort Roberts | 23 Abraham Rozenfeld |
| 2 Alice Gottlieb | 12 Fannie Rosenblum | 23 Annie Sager |
| 2 Louis I. Heimowitz | 12 Minnie Silverman | 23 Max Strunin |
| 2 Steven A. Katz | 12 Sylvia Zwickel | 24 Steven Harris |
| 2 Selma Rau | 13 Meyer Franklin | 24 Richard M. Kronman |
| 2 Lillian Tick | 13 Elsie Gerber | 24 Elaine Maxin |
| 3 Ruth Krisiloff | 13 Edna Kaplin | 25 Lillian Friedman |
| 4 Sarah Ann Cohen | 13 Sylvia Meyer | 25 William Levitt |
| 4 Clara Horn | 13 Eugenia Rozenfeld | 25 Herta Pollack |
| 4 Max Jacobson | 13 Alf Salvesen | 26 Arnold Kideckel |
| 4 Dr. David I. Nalitt | 14 Sheila Abbott | 26 Alice L. Phillips |
| 4 Yaakov "Jack" Singer" | 14 Malcolm Brenner | 26 Frank Schlesinger |
| 4 Benjamin Young | 14 Alice Carmody | 27 Harry Ast |
| 4 Samuel Zehner | 14 Daniel Fischel | 27 Meyer Propper |
| 5 Estelle Egel | 14 Camilla Roger | 27 Claire Sackstein |
| 6 Frieda Goldberger | 15 Minna Haber | 27 Roslyn Socolof |
| 6 Roy Leslie | 16 Solomon Aronson | 28 Max Faro |
| 6 Dorothy Manacher | 16 Seymour "Shmuel" Katz | 28 Ethel B. Liebowitz |
| 6 Louis Resnik | 16 Lillian S. White | 28 David L. Morris |
| 7 Hyman Brown | 17 Andree Bachenheimer | 29 Jack Bernstein |
| 7 Fannie Grunbaum | 17 Mario Badiali | 29 Molly Friedman |
| 7 Rose Kaplan | 17 Frank Ginsberg | 29 Jacob Gleichman |
| 7 Rubin Lubarsky | 17 Daniel Kerness | 29 Samuel Miller |
| 7 Jennie Reaboy | 17 Joseph Schlesinger | 30 Eva Dilloff |
| 7 Myrna Turteltaub | 18 Dr. Judith Brooke Elman | 30 Ruth L. Krisiloff |
| 8 Bert Feinberg | 18 Irving Hamada | 30 Harold I. Newman |
| 8 Bertha Feit | 18 Martin Richman | 30 Dr. Julius G. Parker |
| 8 Ronald Rubinstein | 18 Sara Weiskopf | |
| 9 Victoria Adler | 19 David Froehlich | |
| 9 Vincent Joyce | 19 Max Kantor | |
| 9 Lester J. Kovar | 19 Oscar Kay | |
| 9 Helen A. Saxe | 19 Albert J. Solomon | |
| 9 Richard Allen Sitomer | 20 Louis Denker | |
| 9 David A. Stein | 20 Sara A. Gilman | |
| 10 Ronald Braddish | 20 Herbert J. Knopping | |
| 10 Dora L. Shaifer | 20 Charles D. Landow | |
| 10 Esther Shulman | 21 Joseph Fettman | |
| 11 Alfred Leo Davis | 21 Bertha Hamada | |
| 11 Meyer Fritz | 21 Sydell Samalin | |
| 11 Joseph Mendlinger | 21 Hilda Weiler | |

A Passover Message from the Rabbi

Passover is quickly approaching! The first night Seder is on April 8th, and the second night Seder is on the 9th. Many of us look forward to Passover all year. Not only do we look forward to the songs and the ritual, but also to the delicious food and the large gatherings. This is one of the days on which we celebrate with our families, both our birth families and the families we have built ourselves. This year, because of COVID-19, things will be different.

Unfortunately, the mitzvah of protecting our own health, the health of others, and not overwhelming the medical system conflicts with the mitzvah of having a Seder. For all of us who have been sheltering at home, we should continue to do so. So how do we keep Passover in the age of a pandemic?

Our tradition says that we should rid our home of any chametz. For many people, this means putting all of our chametz in a cupboard, sealing it off, and selling the chametz to a non-Jew. This can be done through me. Please send me an email if you are interested. Although I usually do not eat kitniyot during Passover (rice, beans, legumes), the Reform Movement has long permitted this food (which has always been accepted by Sephardic Jews). This year, I will eat kitniyot. I do suggest that people put away their chametz during the eight days of Passover. However, if there is a food emergency, you are permitted to eat chametz. If there is anyone who would like a Passover meal but cannot afford it, please let me know. If there is anyone who needs matzoh but does not know how to get it, please let me know.

Regarding the Seder, I suggest that everyone hold a small Seder in their own home with just their own family. If you do not know how to run a Seder, or do not have even a single Haggadah that you can pass around, please let me know. In *Pesachim 116a*, the Talmud discusses who should ask the Four Questions: “The Sages taught: If his son is wise and knows how to inquire, his son asks him. And if he is not wise, his wife asks him. And even if his wife is not capable of asking, or he has no wife, he asks himself.”

In addition, I will do an online **Zoom Seder** on the second night of Passover, **April 9th, at 6:00 p.m.** Sorry, you will have to supply your own food! I realize this is unfortunate, and may be difficult, but it is for the best of the community. Hopefully, we will celebrate next year all together again, in good health!

I would add one thing to my Passover message: All of the synagogues in Riverdale are cooperating to make Seder meals for purchase. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in getting a complete Seder meal. The meals cost us \$23 per person, but we encourage people to pay whatever they can, whether that is more or less. You can also order the meals directly on the HIR website at <https://www.thebayit.org/f4p>.

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