



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שֶׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהַלֵּל 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

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------|
| May 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Shabbat Evening Service |
| May 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Shabbat Evening Service |
| May 21 | 5:00 p.m. | Tot Shabbat |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Ruach Shabbat |
| May 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Shabbat Evening Service |

Saturdays

| | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| May 1 | 10:30 a.m. | WRJ Lay-Led Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) |
| May 8 | 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service |
| May 15 | 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service |
| May 22 | 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service |
| May 29 | 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service |

All services and events at Riverdale Temple (see p. 2) are being offered remotely via Zoom. Please consult the e-blasts for the latest information on Zoom links. To subscribe to our e-blasts, email administrator@riverdaletemple.org.

Vol. 74

May 2021 (5781)

No. 9

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

I have always believed that we should respect the office of the president of the United States, even when we do not like the person in that office. I could be wrong, but I think that, at least until the 1960s, most people agreed. Whether it was President Johnson versus the anti-war movement and the counter-culture, or President Nixon, who was caught cheating and was revealed to be a petty and coarse person, there began to be less respect for presidents. Overall, perhaps there was less respect for those in authority. Catholic priests and nuns slowly moved away from wearing special garb. Reform rabbis wore robes less. Teachers, and sometimes your parents' friends, were called by their first names, rather than "Mister" or "Miss."

Of course, this was also combined with a surge in partisanship in politics. Presidents of the "wrong" party were derided as idiots, called liars, and compared to monkeys. It must be a hard time to be a politician.

This also affected the rabbinate. Once, rabbis were given a great deal of respect. In rabbinical school, my friends and I used to joke about the "good old days," when rabbis gave orders that were obeyed, when the rabbi was one of the most respected people in the community. Those days are over, but I am often moved by the respect I do see from many people.

What does it mean today to be a rabbi or a cantor? In a way, it is good that we do not respect the clergy automatically these days. We do not want to give a clergyperson the right to be a terrible person, but still demand respect from us. Respect should always be earned. The Book of Deuteronomy tells us that Gd rewards those who do good but punishes those who do evil. In a sense, the respect one gets for being kind, generous, fair, and so on, is a reward for that good behavior. Those who are unkind, selfish, and cruel suffer the punishment of not being very popular.

On the other hand, the clergy represent something bigger than the individual person in the role. A book we had to read at Hebrew Union College was *The Rabbi as Symbolic Exemplar*. It spoke about both the good and bad of being seen as a representative of Judaism, and, indeed, in these times, being seen as a representative of religion in general.

There are a number of elements, sometimes contradictory, to the respect given to clergy. Some people look up to clergy, others look down on them. There are people who hated their boring childhood rabbi, and so can't stand any rabbi. There are people who expect a lot from a rabbi and feel that this rabbi or that rabbi doesn't measure up. There are those who respect all

YIVO
Yidische kultur-serye
JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2020-2021
Learn with YIVO and Riverdale Temple - Live on Zoom!

