



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרְחַ שְׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהֶלֶל שֵׁם יי

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

Worship Services (see calendar on p. 2 for details)

Fridays

- Oct. 2 4:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service
7:00 p.m. Erev Sukkot Ruach Shabbat Service
- Oct. 9 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- Oct. 16 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- Oct. 23 4:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
- Oct. 30 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- Oct. 3 10:30 a.m. Festival and Shabbat Morning Service
- Oct. 10 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Oct. 17 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Oct. 24 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
- Oct. 31 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

All services and events at Riverdale Temple are being offered remotely via Zoom or Facebook Live except where noted otherwise.

Please consult the e-blasts for the latest information on Zoom and Facebook Live links.

To subscribe to our e-blasts, please email administrator@riverdaletemple.org.

Vol. 74

October 2020 (5781)

No. 2

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Shanah Tovah um'tukah! We are still reeling from the strangest High Holiday services we have ever had. Nonetheless, we somehow managed to be moved, to be exalted, and to really feel that we experienced the catharsis of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. October begins with Sukkot, which used to be the biggest Jewish holiday of the year.

There are a number of things about Sukkot that seem to be appropriate for a pandemic. First, it is a holiday of great joy. The summer in Israel is very dry. Sukkot was a harvest holiday that usually came right around the time when rain would start falling in Israel again. So, farmers (and in the old days, that was most people) were joyful when they had successful harvests and when the first rains indicated that future harvests would be successful as well.

I think that we have a bit of the same feeling of relief that the pandemic (so far, ptoo ptoo ptoo) is more under control in New York than we thought it might be. New York hospitals were not overwhelmed, masks are being worn, and although we have suffered a great deal of loss, it has not been as bad as it might have been. Just as we feel joy on Sukkot, there is a bit of joy at the feeling that things could have been much worse.

At the same time, Sukkot is also about the fragility of these good days. We dwell in a sukkah, without a solid roof, without sturdy walls. We read *Kohelet*, the biblical book about the futility of striving. While we enjoy the beauty of a Riverdale autumn, we know that we are not safe, that things could very well get worse.

Sukkot also calls for hospitality but insists that we entertain our guests outside. If we cannot have real guests, tradition calls for us to have virtual ones. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and David each show up on one of the first seven nights of the holiday. Of course, they are accompanied by their wives. Remember to set an extra place on the night Jacob comes over!

Many of us have only virtual guests during the pandemic. Like many Jewish holidays, Sukkot makes us appreciate our families even more. So does the pandemic. When we go to the grocery store, like farmers in ancient Israel, we wonder if we will be able to obtain the things we need.

In a number of ways, Sukkot has extra resonance at this time. So, the lessons we learn from Sukkot are things we may be able to apply to life in the age of COVID-19.

continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				13th of Tishrei 5781	14th of Tishrei 5781 4:30 pm Tot Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Erev Sukkot Ruach Shabbat via Zoom and in Sukkah (weather permitting)*	15th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot I 10:30 am Festival and Shabbat Service via Zoom and in Sukkah* (weather permitting)
				1	2	3
16th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot II No Simcha Learning Center classes 10:30 am Festival Service via Zoom and in Sukkah (weather permitting)*	17th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot III	18th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot IV 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (via Zoom)	19th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot V	20th of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot VI 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)	21st of Tishrei 5781 Sukkot VII 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (via Zoom)	22nd of Tishrei 5781 Shemini Atzeret 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor via Zoom and outdoors* (weather permitting)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23rd of Tishrei 5781 Simchat Torah No Simcha Learning Center classes 11:45 am Simchat Torah service outdoors (weather permitting) and via Zoom	24th of Tishrei 5781	25th of Tishrei 5781 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (via Zoom)	26th of Tishrei 5781 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club	27th of Tishrei 5781 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)	28th of Tishrei 5781 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (via Zoom)	29th Tishrei 5781 Parashat Bereshit 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (via Zoom) 12:30 pm Chavurah on Zoom following services
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
30th of Tishrei 5781 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center In-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes	1st of Cheshvan 5781	2nd of Cheshvan 5781 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (via Zoom)	3rd of Cheshvan 5781	4th of Cheshvan 5781 4:00 pm YIVO talk on Isaac Bashevis Singer (via Zoom)	5th of Cheshvan 5781 4:30 pm Tot Shabbat Service outdoors (weather permitting)* and via Zoom 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (via Zoom)	6th of Cheshvan 5781 Parashat Noach 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (via Zoom)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7th of Cheshvan 5781 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center In-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes	8th of Cheshvan 5781	9th of Cheshvan 5781 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (via Zoom)	10th of Cheshvan 5781	11th of Cheshvan 5781	12th of Cheshvan 5781 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (via Zoom)	13th of Cheshvan Parashat Lech-Lecha 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (via Zoom)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER

* Mask wearing required, and seating will be with social distancing.

Those lessons are: Enjoy life as much as you can. Good times are all the sweeter when we think about how precarious they are. Connect to your family and friends. Eat and drink well. Enjoy the beauty of the world. And if it rains, go inside!

Sukkot comes every year. These days, it sometimes gets short shrift, coming as it does between the High Holidays and Simchat Torah. I hope you find a way to celebrate it that will be both

beautiful and joyful. And when it comes again next year, may it be Gd's will that the pandemic will be only a memory, and we will crowd into our sukkah and celebrate as we have done in years past. Chag sameach!

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

It was such a moving experience to share the Days of Awe with all of you. I have so much love in my heart for everyone at the temple, and I felt your presence with me throughout it all.

These High Holy Days (see p. were so much more than staring into a screen. Holiness was all around us, and we all shared it together: Sharing the need to be the best version of ourselves. Sharing together as we ask for forgiveness. Sharing together the feeling of purity and truth, and it was real.

This year, more than ever before, we were all nervous and afraid. I was nervous and afraid. We didn't know if it was going to work. Would the Zoom services work? Would their spirit enter our soul? Would we feel a connection to the Divine? I am eternally grateful that, indeed, it did work, and holiness was all around us.

It meant so much to me to share our prayers, our tradition, and my own heart, and I would like to thank you all for your patience, for your endless support. Thank you for helping us and teaming up with us throughout this process. I am grateful to all who have helped. There are too many people to mention in this article, but I hope you know how much I value your help and cherish you dearly. I am also grateful for all the phone calls, text messages, and emails you showered me with, and for the nice encounters around Riverdale. I am so grateful to be a part of you. It is truly a privilege to be your cantor.

I am especially grateful for the best "cantorzon," my husband, Jonathan Singer, for not only bearing the weight of our household during these past few months, but for being my right hand, my gabbai, throughout the High Holy Days services. For playing guitar so beautifully, for blowing the shofar with fervor, for chanting Torah, for helping me to roll, dress, undress, and move the Torah, for helping me to transform and set up our home into a professional studio. I truly could not have done it without him, and

I thank him from the bottom of my heart.

We start the new Jewish year of 5781 this Friday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m., with an outdoor rockin' Sukkot RUACH SHABBAT service with our band! A new and exciting experience. I hope you'll join us, in person or virtually, to celebrate Shabbat with live music and joy! I hope the weather will cooperate with us, and indeed we will get to have some in-person, socially distant connections.

We also plan to be outdoors for several other Shabbat and festival services, including Simchat Torah on Sunday, October 11, at 11:45 a.m., when we will also have our Ruach musicians with us! It will be a different Simchat Torah service: socially distant and without passing the Torahs from hand to hand. But we will celebrate, and dance (socially distant), and we will hear the beginning and the ending of the Torah being chanted by our very own wonderful heroines: our former president Rachel Radna and current president, Ronna Weber.

Looking forward to seeing you in person and connecting with you virtually as well.

Be safe and L'hitraot,
—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer



—Photos by Julie Hyman

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I dissent.

