



# The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהָלֵל 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

June 2020 (5780)

No. 10

## THE RABBI'S COLUMN

**Worship Services and Other  
Temple Events**  
**At this time, all services and  
events at Riverdale Temple,  
including Adult  
Education, are being offered  
remotely via Facebook Live or  
Zoom.**

**Please consult the e-blasts for  
the latest information and Zoom  
and Facebook Live links.  
To subscribe to our e-blasts,  
please email administrator@  
riverdaletemple.org.**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 21**  
**10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

When I was a student at Hebrew Union College, I took a few classes with Rabbi Nancy Wiener. She once gave us an interesting assignment: we were asked to write up what we did to recharge our batteries, what each student did when feeling stressed. Of course, she didn't really care what we did, only that we should know what we could do when we, inevitably, needed to recover from the rigors of life.

There were a number of things I listed, from playing backgammon to cooking. Cooking for others is something not so easy to do in a pandemic. On the other hand, I recently came across something, almost by accident, that gives me quite a bit of comfort in these troubled times.

I have an old autoharp that I found to be a bit out of tune when I brought it up from Louisiana. Unfortunately, I could not find the little wrench that tunes it. For the past five years, I have been expecting that wrench to turn up, but so far, it has not. Recently, I went to a music supply website to buy a new one. When I did so, I decided to buy a new set of strings for the autoharp.

An autoharp has thirty-six strings, and replacing them is more like replacing piano strings than guitar strings. Most of my strings were original, and this autoharp may have been made anytime between the 1920s and 1950s. I usually have time only to replace one or two strings at once, but I can't tell you how satisfying it is to see the tarnished, old strings gradually replaced by the gleaming new ones.

It is not hard to figure out the source of my satisfaction. When the world seems chaotic and out of control, it is soothing to the soul to slowly, methodically, put even a small part of it back into order.

In fact, this is true with many things we do in life, and it is true not only during a pandemic. There are many small things we do, for ourselves or others, that are deeply satisfying because we are fixing the world. It may only be in the smallest way, but it is nonetheless a step in the right direction.

The Hebrew phrase *tikkun olam*, which means "fixing the world," first made its appearance in the Talmud. There it referred to rabbinic decrees that solved problems caused by biblical commandments. One example often given is the *prozbul*. Because of the commandment to forgive loans in the *shmita* year, people would often refuse to lend at all as that *shmita* year approached. Hillel established the *prozbul*, a document that would assign the debt to the court, making it enforceable even in the *shmita* year. Thus,

*continued on p. 3*



people began to lend money once again, and the economy did not freeze once every seven years.

The Kabbalists took *tikkun olam* to mean the esoteric restoration of the broken pieces of the universe, through meditation, prayer, the keeping of mitzvot, and mystical practices. Under the influence of the philosopher Hermann Cohen, Reform Judaism began to see the repair of the world as the goal of religion. Cohen, a scholar of the works of Immanuel Kant, saw ethics as the center of all religion.

When I was in Louisiana, many of my congregants were politically conservative. They would sometimes complain to me when the Reform movement was in the news for advocating a higher minimum wage, or was in favor of same sex marriage, or immigrant rights. “Why can’t they stick to religion and leave politics alone?” they would say. Of course, the answer was that the question of whether a working person could afford to live, or

whether a minority had the same rights as the majority to live and work, might be political questions, but they are also very much ethical ones. And ethical questions, as Hermann Cohen would tell us, are religious questions.

Restraining my autoharp is more satisfying than sending a check to Mazon, or calling my congressman to support his stance on immigration, because I can see the progress before my eyes, and also because it will soon be done, with no need to do it again for a long time. But although less satisfying, trying to help the world in big ways is much more important. *Tikkun olam* remains one of the central pillars of our religion.

I hope you can find a way, while cooped up by the pandemic, to repair the world, in ways both large and small. And I hope that doing so gives you a great deal of satisfaction as well.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

## THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

### Those Who Sow in Tears Shall Reap in Joy

Shalom Chaveirim,

We have just completed the celebration of the holiday of Shavuot (Weeks), which is one of the Three Festivals in Judaism, together with Sukkot and Passover. Exodus 34:22 tells us: “And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.” Shavuot is the holiday of the wheat harvest, when we sacrificed a special bread offering at the Temple, and is also identified as the time when we received the Torah on Mount Sinai.