**THREE JEWISH COMPOSERS:
MAHLER, SCHOENBERG, AND BERNSTEIN**

**Wednesday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m.,
with Alex Weiser
See p. 8 for details.**

continued on p. 3

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | <i>19th of Iyyar 5781</i> <i>Parashat Emor</i> 10:30 am WRJ Lay-Led Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) 1 |
| <i>20th of Iyyar 5781</i> 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center In-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes 2 | <i>21st of Iyyar 5781</i> Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner: The Psalms (on Zoom) 3 | <i>22nd of Iyyar 5781</i> 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (on Zoom) 4 | <i>23rd of Iyyar 5781</i> 5 | <i>24th of Iyyar 5781</i> 4:00 pm Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Gardner (on Zoom) 6 | <i>25th of Iyyar 5781</i> 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (in person and on Zoom) 7 | <i>26th of Iyyar 5781</i> <i>Parashat Behar-Bechukotai</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) 8 |
| <i>27th of Iyyar 5781</i> Mother’s Day No Simcha Learning Center classes 9 | <i>28th of Iyyar 5781</i> Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner: The Psalms (on Zoom) 10 | <i>29th of Iyyar 5781</i> 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (on Zoom) 11 | <i>1st of Sivan 5781</i> 7:30 pm YIVO lecture on Jewish composers (on Zoom) 12 | <i>2nd of Sivan 5781</i> 4:00 pm Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Gardner (on Zoom) 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 13 | <i>3rd of Sivan 5781</i> 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (in person and on Zoom) 14 | <i>4th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Parashat Bamidbar</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) 15 |
| <i>5th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Erev Shavuot</i> 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center in-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes 7:00 pm Shavuot Study Session and Service 16 | <i>6th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Shavuot I</i> 10:00 am Shavuot Service No Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner 17 | <i>7th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Shavuot II</i> 10:00 am Shavuot Service with Yizkor No Simcha Learning Center classes 18 | <i>8th of Sivan 5781</i> 7:30 pm WRJ meeting (on Zoom) 19 | <i>9th of Sivan 5781</i> 4:00 pm Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Gardner (on Zoom) 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting (on Zoom) 20 | <i>10th of Sivan 5781</i> 5:00 pm Tot Shabbat (in person and on Zoom) 7:00 pm Ruach Shabbat Service (in person and on Zoom) 21 | <i>11th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Parashat Nasso</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) 22 |
| <i>12th of Sivan 5781</i> 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center in-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes 23 | <i>13th of Sivan 5781</i> Noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gardner: The Psalms (on Zoom) 24 | <i>14th of Sivan 5781</i> 4:00–5:30 pm Simcha Learning Center (on Zoom) 25 | <i>15th of Sivan 5781</i> 26 | <i>16th of Sivan 5781</i> 4:00 pm Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Gardner (on Zoom) 27 | <i>17th of Sivan 5781</i> 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service (in person and on Zoom) 28 | <i>18th of Sivan 5781</i> <i>Parashat Beha’alotcha</i> 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service (in person and on Zoom) 29 |
| <i>19th of Sivan 5781</i> 9:30–11:00 am Simcha Learning Center in-person classes 9:30–10:45 am Zoom classes 30 | <i>20th of Sivan 5781</i> Memorial Day Building closed 31 | | | | | |

MAY

rabbis because a rabbi comforted them in a time of loss, and those who were hurt by something a rabbi once said. Had a lay person said it, it would have been ignored or forgotten, but a rabbi said it, and it will never be forgiven. This, too, is part of the power of clergy.

Then there is the character of the human being who wears the clergy hat. Some people are truly worthy of respect, and some less so. There are also those who are less respected because of who they are. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical organization, is completing a study that shows something unsurprising—female clergy are respected less than male clergy. Whatever her level of talent, dedication, or compassion, the female rabbi or cantor is not treated as well as her male counterpart.

Like a president, a clergyperson usually deserves some respect for the office. He or she rejected other professions to serve the Jewish people, a difficult and time-consuming job that pays pretty well, but will not make anyone rich. Like a president, a clergyperson can lose that respect through egregious wrongdoing. As with a president, we expect more of a clergyperson. We may not forgive character flaws that we would have forgiven in someone else. Just as belonging

to the “wrong” political party can lead us to having less respect for a president, being the “wrong” gender or other aspects of a clergyperson can lead us to showing that person less respect.

In much of the previous century, the rabbi was often the most educated person in the synagogue. Now he or she rarely is, and other people in the community may even know things about Judaism that the rabbi or cantor does not know. Nonetheless, the clergy are the people who have devoted their lives to strengthening your connection to Gd and Judaism, who are trying to help you bring meaning to your life.

Cantor Sharett-Singer and I are well aware that we are flawed human beings, and we make mistakes. Still, it is our joy to share what we know about Judaism with you, and to be there with you in happy times and well as in sad times. We feel truly blessed when we can help you connect to the holiness that is our inheritance. As we slowly come out of pandemic mode, we look forward to serving Gd by serving you, as the psalm says, in joy.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

Shalom chavairim,

This has been a very exciting time in our temple! There is so much change and evolution, and with it, a wonderful comforting promise for the future of our temple.