I am writing this article five days after the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a woman who had a powerful influence on the law and, indeed on society. I have read many eulogies to her, and they all have mentioned her brilliance, her meticulousness, her sharp legal mind. But none that I have read have stressed that she was Jewish and that, whether or not she was religiously observant, her Judaism influenced her thinking about justice and equality.

Justice Ginsburg was unfortunately often in the minority on a conservative court, and so wrote many dissents, but she was never daunted by having to do so. She played the long game, recognizing that what was a dissent today could be the basis for a different

decision in the future.

There is an interesting parallel between Justice Ginsburg's position as a minority on a conservative court and the position of Jews as a minority in America. Of course, this is nothing new for Jews, who have lived as minorities in Christian and Muslim lands for millennia. Even when the Temple was standing in Jerusalem, there were many Jews living in the Diaspora. But, while the views of the dominant religion could not help but seep into Judaism thinking, Judaism has always preserved its core.

Yet, in modern America, there is a tension between Judaism and our popular culture, and that tension is often resolved by Jews moving out of Judaism into secularism. American culture values

faith over works, the individual over the community, and freedom over duty, and it is the latter values—works, community, and duty—that define Judaism. We dissent.

While Catholicism has a period of study and reflection, most Christian sects do not have elaborate initiation rituals. Expressing faith in the tenets of the group is often sufficient for being accepted as a member. Yes, some sects require baptism, but in general, the doors are wide open to all comers. Judaism makes potential converts jump through hoops. Saying you believe is not enough, because Judaism is more concerned with behavior than with faith. There are all those commandments. Even if you think you do not follow them, you do keep more than you realize. Your faith has to be expressed in your actions.

America values the individual over the collective. Actually, behaving for the good of the community is frowned upon. It is labeled socialism. The dogma is that each individual has the ability to rise in the social and economic hierarchy and become

rich. When Barack Obama said, “You didn’t build that alone,” the outcry was deafening. Americans believe that people who become rich did it by themselves. Judaism values the community. We must care for the needy in our midst. We must give to charities, and not for the tax deduction. While there is room for individual prayer in our services, most of our prayers are communal, said as a group and aimed at the good of the group. Judaism is more “we” than “I.”

Finally, America is obsessed with freedom over duty. Just look at the reactions to being asked to wear a mask. Or what happens when someone suggests regulating assault weapons. So many of our choices are framed as exercising our freedom, and each individual’s freedom is the most important consideration. Judaism, however, is not terribly concerned with your freedom. The emphasis is on duty. We have obligations to each other. Most of our laws are about self-discipline. We must master our impulses and think of the consequences of our choices for the larger society. We dissent.

—Dr. Ronna Weber, President

Dear Each and Every One of My Fellow Riverdale Temple Congregants:

I want to thank you so very much for making this year’s High Holidays 2020/5781 Callers Program so wonderful.

In the fourteen years I have been organizing the High Holidays phone callers, I have seen the level of congregant involvement grow stronger each year. This year we had more participants than at any other time! We are very fortunate to have a good, caring group of people helping us celebrate the High Holidays. A BIG thumbs up!

We are indeed a better congregation when we spend our talents and energies giving to our families, giving to each other, and giving to our communities.

So let me offer a big round of applause, a giant pat on the back, and a truly heartfelt “thank-you” to everyone. Be well.

—Rob Katz

This year’s callers were: Shelley Ast, Phil Clarke, Arline Davis, Dorothy Feldman, Barbara Ferber, Beth Fertig, David Glickenstein, Gerri Glickenstein, David Greenfield, Linda Kaplin, Carol Kassel, Dorothy Kay, Martin Kleinman, Helen Krim, Ruth Loebmann, Rita Pochter Lowe, Kathy Roger, Steve Rosenfeld, Frederick Schweitzer, Sherrill Spatz, Ronni Stolzenberg, and Judith Zucker.

SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

The Simcha Learning Center got off to a wonderful start on a chilly September morning. Children streamed into Riverdale Temple, wearing masks, eager to get their temperatures taken and wash their hands so that they could go join their classmates waiting for them outside in the back of the building. Simultaneously, children logged on to a Zoom class with the cantor to participate in virtual classes (see bottom photo on right).

Both groups of children focused on the joy of Rosh Hashanah, the traditions of the foods that we eat, the shofar blowing, the sound of the shofar, which they only had a chance to see but not hear in person—all the while preparing for the New Year.

There were discussions of what everyone looked forward to in the year to come and what we hope to leave behind. Various classes did crafts, including making an apple tzedakah box. On Tuesdays, the fourth graders and up all met via Zoom with their individual teachers to focus on the Hebrew language and tefillah, as singing is permissible only when classes take place virtually.

We are all grateful to our teachers, the custodial staff, and administration, who have done the preparations to make this possible. And we are grateful to all the students and parents, who have been working and supporting the school.

Wishing you all a wonderful month of October.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist



Bulletin Board

Temple activities will take place via Zoom or Facebook Live unless noted otherwise.
Please consult the temple website at <https://riverdaletemple.org> and the calendar on p. 2
and check e-blasts for updates.

Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by
October 15. You can email it directly to
[rivtemple@aol.com](mailto:rivotemple@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.

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Temple Office	Simcha Learning		
0 or 1	Center	6	
Bookkeeper	2	Emergencies	7
Nursery School	3	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 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: administrator@riverdaletemple.org 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, 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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Building the Sukkah



—Photos by Rob Katz

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

In September, it was so incredible being back in school after being gone for so long. The children were very happy to resume playing with their friends and teachers and all the new toys. If you walked through the building, you could hear the children singing and laughing, something truly magical! School might have looked a little different, but besides the masks and extra hand-washing, our teachers have made their classrooms feel like a safe and loving space where kids can socialize and play.

The Two-Year-Olds were painting and collaging, and slowly their art work was going up on the walls. They were learning about the holidays through play, songs, and stories. They were busy learning about their new environment and all the new routines of the day. They were making new friends and were excited to run and hug their wonderful teachers each morning.

The Three-Year-Olds were also learning about the holidays. They were making apple prints, eating apples and honey, and creating plates and honey cups to use with their families over Rosh Hashanah. They also began learning about fall, as they took nature walks around the school and documented how nature is changing and why.

Our Pre-K class began the year with the unit *All About Me*, to help the children learn about themselves and their friends. What makes them special and unique? If you walked into their classrooms, you could see drawings of self-portraits and pictures of each child's families. The Pre-K children also focused on what it means to be kind, and as they did kind things, the teachers wrote a note and hung it up on a tree to celebrate that child.

This year we do not have specials, as we are limiting the number of people who come into our building, but I am teaching enrichment classes: reading with the Twos, a yearlong artist study with the Threes (Matisse), and fairy-tale STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) with the Fours. I am excited to get these classes going, as I love teaching art and science to children.

—Alexandra Abikzer, Director



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.

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Good-Bye 5780! (Good Riddance)!

Unfortunately, the past year has not been kind. The pandemic forced us all to be separate from our families, our community, and our temple. As I look to 5781, I search for passion, hope, and clarity. I know I am not alone. Hearing about the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Rosh Hashanah brought tears to my eyes. What else could go wrong?? How do we process the next few months?

As I was watching the High Holiday Service on September 19, I heard a strange yet familiar sound. I stepped away from the computer and looked out the window. My neighbor was blowing his shofar. I watched him for a little while and then returned to our services. I heard the sound again. I went back to the window, and it was another neighbor blowing his shofar. By the end of our service, I heard five different shofars! My first reaction was that the sound was a call to order, but I realized after the fifth one, there was more to it. It was a “Call to Action”!

Now more than ever, our voices need to be heard. Are you a registered voter? Do you want your voices To Be Heard? The bottom line is that we need to come together and help our community. In the past years, our congregants have brought groceries to our Yom Kippur services that have been delivered to the local food banks. Unfortunately, we will not be at the temple this year—How Are You Going to Help?