There are many wonderful traditions during this time. Leading up to Shavuot, we are in the period of the Omer, when we are commanded to ritually count seven weeks from Passover to Shavuot—to take us from the time when we left Egypt, not yet as a nation, to the time when we received the Torah. Spiritually, these are weeks in which we focus on purifying our souls for the honor of the Torah. On Shavuot Eve, we traditionally study Torah all night—a ritual that is called *Tikun Leil Shavuot*. In the morning, we read the Ten Commandments—which Zoe Shulman read so beautifully at her Bat Mitzvah—and from the Megillah of Ruth. We also eat dairy products such as cheese cake and blintzes.

In thinking about Shavuot, our Riverdale Temple congregation, the coronavirus pandemic, NYC as its epicenter, and my own personal life, I was confronted by a vivid memory of an event that took place in the fall of 2011. It was my first week at HUC-JIR (Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion), the seminary in which I was ordained. The week started with a *Kallah*, an educational and thought-provoking retreat for the HUC students and faculty, at a hotel in the Catskills. I was terrified!

Since I tested out of the first year in Israel, I did not have a chance to get to know anyone, and they all had bonded in Israel. I was the new kid on the block. I was different: I was new to the American Reform Judaism experience, and I was the only Israeli. Our first class was Bible with Dr. Adrian Leveen. We sat on comfortable white chairs in the garden of the hotel and started to dive deeply into text study. All of a sudden the earth was shaking—as we experienced an earthquake! Later, we had a very meaningful T’filah, prayer session, by which I was moved deeply.

I was asked for my impressions by one of my teachers, and I remember I replied, “Overwhelming.” When we later all sat in a large circle and introduced ourselves, I said my name, and one of the professors called out, “I know an Inbal Sharett”—and apparently, she knew my father’s cousin in Israel (there is another Inbal Sharett, believe it or not!). At the conclusion of the retreat, we had to wait for about five hours for a dog to come and sniff our belongings because of an outbreak of bed bugs found in some rooms. And just when I thought we are going home, our bus had a flat tire. It was truly an overwhelming retreat from beginning to end! When our bus was finally fixed, we approached NYC, and its magnificent skyline appeared. It was definitely a Hallelujah moment of coming back home.

There is a truly fitting traditional Shavuot musical text, especially at this time: “Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy,” Psalm 126:5. It tells us that suffering through the desert or the virus or the beginning of school or . . . is, in every case, a journey to the promised land. When we count the Omer, leading up to Shavuot, we are acknowledging the journey—the sacred time of simply being lost. But the idiomatic translation is really: “Those who sow in tears shall reap in *song*.” And when you think about it, when the Israelites crossed the Sea of Reeds, they *sang*, saying “Sing to God, for God has triumphed,” Exodus 15:21.

Let us remember the *song* in our hearts. Let us embrace this journey. Let us be comforted by our temple’s spiritual home. Synagogues are essential—we already knew that. But we do not need to step into the temple in order for it to be a temple. Religion and faith are not a building. Judaism is constantly evolving throughout time: from a nation of slaves in the desert to the people of the Torah; from sacrificing animals at the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem to worshipping with prayer books in synagogues all over the world. *We still have our Riverdale Temple*—via our Zoom services and education programs. When we reach out to others and give each other mutual support; when we kvetch, laugh, and reassure each other; when we pray for each other’s health. *We are a temple family*. We must keep our hopes up. We must plan for the future. Let’s continue holding each other close.

Sending big virtual hugs. L’hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A popular song when I was a boy was called *Enjoy Yourself*, and its message was to take advantage of the opportunities that life presents while you still can, while you have the health and stamina needed to achieve your goals. A line from that song that has stuck in my mind all these years is, “The years go by as quickly as a wink.” Well, indeed, in my case, as I just completed my fiftieth consecutive year of college teaching (unbelievable!), I am now completing my fourth year as co-president of Riverdale Temple (just as unbelievable!). Indeed, these years have moved along incredibly quickly, even during the past few months of semi-isolation at home. And I most certainly have enjoyed myself in playing at least a small role in keeping Riverdale Temple exciting, vibrant, and welcoming to all who wish to take advantage of what this synagogue has to offer to its congregants and the community. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this congregation, a population of very good people, generous and intelligent, outspoken and caring, indefatigable and optimistic. To repeat what I have often said during these three years, it was my co-president, Rachel Radna, who really kept the temple going, and I did my best to help out where needed. And I shall continue to be grateful to Rachel for this.