I am overjoyed that we have opened our doors to in-person services! It has been really fulfilling to pray together physically and to feel each other’s presence after more than a year of having an empty sanctuary. Of course, there are many others who are unable to join us physically, and we are so thankful for you and welcome you to see and feel each other’s presence on Zoom!

After a year of very little live music, we started collaborating with an extraordinary new pianist, Dan Rosengard, who has been a breath of fresh air in our worship. He leads us with his accompaniment with much zeal and care, and I am so thankful for Dan’s skillful and steady hand beside me.

At the end of April, I started tutoring three wonderful Simcha Learning Center students, who will celebrate their bar mitzvahs next year: Zachary Mendez, Lucas Muhlstein, and Eli Caplan. They have already studied at the Simcha Learning Center for many years, and I am excited that they are starting their journey toward becoming sons of the mitzvot.

As June 5 nears, I am excited for the bat mitzvah service of our student Amelia Kane. Amelia has been working extremely hard through this year of uncertainty, and I am so proud of her. I know she will make us all very proud. And let us also look forward to Calder Weiss’s bar mitzvah celebration in October. Calder has also been preparing diligently, and I also cannot wait to listen to him sing and chant and lead our service as a bar mitzvah.

Needless to say, COVID-19 is still around, but it is reassuring to witness how each one of us, and all of us as a whole, holy community, have learned how to live fully and thrive despite the pandemic. We have all had to overcome many challenges, and there is still so much confusion and uncertainty. But what has been

truly rewarding was to meet so many of you, whether on Zoom, in person, on the street, or during our various committee meetings. We are all holding hands supporting each other, and supporting our Riverdale Temple. There is so much love and care in helping our temple thrive, and I am grateful to belong to such a caring community.

On May 21, at 7:00 p.m., we will have our last Ruach Shabbat for the year. The service will feature our live Ruach Band and will take place outdoors at the plaza, with the comfort of professionally constructed tents. During this Ruach Shabbat, we will honor and say our farewell to a very beloved temple family that has been very dear to us all, the Messingers: Michael, Cristin, Emelia, Mackenzie, Noralynn, and Lavender. We are so grateful for their abundant love, dedication, and devotion to our temple, and we wish them great success in their new home in Connecticut. We will miss them all dearly!



Please don’t miss out on this opportunity to thank the Messingers and honor them.

L’hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

May is here. How wonderful is that? And it brings Shavuot. Of all the pilgrimage festivals, Shavuot is the easiest to observe. It does not require all of the cleaning and cooking of Passover or sitting in the cold and rain to perform the mitzvot of eating in the sukkah on Sukkot. Shavuot is all cheesecake and blintzes, with some study thrown in.

In the Torah, Shavuot is called the harvest feast or the Festival of First Fruits. Clearly, intended as an agricultural holiday, Shavuot was a way of thanking Adonai for bestowing a bountiful harvest. Over time, however, Shavuot became associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The gift of Torah is certainly an occasion for celebration, but aside from the drama of the event that is written about in Exodus, the Torah does not privilege this pivotal momentous day. The Torah is given and the Israelites trudge on.

So how did the first-fruits festival become so closely linked with the revelation of the Torah? A strong impetus was the destruction of the Temple and the exile of the Jews from their territory. Exile and urbanization lessened the importance of agriculture in the lives of the people while increasing the need for rituals that strengthened their faith. Ever anxious to hold the Jews together, the rabbis began to repurpose the holiday, focusing it on religious observances that would create a sense of community and commitment.

The custom of all-night study was a significant innovation in the rituals associated with Shavuot. This practice was introduced in the sixteenth century by mystics who sought to cement the theme of Shavuot as a festival of divine revelation. While here, at Riverdale Temple, we do not stay up through the night, we do observe the custom of studying on erev Shavuot. This year we will again be joining with Congregation Tehillah for the pleasures of study and discussion, and I hope you all will attend.