We are a very lucky congregation—our congregants are at the pulse of the Riverdale community. Helen Krim is at the forefront of helping register voters. She is also busy campaigning for the New York Health Act and helping with various food banks. Frances Segan works with the KRMH Food & Hunger Project. Reach out to them, volunteer, and if you have a cause that is close to your heart, Let Us Know! We want to help!

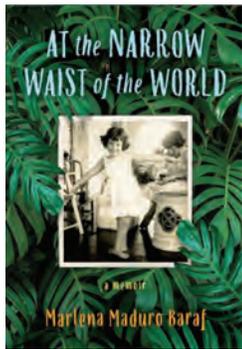
The quote below is from the Reform Judaism website (reformjudaism.org):

Why Advocacy Is Central to Reform Judaism

The passion for social justice is reflected in the ancient words of our prophets and sages and in the declarations of our Movement’s leaders throughout its history. The ancient command “*Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof!* Justice, justice shall you seek!” constantly reverberates in our ears. It has become deeply embedded in the Reform Jewish psyche. This charge has led to a long and proud tradition of political activism by the Reform Movement.

WRJ lost a strong, Jewish, supporter, mentor, and (add your adjective) when Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away. We cannot let her down MAY HER BLESSING BE A REVOLUTION!

—Joanne Heyman, President



Dear Friends,

We will resume our RT Book Club meetings starting on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Before COVID-19 broke up the club, the group had selected *AT the NARROW WAIST of the WORLD: A Memoir*, written by Marlena Maduro Baraf. Nancy Torres, an RT congregant, is the author’s cousin and was gracious enough to ask Marlena to attend our virtual book club meeting.

We are indeed lucky in that Ms. Maduro Baraf has accepted our invitation. Hurry and purchase or borrow the book, which is available on Amazon as a Kindle download, or as a paperback (\$16.95).

Be sure to highlight excerpts to bring to our author’s attention as questions or comments.

Happy New Year,

—Ronni

rstolzenberg@optimum.net

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

L'Shanah Tovah (this was written before the beginning of Rosh Hashanah).

Rosh Hashanah 5781, along with the secular year 2020, will likely be remembered by all of us for the rest of our lives. Many of us believe that the sky is falling, the world is coming to an end, or the planet is self-destructing. Each day we read or view the newscasts, most of which scream prophecies of gloom and doom. But, what actually is in store for us in the future, if there is a future?

Surely, we are experiencing a series of global challenges, each of which would be devastating in its own right. I cannot recall another time when we have faced so many obstacles; political unrest is rampant throughout the world, global weather changes have wreaked havoc on every continent, a viral pandemic is threatening to kill millions of people while destroying world economies, human disrespect for others prevails and civil

disobedience has become criminal behavior, the very truths by which we coexist are coming into question, and racism has reared its ugly head and is threatening all civilized societies on this planet.

Surely there has to be something positive to extract from all of this. This is the traditional time when the Jewish people begin a self-evaluation process. For much of this year, virtually everyone has been forced into a period of introspection because of the pandemic. This collective period of introspection has illustrated to us the fragility of life, and for some it has ushered in a greater desire to repair the world. At first, we took tentative steps, learning new ways to offer comfort, celebrate happy milestones with those we love, and try to meet the needs of those who depend on us. Those of us who have emerged from the lockdown found ways to act on our values by working to rebuild our communities, our country, and our planet.

As humans, we are constantly conflicted between hope and despair, action and lethargy, generosity of spirit and destructive self-absorption. The “call to action” in our times can seem unachievable, for the need is enormous and our individual actions may seem too small and insignificant to make a difference. Chanting the Unetanah Tokef and thinking about all of the wonderful people who died this year despite the pious and good lives they led might inure us to the call to action.

I take comfort from the teachings of the 12th-century Torah scholar and physician Maimonides, who seemed to understand human nature well and who believed that even flawed humans

(all of us) are capable of taking action that will impact society for the good.