Riverdale Temple is in the hands of top-notch clergy, Rabbi Thomas Gardner and Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, and will continue to prosper under the new lay leadership—officers and Board members—who will take over on July 1, 2020. Our services, even when delivered on Zoom, are beautiful, heartwarming, and uplifting. Our educational offerings, for adults, for children in the Simcha Learning Center, as they grow up and become bar/bat mitzvah, for the little ones in the Riverdale Temple Nursery School, who clearly thrive in the company of their teachers and classmates,

are something of which we can all be very proud. The good deeds and charity that we extend to our own community and the larger one beyond our building are well known and admired throughout the area. We depend on membership dues and contributions but do not turn people away for whom such costs are too high. As you know, our hearts and our minds are open! When the pandemic is declared over, we will once again pray together, sing and dance together, eat and drink, laugh and cry, study and reflect, argue and shake hands together. We will again dance with our Torahs, light Shabbat and holiday candles, put on a Purimspiel, sit together at a Seder, and celebrate wonderful social events together.

Marge and I joined Riverdale Temple in 1971. Her parents had already been members for a number of years, and they arranged for our wedding in the temple in 1968. Yes, the years went by “as quickly as a wink,” our son celebrated his bar mitzvah and confirmation here, and Rabbi Franklin presided at his wedding years later. When Rachel asked me to join her as a co-president in 2016, I knew that I could not turn her down; I wanted to help her and help the temple succeed. There have been difficult moments during these four years, and there still are, but there have been far more wonderful and inspirational moments. Sitting on the bimah, gazing at our Torahs as the ark was opened, hearing our clergy deliver their words and melodies, seeing the smiles on congregants’ faces—these and so many more memories will long linger with me. I thank each and every one of you who helped and supported me during my leadership years and look forward to continue working with you in the future for the continued success of Riverdale Temple.

—L. Michael Griffel, Co-President

## SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

We did not let COVID-19 stop our annual festivities celebrating Israel Day and our end-of-the-year montage and celebrations. Our students, with the amazing creativity of our teachers, created a virtual (real-time) visit to Israel (see below). As a school, we “took off” on an El Al flight and visited Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. Through interactive games and songs, the children stopped at the *shuk* (Jewish market), visited the Kotel (now called the Wailing Wall), and wrote a personal prayer and created an Israeli flag. Our year concluded with an amazing attendance of almost 40 families on Zoom.

We played a family schoolwide scavenger hunt. Each family created a “Gratitude” poster dedicated to their experiences on virtual learning in a few words. These words included: Thank-You to the Teachers, Fun, Community, Todah, I Miss the SLC, Great Games, and Shalom. I would like to thank our amazing staff: Michelle, Michael, Hanita, Eliana, Rabbi Gardner, and Cantor Sharett-Singer for all you do for our children daily. I would also like to thank our teaching aides: Maya, Al, Lev, and Jessie. And all the parents, and Rebecca Sherman and Cristin Messinger for their leadership with the parents.

We all are grateful for the amazing Riverdale Temple community and look forward to seeing everyone in September, hopefully in person.

B’shalom,

—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. All activities will take place  
via Zoom or Facebook Live.

### Congratulations

**Ryan Inwald and Gary and Mags Inwald**, on Ryan's Bar Mitzvah celebration

**Zoe Shulman and Wendi and Craig Shulman**, on Zoe's Bat Mitzvah celebration



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



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

### 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.

**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: [administrator@riverdaletemple.org](mailto:administrator@riverdaletemple.org) 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 toll free at 1-800-433-1531 or visit JBI's website at [www.jbilibrary.org](http://www.jbilibrary.org)



*The Bulletin*: Vol. 73, No. 10, June 2020. *The Bulletin* is published monthly by Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471, 10 times a year, September through June. 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.

## BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATION



### Deanna Sherman

Deanna Sherman is excited to celebrate her Zoom Bat Mitzvah on June 6, 2020. She is the daughter of Rebecca and William and big sister to Sophie and Pasha (their new Kerry Blue Terrier puppy!). She began attending the Riverdale Temple Nursery School in 2010 and moved on to the Simcha Learning Center in 2014. Deanna

has appeared in several Purimspiels and volunteers at events at Riverdale Temple and school. She is a seventh grader at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy and is a big fan of music and art. She took up alto saxophone three years ago and recently expanded to baritone sax as well. She participates in the Riverdale Rising Stars theater program and has been in more than a dozen plays. Deanna became a licensed scuba diver at age 10 and loves getting into the water to explore.



## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Even though we are seeing children only via Zoom, it is still magical here at Riverdale Temple Nursery School!

All the classes are studying butterflies. We have caterpillars, and we are waiting for our butterflies to emerge from their chrysalises. The teachers are hatching their butterflies at home and showing them to the children on Zoom. The children are doing projects about butterflies and caterpillars and chrysalises.

The **Rainbow Room Twos** are busy learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. They have made caterpillars and butterflies, and they sing lots of caterpillar and butterfly songs. The children always proudly hold up their art project for the rest of the children to see.

The **Pink Room Twos** children are studying insects, butterflies, bees, and spiders. They are also studying different kinds of animals and, in depth, cats.

The **Blue Room Threes** have been working on writing and recognition of the letters of the alphabet. This has been coordinated with animal classifications. The lessons include science, math, literacy, and art activities. If time allows, we will move on to writing and recognizing numerals.

The **Yellow Room Threes** have been studying spring, learning all about different flowers and bugs. They have been learning about the life cycle of the caterpillars, bees, ladybugs, snails, and slugs. They have also been learning about gardens and planting. The children have created their own book about their favorite bugs. We have also continued our studies of the alphabet. We are up to the letter S! Soon, the children will be making 3-D dioramas about spring.

In the **Red Room Threes**, the children have finished their unit on plants. They have also been working on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the alphabet. They do two letters a day, at which time they learn how to write them, and they go on a scavenger hunt to find an item that starts with that letter. They are studying colors as well. In the upcoming weeks, they will study summer.

The **Pre-K Orange Room** is exploring transportation. They are examining trains, boats, cars, airplanes, buses, specialty vehicles, and more! They are conducting some experiments and building their own methods of transportation with reusable/edible materials. They will study who operates the vehicles in their community and how they stay safe when using transportation. They will also study fire safety.

### In the **Pre-K Purple Room**,

the children are also studying transportation and making vehicles. After they study transportation, they will be doing a food unit and learning about the human body.

In the **Pre-K Green Room**, they are learning about transportation through nursery rhymes. When they learned "Row Row Row Your Boat," they studied boats and how they float. They made their own boats and tested them out. When they learned "Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick," they studied fire and what fire needs to burn. They talked about fire trucks and what firefighters do. They also learned about fire safety.

It has been a very busy time remotely at the Riverdale Temple Nursery School!

### Enrollment

Our school has a few spots open in the Two-Year-Olds for next year. If you know anyone who is looking for a space, please tell them about our wonderful teachers.

### Books

We continue to work on building our library. If you have children's books at home that you are not using, we would love to have them. We especially need board books for our Two-Year-Olds!

### Upcoming Events

June 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7: Twos and Threes teachers will be in the parking lot saying goodbye to their children and giving them their projects and end-of-the-year presents.

June 10: Last day for Two-Year-Olds

June 11: Last day for Three-Year-Olds

June 16, 17, 18: Pre-K teachers will be in the parking lot saying goodbye to their children and giving them their projects and end-of-the-year presents.

June 24: Parents will drive through the parking lot for a goodbye to their teachers and to celebrate Moving Up to Kindergarten.

June 26: Last day for Pre-K

A lovely quote: "The little things? The little moments? They aren't little." —Jon Kabat-Zinn

—Linda Herman, Director

## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

As many of you are doing, I am putting this spring behind me and looking forward to 5781. Optimism is beginning to grow, the weather is getting warmer, and the days are a bit longer. We hope that your family is **healthy**. Of course, no one knows what the future will bring, but WRJ is hoping for some kind of normalcy. We've been busy Zooming with knitting, discussing our honey

project, and how to keep everyone involved. We look forward to hearing from you and knowing that, together, **We Are Stronger!**

— Joanne Heyman, President



*Above: Dolls knitted by Rachel Radna during the Zoom knitting meetings*



*Congratulations to Lydia Silverman (left) and Shelley Ast (right) for chanting Torah for the first time. We look forward to their physical Adult Bat Mitzvah, together with the Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class.*

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

Best wishes for the summer,

— Steven Rosenfeld, President



A Proud Member of the URJ

Go to: <https://urj.org> for announcements, news and press releases, a calendar of virtual programs and events, and general information.