Another ritual associated with Shavuot was guaranteed to bring people to the Temple for study, namely, eating dairy foods. How sad it is that the coronavirus has robbed us of this delightful custom for the second year in a row. I remember those tables piled high with cheesecakes, kugels, and assorted high-cholesterol goodies. This association of Shavuot with eating dairy is very old and might be related to the fact that the holiday occurs at the time when the herds and flocks are giving birth and, therefore, producing large quantities of milk. But whatever the practical reasons might be, the rabbis added an overlay of religiosity to the custom. Some said that it is a reminder of the promise of returning to Israel, the land of milk and honey. Another view was that the ancient Israelites had just received the Torah and learned that they were not supposed to mix milk and meat. Since they did not yet have separate dishes for meat and dairy, they ate just dairy. Okay.

Even though we will be unable to gather together to celebrate, study, and eat, we can celebrate, study, and eat on Zoom. Rabbi Gardner and Rabbi Shriner-Kahn are busily preparing an opportunity for us modern Jews to connect with our rich heritage and enjoy ourselves at the same time. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday evening, May 16, for our Shavuot study session.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

TOT

Tot Shabbat
Friday, May 21, 5:00 p.m.
In person and on Zoom

SHABBAT

BULLETIN BOARD

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



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

Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by **May 15**. You can email it directly to administrator@riverdaletemple.org (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 |
| Temple Office | 0 or 1 | 6 |
| Bookkeeper | 2 | 7 |
| Nursery School | 3 | 8 |
| | Simcha Learning Center | 9 |
| | Emergencies | |
| | General Information | |
| | Other | |

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

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, go to ushmm.org/resourcecenter.

Contact information: Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, Registry of Holocaust Survivors, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

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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SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

What a busy month April was for us at the Simcha Learning Center. After Passover break, we dove right into celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut—Israel Independence Day—with our annual celebration. The in-person students spent time in the sanctuary reviewing the history of Israel with a slide presentation. They then explored Israel by visiting the Western Wall with Rabbi Gardner in our courtyard. This was followed by visiting the Tel Aviv market and shopping in Hebrew with our teachers. It all ended with the Kinneret singing Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah," and enjoying birthday cake.

The following week we helped out at Mitzvah Day by planting and decorating pots to donate to senior centers and packaging toiletries for people in need. Our remote students celebrated Israel with Cantor Sharett-Singer in song and art and explored ways to do Mitzvah Day remotely.

Much fun and lots of experiential learning was enjoyed by all.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist



Below, the distance learning students of the SLC and our cantor making chamsa, an Israeli good-luck amulet, to celebrate Israel.



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Spring at Riverdale Temple Nursery School is amazing. The weather is getting warmer, and the flowers all around the building are in bloom. The children have been spending a lot of time outdoors and taking walks to the pond down the street.

In April, all the classes studied spring. Each class had caterpillars. It was truly magical for the children to watch them turn into butterflies and then release them into our playground!

The children have also been doing a lot of planting. Planting flower seeds and vegetable seeds to see what grows. They have been learning about what plants need to grow and the different parts of a plant. Some classes have created rainbow gardens on their bulletins, others have made gardens in shoe boxes, and they have created art out of recycled products.

This past month we also talked about Earth Day and what we could do to keep our earth nice and clean. The children are recycling their food and containers and are learning how to recycle properly. We are reusing items like milk cartons as watering cans for our plants and coffee tins as vases for flowers. Besides helping our earth, we are also talking about how we can help others. We tied this into Mitzvah Day, which was on April 25. Each class collected items for people in need.

The chicks and the eggs arrived in April. The Yellow Room class is hosting them. The children voted on names for the

chicks, and the winning names were “Honey” and “Mustard.” It is magical to see the chicks grow and to watch the eggs hatch. Once the babies grow up, they go back to the farm, where they can be free.

3K for All

In March, the mayor announced that all districts would be getting 3K, which is just like UPK, but for three-year-olds. RTNS is happy to announce that we will have 3K next year, and our families are very happy about it as well.

