



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

- March 4 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 March 11 5:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat
 7:00 p.m. Ruach Shabbat
 March 18 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 March 25 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- March 5 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 March 12 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 March 19 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 March 26 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Zachary Mendez Bar
 Mitzvah

**Masks are mandatory for in-person attendance.
Registration is required.**

**All individuals, including children 5 and older,
must be fully vaccinated to enter the sanctuary.**

**Services will also be streamed via Zoom. Zoom
links will be provided prior to service.**

**For access to the links, email:
administrator@riverdaletemple.org**



**Celebrate Purim with a
costume parade,
service,
Megillah reading,
and Purimspiel
(see p. 9).**

Vol. 75

March 2022 (5782)

No. 7

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

When I was living in Baton Rouge, one of my congregants once asked me if she could garden on Shabbat. Gardening was her favorite hobby, something she truly enjoyed. As I recall, I wasn't sure how to answer. I think my answer was that the Orthodox would say 'no.' But did that really answer her question?

There are thirty-nine categories of work that were forbidden on Shabbat in the Mishnah, a collection of writings of rabbis and proto-rabbis that was codified in the year 200 C.E. My teacher, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, pointed out that the categories all had to do with creating civilization. They were things that went into the making of clothing, shelter, books, and growing and cooking food. Regarding the latter, categories included lighting or extinguishing a flame, slaughtering, cooking, and several that were specific to agriculture: plowing, planting, reaping, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, selecting, sifting, and grinding.

Checking an Orthodox website, I found a number of forbidden subcategories of work that one might do while gardening, such as watering, weeding, fertilizing, raking, and removing debris from the garden. Orthodox Judaism does not care about Rabbi Hoffman's theory about the creation of civilization. Those categories of work are forbidden, and that's all there is to it. But I care about the theory.

To me, gardening for pleasure is not the same as agriculture. For my congregant, gardening was not work, but rest. It was something she did to make her day delightful, something we are, in fact, commanded to do on Shabbat. Why did I give the answer that I did?

When you ask the rabbi a question about what is forbidden and what is permitted, I assume that you mean to inquire after the traditional Jewish answer. The traditional answer was that gardening is forbidden on Shabbat. Yet, she asked a Reform rabbi, and I should have assumed she wanted a Reform answer.

It is quite rare for a Reform Jew to ask his or her rabbi a question like that at all. In the years I have been at Riverdale Temple, I don't recall a single person ever asking me if something is forbidden or permitted on Shabbat. Plenty of people have hidden their phones from me, either facetiously or seriously, and others have mentioned a great shrimp dish they made the other night, only to say, "Oops, I shouldn't say that in front of the Rabbi!"

continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		28th of Adar I 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 4:00 pm Adult Ed: The Literature of Grief (M. Reinhardt) 1	29th of Adar I 5782 2	30th of Adar I 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 3	1st of Adar II 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service 4	2nd of Adar II 5782 Parashat Pekudei 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 5
3rd of Adar II 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes 6	4th of Adar II 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sforno 7:30 pm Social Action Committee Zoom meeting (tentative) 7	5th of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 4:00 pm Adult Ed: The Literature of Grief (M. Reinhardt) 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting 8	6th of Adar II 5782 9	7th of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 10	8th of Adar II 5782 5:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm Ruach Shabbat 11	9th of Adar II 5782 Parashat Vayikra 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 12
10th of Adar II 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes 11:00 am Purim celebration 13	11th of Adar II 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sforno 14	12th of Adar II 5782 No Simcha Learning Center classes 4:00 pm Adult Ed: The Literature of Grief (M. Reinhardt) 15	13th of Adar II 5782 Erev Purim 6:00 pm Purim festivities, Megillah reading, Purimspiel 16	14th of Adar II 5782 Purim 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting 17	15th of Adar II 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service 18	16th of Adar II 5782 Parashat Tzav 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 1:30 pm Chavurah (see p. 8) 19
17th of Adar II 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes 20	18th of Adar II 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sforno 21	19th of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 22	20th of Adar II 5782 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club: The Book of Numbers (date tentative) 23	21st of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 24	22nd of Adar II 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service 25	23rd of Adar II 5782 Parashat Shemini 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Zachary Mendez Bar Mitzvah 26
24th of Adar II 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes 27	25th of Adar II 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sforno 28	26th of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 29	27th of Adar II 5782 30	28th of Adar II 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 31		

MARCH

Temple events and services take place in person, in person and on Zoom, or only on Zoom. Check the bulletin and emails for specific information and latest updates.