## SOCIAL ACTION

As we enter the summer period, many activities that we enjoy are still pending. New ways to enjoy some activities will be established during this pandemic.

I recently went to the Hastings Farmers' Market. People have to register ahead online for a time slot. You wear a mask and wait on line to enter the outdoor market, as other shoppers leave. Social distancing is set. You can order a few items and do an express pickup and not enter the outdoor market. Still, it felt good to interact with and support vendors/farmers, even while following the new procedures. The goal for the summer and beyond is how to still enjoy some available pleasures, while staying safe and healthy.

June includes the holiday to honor fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and men who have helped and been like fathers to others. On June 21, try to give a call to a lonely neighbor, who may live alone; help with a chore for a senior, and make the day brighter for all dads.

**HUNGER:** One result of the COVID-19 pandemic is that many people have lost family, friends, and neighbors. Many others have lost jobs and income.

**KRMH Food & Hunger Project, Inc.:** We are organizing to have canned/boxed grocery distribution outdoors, with less contact between recipients and volunteers. We are planning for packing/restocking at the end of August and reopening on a weekly basis the day after Labor Day. All volunteers/recipients must wear masks. We have gloves for volunteers. If you are healthy and may be out of work or studying part time, we could use a few, new volunteers to help with the grocery distribution.

We are not part of the Food Bank, and all of our items are nonperishable ones. Please contact me at 718-796-7166 for further information.

If you are out of work or someone you know needs groceries in September, also contact us, and we shall try to help provide supplemental groceries. Recipients should live in the 10471, 10463, or 10468 zip codes. In the meantime, know that the Riverdale Y received special grants from NYC and UJA to make three meals a day for 200 seniors. In addition, a kosher grab and go is available to adults from now until the end of August, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the RKA (Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy) site. Also, food is available for children and families from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m., and for adults from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at P.S. 24 Spuyten Duyvil, 660 W. 236 Street. (RKA distributes nonkosher and vegetarian options.)

**Grocery Donations:** Since we do not know what the situation will be in September, when we usually have our bagged Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur grocery collection, and if you are financially able to do so, please purchase cases of evaporated milk, oatmeal, pasta, rice, peanut butter, jelly, soup, vegetables, canned fruit, fish, etc., over the summer. In this way, you will help us restock supplies, since in the past we have served about 30–40 families per week. With high unemployment and need, we anticipate having more people come to us for help.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and peaceful summer!

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

## ADULT EDUCATION



### Study with the Rabbi

**Lunch and Learn** now meets on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Learn with the Rabbi** is every Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

**Rabbi Franklin** will present a survey of Jewish history on Zoom for the five Tuesdays in June, at 4:00 p.m.

To gain access to these classes, you should look for the weekly e-blast from the temple. The e-blast will have the links you need via Zoom to connect you online to the classes.

### YIVO Jewish Culture Series

**Jewish Life in Putin's Russia:** Since we are not able to use our building to present our lecture series, in the 2020 study year, we have to turn to the YIVO itself in order to hear from important scholars whom the YIVO interacts with across the world. I discovered one lecture from the YIVO website that was presented earlier this year that I found to be a very interesting topic.

**Yevgenia Albats**, a former member of the Presidium of the Russian Jewish Congress, discusses Jewish life in today's Russia. She describes why Jews in Putin's Russia are leaving en masse. A prominent Russian journalist and an academic, she is currently a distinguished faculty fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Some background information for her talk, adapted from YIVO's website: For centuries Ashkenazi Jews considered the Russian Empire as their home. After pogroms, state-imposed anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, and significant

emigration to the United States and Israel, the post-Soviet era, with its democratization of politics, brought many Jews who had emigrated in the 1970s and 1980s back to Russia to start businesses. Quite a few were successful. In 1996, the Russian Jewish Congress was launched as an umbrella organization for all Russian Jews, whether secular or religious. Hundreds of Torah scrolls were returned to the community. Shuls were reopened, rebuilt, or renovated. Today, there are kosher stores in Moscow, and the Chabad-Lubavitch Rabbi Berel Lazar is a frequent guest at Putin's state dinners.

And yet, since Putin's return to the Kremlin in 2012, Russia has seen increased Jewish immigration to Israel—some 45 percent more in 2018 than in the previous year. Why are Jews leaving Russia en masse?