Camp

We still have openings in our summer camp for 2s, 3s, and 4s. If you are interested, please contact me at:

nsdirector.rtns@gmail.com

— Alexandra Abikzer, Director

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

As I sit looking at a blank page, knowing this column is due, my mind wanders and I quickly think about the past year. Wow! I decided to look at my last year’s May column (see below):

I was reminded that it was time for the May bulletin—I don’t know about you, but I have no idea on dates anymore (don’t get too excited). I wanted to give a very special “Shout Out” to Shelley Ast for her lovely Shabbat Greetings emails. In addition, our rabbi and cantor have gone above and beyond providing each and everyone a feeling of commitment and dedication from our temple. WRJ wishes everyone a good “Social Distancing,” and we hope to see your smiling faces soon.

Why is May so hard to write about? It is a recap of April. Frances Segan mentioned to me that April can be a very cruel month. I don’t think this is what she meant.

There was a meeting of WRJ at the end of April. We discussed the direction of WRJ and where we wanted to place our priorities. Our first priority is to our community, and that being said, we have identified a few projects that we hope will strengthen our community. WRJ is exploring more opportunities with Hearts & Homes and with the transgender community. We need help and we need volunteers, get involved. So, when June rolls around and the column is due – I won’t be staring at a blank page.

— Joanne Heyman, President

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

Best wishes from the Men’s Club.

— Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

Mitzvah Day 2021

Thanks to Cristin Messinger for spearheading and organizing the 2021 Outdoor Mitzvah Day on April 25. Working with me, four major organizations were contacted to be recipients of Riverdale Temple and community donations: The Midnight Run—new white socks and soap for homeless men; The Women’s Concourse Shelter—diapers and wipes and 50 flower cups; Hearts & Homes Refugee Program—groceries, reusable bags, and 50 flower cups; and Big Brothers Big Sisters—reusable clothing for men, women, and children.

Thanks to the following volunteers: Danielle Scher, Galia Galansky and Dario Fernandez, Mac Psachie, Jesse Mechanick, Phil Clarke, Fanta Davis-Clarke, Jeff Sklar, Joanne Heyman, David and Rochelle Greenfield, and Robin Segal. (As a follow up, more names and information will be included in the June bulletin.) Cristin Messinger coordinated with the Religious School director, Judy Weinberg, to have the students make the flower cups and sort groceries. Thanks to everyone who donated items for Mitzvah Day organizations. We also are most grateful for the ongoing help from Linda Eisenkraft and Eurides Osorio and his staff.

KRMH Food & Hunger Project

Additional grocery gift cards are being shared again with the help of interfaith religious leaders and the Riverdale Y.

Cards were disseminated in January and at the end of April and scheduled for early May. In working around the pandemic, the grocery gift cards provide an alternative to people standing on long food distribution lines, as well as providing them with the peace of going to a grocery store and selecting their own food items for themselves and their family.

Since November, our volunteers have been able to do monthly packing for the permanently homebound seniors via the Riverdale Y. Volunteers can help the first Wednesday of each month.

Social Justice and Climate Change Activities

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. However, there are different opportunities to help with greening and climate-change activities with other groups within our community and the greater Bronx. There are park, river, and zoo cleanups. There are community garden projects. We need to look for ways to connect our volunteers and youth with diverse groups in our own community and the rest of The Bronx to come together to work on different projects. By doing so, we can get to know and understand each other in better ways. As we become aware of opportunities, we shall list them in the bulletin or add to e-blasts. Check out the Riverkeeper Sweep activities listed on the web in different sites.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

At Adult Education we continue to plan online events, and in that regard we have mapped out for you the various events that are on our road map to June 2021. We urge you to save the dates in your planning calendars. All events are online via Zoom.



SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, **May 12**, 7:30–8:30 p.m.: YIVO Jewish Culture Series (on Zoom)

Three Jewish Composers: Mahler, Schoenberg, and Bernstein with Alex Weiser

Alex is the director of public programs at the YIVO and a talented composer (he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for one of his compositions). He will be examining each composer’s work through the lens of their Jewish identities.

Tuesday, **June 8**, and Tuesday, **June 15**, 7:30–8:30 p.m.:

A Shmek of Yiddish (A taste of Yiddish) with Mikhl Yashinsky.