We all carry the potential for righteousness and evil. Nobody will ever be wholly selfless or righteous. But, if we perform even a single mitzvah, we tip the scales just a bit toward the good. And that act can be enough to influence not only our own fate, but that of the entire world.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Shanah Tovah. May 5781 bring you joy, fulfillment, good health, and a better future for all. PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

First, everyone on the Social Action Committee wishes you and your family “Health, contentment, and peace in 5781!”

Small Pleasures

It is the season of enjoying walks in the fall coolness, enjoying the flowers and fruits and vegetables seen in sukkahs, gardens like Wave Hill, the New York Botanical Gardens, the Untermeyer and Caramoor Estates, walking around the Bronx River area to see a blue heron looking for fish, watching the bees and butterflies stocking up nectar on asters and zinnias, and squirrels racing by to collect and store nuts. With so many simple pleasures such as a swim and seeing a friend or family member not available to us, by delighting in the peace and beauty of the season, we can enjoy and value everyday things around us. It is also a time to try to connect with friends on a one-to-one basis, with social distancing, now that the hot weather has ended.

Simple Acts of Kindness

At this season of the year, try to remember a neighbor or friend who is alone for the holidays. People enjoy calls, a friendly email, etc.

When you stop at a farmers’ market, pick up an extra bread, vegetables, or fruit to help a family that may be having a hard time economically during this pandemic and economic downturn. Simple acts of kindness include returning a book to a library that has been closed for a friend, taking in the garbage pails for a

widow who lost her husband to the coronavirus, taking time to make a short call to say “hello.” We all get caught up in our own lives, but we must remember to think of others.

KRMH Food & Hunger Project, Inc. Update: Thanks to a special COVID-19 grant, we have been able to distribute more than 130 grocery gift cards to individuals and families who have been furloughed or lost their jobs in 2020 because of the pandemic. We plan to make the offer again in late October–November. We have worked with religious and spiritual leaders from the Interfaith Clergy Conference and the Riverdale Y. If you know of people in the 10471, 10463, and 10468 zip codes who are struggling, please contact me. We still have some grocery cards to give out. (The other morning it was just 8:00 a.m., and I received a call from a relative of a family living in Riverdale. Both parents had lost their jobs and were having difficulty. I was able to confirm this with the recipients and sent KRMH grocery gift cards.) Whether people come to a food line or give you a call, KRMH Food & Hunger Project continues to help the community.

We are still supporting kosher groceries for seniors at the Y and plan to prepare holiday treat bags, albeit via my home rather than a community packing event.

Again, health and peace to all!

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Study with Rabbi Gardner

The rabbi will be announcing his courses shortly via eblasts. Look for the eblasts online very soon.

Study with Cantor Sharett-Singer

Liturgical Hebrew: Do you wish to read Hebrew so you can follow the *siddur* (prayer book) during Shabbat services? If the answer is yes, then this is the class for you! Designed to enable our congregants to read the prayers and blessings of our services and rituals. The course is very individualized so that the cantor can teach students who are reading at a beginner’s level. Each class will also provide opportunities to practice speaking modern Hebrew. You will be asked to buy a book (by Sara Rosen). The class will be on Zoom. Tuition is \$125.00 for a six-week cycle. Each class is an hour and a half. To register and share



your desired class time please email cantorsharettsinger@riverdaletemple.org

The Art of Torah Cantillation: Did you ever wish you had a bar or bat mitzvah? Do you still want to have a chance to read from the Torah? Or maybe it’s been a while and you wish to chant again? Learn, step by step, the knowledge of the Torah trope cantillation system, as well as the skills of being a *gabbai*, the assistant to the Torah reader during the service. This class is intended for those who possess a basic level of fluency in reading Hebrew, as well as those who wish to fine tune their cantillation skills—10 sessions on Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:15 p.m. The class is free and open to temple members. Please email the cantor if you are interested to be a part of this class. Date TBA.