For the recording of Yevgenia Albats's presentation, go to: <https://yivo.org/Putins-Russia>

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet via Zoom on **June 20, 2020**, at 12:30 p.m. The Chavurah is a lay-led discussion group open to all of our community. We read the week's Torah portion in full, stopping to discuss interesting or opaque passages. Believe it or not, this is actually fun! The Torah portion for June 20 is *Sh'lach*, which contains the well-known story of the twelve spies who are sent by Moses to scout out the land of Israel. Their lack of confidence leads the Eternal One to punish them with 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Join us for an enjoyable one-and-a-half- to two-hour Torah study session. It is a Tree of Life to those who hold fast to it.

—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.

<b>DONOR</b>	<b>IN HONOR</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>IN MEMORY</b>
Harriet Charles	Rabbi Gardner, for saying yahrzeit for her husband, Dr. Leo Charles	Michael Friedman	Rose Friedman
Dorothy Feldman	Ryan Inwald, for his Bar Mitzvah celebration	Sandra Giserman-Stern	Dorothy Giserman, beloved mother
	Ronna Weber, on the birth of her granddaughter	Margaret R. and L. Michael Griffel	Kathryn Grant Belleau, beloved cousin
Inge Hershkowitz	Rabbi Gardner	Roseanne M. Klein	Paul E. Klein, beloved husband
Dana Kuznetzkoff	Riverdale Temple	Linda Kleinman	Claudia Kern Sigmund Kleinman
Yvette Marrin	Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer, for their special support to the congregation during the COVID-19 crisis	Henry Kurtz	Rose Kurtz, beloved mother
Frederick Schweitzer	Rabbi Gardner, for the Zoom classes	Ken Lederer	Pearl Lederer
Sherrill Spatz and Rob Katz	Renee Spath, for her birthday	Paul Lehrer	Samuel Lehrer
Ronna Weber	Shelley Ast, for reading from the Torah	Ruth Loebmann	John J. Loebmann
	Lydia Silverman, for reading from the Torah	Paul R. Pops	Gail R. Pops
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>IN MEMORY</b>	Marilyn and Emil Propper	Sheldon Cohen
Susan and Howard Birnbaum	William Farrington	James Schnitzer	Bernard Schnitzer
Irene Brenner	Sophie Richman	Deborah Simmons	Celia Cantor Esther Siminowitz
Jean Daniels	Hon. Howard Silver	Sherrill Spatz and Rob Katz	Roberta Katz Miriam Stolzenberg
	Lewis Silver	Phyllis Steele	Darrell Steele
Phyllis Fisher	Jack Fisher, beloved husband	Laurie Levine Whitehill	Melville C. Levine Philip Hoffman Levine



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*The Departed Whom We Now Remember: June Yahrzeit Observances*