This is a mini-course to provide you with an experience to determine whether we should host a Yiddish class at Riverdale Temple for the next study year. He will provide an introduction through bits of dialogue, Yiddish songs and film clips, and innovative material from a new textbook that he coauthored. You will be exposed to some elements of Yiddish grammar and conversation.

Mikhl Yashinsky taught Yiddish at the University of Michigan, the Yiddish Book Center, YIVO, and the Workers Circle and is

the coauthor of *In eynem*, an innovative new Yiddish textbook published in 2020. He is known to New York audiences for his performances in Joel Grey’s production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and as the star of *The Sorceress*, both with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene. He was named to the Forward 50, the historic newspaper’s annual list of influential, intriguing, and inspiring American Jews.

Remnants of the Jewish Bronx: date to be finalized in June

Our guide will be our very own Susan Birnbaum, who conducts walking tours through her company, Susan Sez.

Join this remote tour (online) as we “walk” along “The Boulevard of Dreams.” Learn the history and discover the “remnants” of the Jewish Bronx.

Study with Rabbi Gardner

Mondays from noon to 1:00 p.m.: The Psalms

Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Jewish Ethics

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The Chavurah will not meet in May. We urge all to attend the Shavuot study session, which will take place on Sunday evening, May 16.

—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 Fund, Soviet Émigré Fund, Charles Tenenbaum Fund, Torah Repair Fund, Youth Activities Fund.

| DONOR | IN HONOR | DONOR | IN MEMORY |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Bruce Bereano | Leon and Beatrice Bereano Flower Fund | Muriel Adams | Leona Hermel Adams, beloved mother |
| Susan Berkwitt | Riverdale Temple | Paul and Eileen Bloustein | Francis J. Bloustein |
| Stanley and Barbara Ferber | For reciting Torah on Passover | Irene Brenner | Sophie Richman |
| Elliot Goldofsky | In appreciation of Charlie Kolb's teachers | Beth and Mitchell Friedman | Molly Friedman |
| Sylvia Gottlieb | Susan Birnbaum, for her birthday Rabbi Franklin, for his birthday | Beverly Hamada | Irving Hamada |
| Marc Halpert | Riverdale Temple | Helaina and Josh Hurban | Marla Hurban, beloved mother |
| Julie Hyman | Riverdale Temple | Craig Katz and Linda Chokroverty | Morris Funtleyder Irving Karpf |
| Frederick Schweitzer | The rabbi, cantor, and the many congregants and classmates who remembered me in their thoughts and prayers during my illness, especially those who visited, emailed, phoned, or messaged me | Dorothy Kay | Oscar Kay and Marla Hurban Ida Yarlow and Joseph Kay |
| Geoffrey and Kendra Singer | For Passover | Roseanne M. Klein | Paul Klein |
| | | Linda Kleinman | Claudia Kern, beloved sister |
| | | Ken Lederer | Sigmund Kleinman, beloved brother-in-law |
| | | Harriet Martin | Pearl Lederer |
| | | Rita Pochter Lowe | Rose Schwartz |
| | | | "Allie" Abraham Pochter |
| | | | Isidore Weiss |
| | | Marilyn and Emil Propper | Sheldon Cohen |
| | | Geoffrey and Kendra Singer | George Small |
| | | Leslie Tait | Stanley Bussis, beloved father |
| | | Laurie Levene-Whitehill | Monica DiFilippi |