YIVO Jewish Culture Series

Through Riverdale Temple's partnership with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, we are pleased to present the first live lecture of the YIVO Jewish Culture Series, via Zoom, for this study year.

Save the date: Isaac Bashevis Singer, Thursday, October 22, 4:00 p.m. Isaac Bashevis Singer, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1978, was cited "for his impassioned narrative art which, with roots in a Polish-Jewish cultural tradition, brings universal human conditions to life."

Professor Anita Norich of the University of Michigan is our speaker. Dr. Norich is a scholar of Yiddish literature and the literature of the Holocaust. She has published numerous articles exploring contemporary Jewish and Yiddish culture and is the author of *The Homeless Imagination in the Fiction of Israel*.

You will find the link to the talk on the eblast that will be shared with you online each week until the event on October 22. The link can also be found on the temple website, Riverdaletemple.org, under Learning, Adult Education, YIVO Jewish Culture Series.

Since the lecture is a live presentation, and there will be an opportunity to question the speaker, Dr. Norich recommends that you read one of this talented writer's short stories to learn more about him as an author. She suggests that you read the short story "Gimpel the Fool," which can be found in the English translation by Saul Bellow online: **Gimpel the Fool** www.bolles.school.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The Chavurah

The Chavurah will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, following the Zoom Shabbat service. The portion for that day is Bereshit, the first reading in the Torah. A synopsis is unnecessary, since its story is embedded in Western society. This parashah is so wonderful we could spend the whole year talking about it, but, alas, one afternoon will have to suffice. Please feel free to join in. Nothing is needed beyond your interest.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

CONTRIBUTIONS

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The Departed Whom We Now Remember: October Yahrzeit Observances

1 David Buhler	8 Klara Griffel	15 Martin Sternstein	23 Gertrude Kleinman
1 Rose Halper	8 Constance (Connie) Jacob	16 Cybele Fisher-Koppel	23 Stephen Shulman
1 Rachel Salti	8 Samuel Levi	16 Benjamin Sperling	24 Bertha Cohn
2 Bridie Aguayo	8 Helen Sherit	16 Isabel Virshup Werner	24 Abe Shaifer
2 Ida Gordon	9 Michael H. Abrahamson	17 Albert Djivre	25 Sarah Changhong Adams
2 Werner Oppenheimer	9 Alexander Alperovich	17 Samuel Gilman	25 Sarah M. Fondiller
2 Charles Tauber	9 Dr. Jacob Altman	17 Isidor Kaminer	25 Oscar Kalinowsky
2 Walter Tausk	9 Herman Deutsch	17 Max Rosenbaum	26 Edith Licker
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3 Harry Rosenfeld	10 Daisy Goldberg	18 Rosa Lessin	27 Irwin Goldstein
3 Bernhard David Saxe	11 Myrna Faigman	19 Rose Bloch	28 Sarah Jacobson
3 Sarah Strisik	11 Samuel Hellman	19 Isaac Kaplan	28 Lillian B. Kurtin
4 Harry Deutsch	11 Augusta Levy	20 Ida Bennett	28 Victor Lieberman
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7 Mollie Weiner	15 Morris Friedenberg	22 Harry Samalin	31 Hilda Levy
8 Doris Adelman	15 Rae Manheimer	22 Dorothy Simmons	31 Carole Unger
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8 Lena Gleichman	15 Hedy Schnitzer	23 Minnie Eva Harris	

YIV *Yidische kultur-serye*

JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2020-2021

Isaac Bashevis Singer

Thursday, October 22, at 4:00 p.m.

Presented online via Zoom, with

*Anita Norich, Tikva Frymer-Kensky Collegiate Professor Emerita
of English and Judaic Studies, the University of Michigan*



Professor Norich is a translator and scholar of Yiddish literature who has taught and written about American, Jewish, and Yiddish literature and literature of the Holocaust at the University of Michigan since 1983.

This Zoom presentation about the Nobel Prize-winning Yiddish author will consider some of the treasures in Singer's work and also the family of writers of which he was a part.

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