1 Marcia Engelsher	12 Dorothy Karsh	23 Morton David Stein
1 Sidney Simon Holzman	12 Rachel Kramer	24 Hilda Bensley
1 Ray Kolin	12 Melville C. Levene	24 Dora Brill
2 Rose Burns	12 Noel Robert Rubinstein	24 Louis J. Kovar
2 Max Heimowitz	13 Rabbi Dr. Arnold Lazarus	24 William Sherit
2 Isidor Rothstein	13 Rose Morris	24 Betty Tager
2 Rose Seefer	13 Steven Jay Ott	25 Norma D. Haber
3 Max Kovitz	14 Rose R. Aronson	25 Sara Sawyer
4 Wolf Avrach	14 Pauline Avedon	25 Julia Schwartz
4 Charles J. Bensley	14 Lawrence Fox	25 Yetta Weinberg
4 Arthur Krilov	14 Lillian Fuhrman	26 Edith Alin
4 Helen Taig	14 Renee Heyman	26 Lillian Benardo
5 Sheila Brenner	14 Abraham J. Horowitz	26 Ethel Bernstein
5 Max Handler	15 Philip Carlinger	26 Elizabeth Herrup
6 David Fenster	15 Dr. Reuben Gell	26 Bessie Solowey
6 Marcus Lessin	15 Kathryn Grant Belleau	26 Dr. Morton Spivack
6 Morris J. Levy	15 Anne Kaiser	27 Helena Barcia
6 Chaim Poster	16 Harry David Wachs	27 Judith Leber
6 Libby Silverman	17 Martin J. Brenner	27 Sidney Rogofsky
7 Francine Messinger	17 Dorothy Giserman	27 George Rosenblum
8 Hyman Bialek	17 Rose Hindlin Kurtz	27 Dorothy Zwyer
8 Louis Feinman	17 Pauline Kalinsky	28 Mabel Adler
8 Dr. Charles K. Jaeger	17 Dr. Mae Maskit Lord	28 Nathan Bernstein
8 Alberto Mejicovsky	18 Dr. Hyman A. Elman	28 Albert Feit
8 Isidore Reibeisen	18 Murray Goldberg	28 Norman Kane
9 Ira Arnowich	18 Max Levy	28 Gilya Krutkovich
9 Frieda Blaustein	18 Bertha Lipshultz	28 Ethel Regan
9 Ettie Brandt	18 Richard Neubauer	28 Abe Spirer
9 Rose Friedman	18 Rose Noy	28 Eva Zelkowitz
9 Mary Goldman	18 David Socolof	28 Pearl Zolt
9 Harry Kalinsky	18 Jacob Aaron Stam	29 Phyllis Post Goodman
9 Mitchell S. Nalitt	19 Harriet Ivers	29 Bertha Holzman
9 William Ripps	19 Ira Kleinman	29 Max Shankman, M.D.
10 Robin Augusta	19 William Shalof	29 Miriam Yohalem
10 Debra Evers	20 Dr. Daniel Brown	30 Debendranath Chakrabarti
10 Rita Resnick	20 Rose Poster	30 Ruth Richman
10 Ilyse Segal	20 David Silverman	30 Paul Sandler
10 Nathan Sumner	20 Zona Silverstein	30 Vera Shatin
11 Irving Bennett	21 J. Edward Bennett	
11 Alex Gottlieb	21 Susan Fisher	
11 Philip Hoffman-Levene	21 Dr. Jordan Tobias Rosenbaum	
11 Rose Schwartz	21 Irving Schneeweiss	
12 Mayer M. Ackerson	21 Lena Zwickel	
12 Dr. Max A. Bruck	23 Julius Horowitz	

*The Departed Whom We Now Remember: July Jahrzeit Observances*

1 Annie Becker	9 Rose Poster	16 Senior Aronson	23 Steven Wolfe Alpert
2 Herman Fein	10 Senior Aronson	16 Carrie Blumenthal	24 S. Robert Friedman
2 Anna Kovar	10 Gilmore Bales	16 Susan Gordon	24 Irene Kleinberg
2 Ida Loveman	10 Cele Corn	16 Joan Paula Resnik	24 Abraham Zolt
2 Fred Rapp	10 Sylvia Denker	17 David Greenblatt	25 Frances W. Aaron
3 Rae Lillian Gillman	10 Trude Stransky	17 Fannie Haas	26 Herbert Maier
3 Olive L. Rosenfield	11 Albert B. Avedon	17 Harry Mendelson	27 Albert Barshatzky
4 Maxine Fischel	11 Ruth Block	17 Joan Resnik	27 Roslie Small
4 Eleanor R. Kern	11 Toni Rafkind	17 Jack Schwartz	28 Louis Crager
4 Yetta Rosner	11 Frances Selma Siegel	18 Walter F. Spiegel	28 Jack Frei
5 Esther Dubinsky	11 David Ungar	18 Troy Theodoratos	28 Mildred Jaffe
5 Harriet Morse	11 Gene Weissman	18 Emanuel Traugott	28 Ellen Mozlin
6 Henry Groner	11 Charlotte Wiener	19 Lola Friedman	28 Louis Solowey
6 Joseph F. Loveman	12 Philip Greenglass	20 Minnie Fass	28 Dora (Devorah) Wachtel
6 Frances Messing	12 Marion Harriet Kaplan	20 Elaine Ruth Isenberg	29 Jean Greisman
7 Sophie K. Dancis	12 Samuel R. Ripps	20 Harriet Landau	29 Albert Pearlman
7 Marcelle Dubrow	12 Mary Robinson	20 Bernard L. Spanier	29 Philip Reaboy
7 Julia Hartman	13 Anna Dalick	21 Alvin Bender	30 Tillie Binder
7 Walter Jaffe	14 Susan Dwork	21 Ichel Blumenstock	30 Rebecca Gluck
7 Rozalya Krutkovich	14 Helen Knopping	21 Leon Djivre	30 Wallace Ott
7 Julius Samuelson	14 Emily Felsenthal Loeser	21 Leo Segan	31 Leo Benardo
7 Lillian Waill	15 Abraham Cohen	21 Edna Turteltaub	31 Abraham Max Brown
8 Philip (Sketch) Ivers	15 Moe Elias Greisman	22 Hannah Batkin	31 Eric Alan Elias
8 Selma Genevive Miller	15 Rhea Katz	22 Mella Blumenstock	31 Jeanette Krein
8 Clara Propper	15 Herbert A. Lewis	22 Constance Gordon	31 Nathan Turteltaub
9 Rose K. Fein	15 Jacqueline Schweitzer	22 Nathan E. Rosenthal	
9 Sidney Lyman	15 Julia Sundheim	22 Stanley Tenenbaum	