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Condolences

To

Helaina and Joshua Hurban, Dana Offenbach and Robert Emerson Williams III

On the Loss of

Marla Hurban, beloved mother, sister, sister-in-law



The Departed Whom We Now Remember: May Yahrzeit Observances

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 J. Burton Orr | 9 Elysse Gabrielle Roger | 17 Claudia Kern | 25 David Fenster |
| 1 Raymond Zwyer | 10 Mariann Kovar | 17 Bernard Schnitzer | 25 Chaim Poster |
| 2 Esther Siminowitz | 10 Ilse Spatz | 17 Rabbi Charles E. Shulman | 25 Libby Silverman |
| 2 Judith B. Turiel | 10 Darrell Ray Steele | 17 Hon. Howard Silver | 26 Pearl Lederer |
| 3 Benjamin Alin | 11 Martin Burstin | 17 Augusta Trager | 27 Hyman Bialek |
| 3 Morris Berman | 11 Jack (Isidore) Fisher | 17 Corinne Wessler | 27 Louis Feinman |
| 3 Dr. Leo Charles | 11 Abner Kurtin | 17 Ilene Zolt | 27 Isidore Reibeisen |
| 3 Rose Cohen | 11 John Al Meisler | 18 Eva Arnowich | 28 Harry Kalinsky |
| 3 Charles Gallub | 11 Melvin Rushfield | 18 Morris Kolin | 28 William Rippes |
| 4 Helen Lippmann Block | 12 Bernard H. Friedman | 18 Isidor Schneiderman | 29 Robin Agusta |
| 4 Edward Eichenwald | 12 Pauline Goldman | 19 Donald E. Brotherson | 29 Meyer Karsh |
| 4 Paul E. Klein | 12 Ann Hauser | 19 Jessie Dinowitz | 29 Bella Perlstein |
| 4 Sandra Nadine LoPato | 13 Margaret Fettman | 19 Samuel Hirshowitz | 29 Rita Resnick |
| 4 David Roskind | 13 Morris Funtleyder | 19 Jack Sackstein | 29 Ilyse Segal |
| 5 Sheldon Cohen | 13 Samuel Lehrer | 20 Jacob Kaplan | 29 Andrew Sternberg |
| 5 Hyman Golden | 13 Evelyn Rose Spanier | 20 Ray Kolin | 30 Maria Levin |
| 5 Lee S. Haber | 13 Marion J. Weinberg | 20 Mae Spivack | 30 Jack Mittleman |
| 5 Irving Isaacs | 14 Jacob Franklin | 21 Max Heimowitz | 30 Rose Schwartz |
| 5 Harry Leff | 14 Gail R. Pops | 21 Helen Jacobs | 31 Mayer M. Ackerson |
| 6 Harry Fried | 14 Celia S. Wendrow | 21 Edith Oppenheim | 31 Dr. Max A. Bruck |
| 6 Adele Diane Gray | 15 Sam Hamada | 21 Rose Seefer | 31 Monica DiFilippi |
| 6 Bridie LaCava | 15 Sitta Spatz | 22 Dr. Philip L. Bereano | 31 Rachel Kramer |
| 7 Jack Kroll | 15 Robert Wagonfeld | 22 Celia Kantor | 31 Noel Robert Rubinstein |
| 7 John J. Loebmann | 16 Francis J. Bloustein | 23 Wolf Avrach | |
| 8 Bernard Katz | 16 William Fuhrman | 23 Arthur Krilov | |
| 8 Sophie Richman | 16 Dr. Jack Hauser | 23 Alan Sherman | |
| 9 Allie "Abraham" Pochter | 16 Sigmund Kleinman | 23 Helen Taig | |
| 9 Florence Rapaport | 16 Lewis Silver | 24 Jacob Fritz | |
| 9 Rose Reinhart | 17 Irving Karpf | 24 Vera T. Rosenblum | |

Riverdale Temple Cares

Are you lonely or feeling isolated during the pandemic? Are you or a family member ill? Riverdale Temple is here to help.

The temple's Caring Committee offers support during difficult times by calling members and their families to talk—about your concerns or just to have a friendly chat. Good news, such as a milestone birthday or a birth in the family or other simcha? We'd like to share in your joy!

If you or someone you know would welcome a caring call, please reach out to Muriel (917-353-6843) or Beth (bethfertig@gmail.com). If you prefer, you may contact Rabbi Gardner (718-548-3800).



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3. Then we return your records and a USB stick with the digital copies

**To get started, open your Camera app and scan the QR code above to contact us!
It's free, so act today!**

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RIVERDALE TEMPLE

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BRONX, NY 10471

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patron of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

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Cantor of the Congregation

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

Rabbis Emeriti of the Congregation

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

President of the Congregation

Ronna Weber, Ph.D.

Nursery School Executive Director

Alexandra Abikzer

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