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

1 Joseph Benardo	9 Abraham Wiener	18 Harry Schliftman	25 Abraham Heisner
1 Saly Haas	10 Samuel Bloustein	18 Charles R. Seidner	25 Hyman Jaffe
1 Alfred E. Hochstein	10 Sophia Greenberg	19 Fred Alwaise	25 Stanley Popelsky
1 Benjamin Michael Kurtz	10 Irving C. Nachbar	19 Freda Block	25 Jacob Strisik
1 Joseph Silverstein	10 Samuel Wessler	19 Ruth Fertig	26 Ethel Parker Dubrov
2 Morris Cohn	11 Frances Goldsmith	19 Seymour Hirsch	26 Seymour Greisman
2 Dr. Solomon M. Robinson	11 Alexander Gordon	19 Harry Kaplan	26 Martha Lazarus
2 Susan Angstreich Rosenblum	11 Dr. Charles Mandel	19 Alexander Lessin	26 Elias Rushfield
3 Joseph Arnowich	11 Louis Posin	19 Bea Rosberg	26 Joseph Sawyer
3 Hazel Nalitt Kaplan	12 Larry Brockman	19 David Sadkin	26 Ida Wilensky
3 Betty R. Rosenberg	12 Annie Eisen	19 Samuel Schneeweiss	27 Herman Kronman
3 Meta Rothschild	12 Charles Rapaport	20 Sam Snyder	27 Otto Kucera
5 David Rosner	13 Caryl Klein	20 Marge Teperman	28 Margaret Elkus
5 Anny Ross	13 Dorothy Rafkind	21 Gregory Grinn	28 Valeria Gerard
5 Andrew Sandler	13 Julia Silberkleit	21 Frederick Kleinman	28 Minnie G. Traugott
5 Louis Schwartz	13 David Weiner	21 Matthew Rosen	29 Rachel Leah Fritz
6 Marsha Blum	14 Morton Kleinman	21 Morris Wachtel	30 Harry Fuhrman
6 Hellen Tausk	14 Larry Meisler	22 Max Fondiller	30 Pauline Kalinowsky
6 Esther Amols	14 Leah M. Robinson	22 Charles H. Goodman	30 Ethel Wolf Miller
7 Anna Kaminer	16 Dr. Henry Horn	22 Nathan Horn	30 Esther Resnik
7 Elliot Liskin	16 Gary Lichtenstein	23 David Fisher	30 Mildred Rosenthal
7 Morris Semmel	16 Anna Schulman	23 Bernard Kramer	30 Benjamin Silverman
8 Philip M. Dancis	17 Jessie Glick	23 Judith Saxe Kuvin	30 Dr. Frederic Stern
8 Ben Rattner	17 Morris Kramer	23 Erwin A. Merson	31 Jack Bross
9 Mary Fisher	17 Irving Margulies	23 Karl F. Ross	31 Marcel Kwal
9 Paul Hirschl	18 Rita Fauer Franklin	24 Mac S. Albert	31 Anna Tauber
9 Stanley Roger	18 Louis Froehlich	24 Philip Knopping	
	18 Alice Krim	25 Frederick David Bernstein	

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

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Judith S. Lewis, D.D.

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*Inside This Issue*

1 *Worship Notice*

1 *The Rabbi's Column*

2 *Monthly Calendar*

3 *The Cantor's Column*

4 *The President's Column*

4 *Simcha Learning Center*

5 *Bulletin Board*

5 *Congratulations*

6 *Bat Mitzvah Celebration*

6 *Nursery School News*

7 *Women of Reform Judaism*

7 *Men's Club*

8 *Social Action*

8 *Adult Education*

9 *Contributions*

10 *June Yahrzeit Observances*

11 *July and August Yahrzeit  
Observances*