But I think everyone knows that, in Reform Judaism, each person makes his or her own decision as to how to practice Judaism.

One thing that (slightly) complicates the question is that I, personally, would not garden on Shabbat. I do not think that Gd has forbidden it, or that I will be punished in the afterlife for doing so. Every society has mores and rules that define the boundaries of that society. I choose to practice Judaism the way I do out of solidarity with all Jews, Jews of the past as well as those of the present. I feel it is good for me to give up some of the conveniences of the modern world for my religion, and that my practice would be recognized by any religious Jew.

My practice is not that of Orthodox Judaism. I do not consider myself an Orthodox Jew, and no Orthodox Jew would consider me an Orthodox Jew. However, an Orthodox Jew could look at my life and my practice, and recognize some of it as similar to his or her own. I imagine that an Orthodox Jew would look at my practice and think, "This person is not practicing Judaism correctly." But he or she might go on to think, "Yet, I can see that he is serious about his Judaism."

My congregant in Baton Rouge was also serious about her Judaism. Just the fact that she would ask the question she did proves that. She could continue to be a serious Reform Jew and also garden on Shabbat. I feel now that I let her down by not making that clear. Orthodox Jews might think less of her Judaism if she gardened on Shabbat, but we do not base our practice on what other people might think of us. I care for all Jews, but I do not care if they think my practice is correct or not. I am happy if they do, but not unhappy if they do not. I know that I take my Judaism seriously, and so do most of the members of Riverdale Temple.

I encourage everyone to come to our Shabbat services, but if that is not the way you keep Shabbat, please keep it the way you keep it. And if your Judaism does not have much Shabbat in it, then do your Judaism your own way. Judaism is a precious treasure that has been passed down by our ancestors, and we value it. We will continue to do so only if each person's practice makes sense to him or her.

—Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

Mishenichnas Adar Marbin B'simcha—as the month of Adar begins, we shall have much joy! On the eve of the 14th of Adar, which is Wednesday, March 16, we celebrate Purim, the most joyful holiday. We invite you all to join us and enjoy the festivities! We will begin with a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m., and at 6:00 p.m. there will be a costume parade, followed by the service with a communal Megillah reading, with this followed by SHOWTIME. We will watch our members' spiel production of "The Sixties Megillah," written by



—Photo by Raquel Glottman

Helen Krim, directed by Alena Gerst, and produced by Carol Kassel, with the fabulous actors and singers of our very own temple. I also invite you to chant/read/rap/yudle a verse from Esther in any language you wish—please contact me at cantorsharettsinger@riverdaletemple.org to receive a recording. Come in costume, and bring boxes of pasta to boo Haman the wicked, and do an important mitzvah by donating the pasta to those in need.

Pre-Purim, on March 11, at 7:00 p.m., Ruach Shabbat is back with our full band, followed by a communal potluck meal! Our Ruach band will be led by our exceptional accompanist, Jack Glottman. Jack has been a valuable asset to our services since he joined our musical team after the High Holy Days. Jack accompanies our prayers with beauty and sincerity and adds his special creative spirit to our worship. I am so grateful to have Jack with us, and I appreciate all the gifts that he brings to us through his accompaniment. I would like to showcase him here in my article, so that you all can get to know him better, and appreciate his journey.

Jack has been a fixture in the NYC music scene for the past 19 years, developing a voice on the piano, as an improviser and composer, steeped in tradition while maintaining the freshness of an ever-present musical narrative of his own. Additionally, he

has been involved in a huge variety of settings that range from musical theater to Gospel music and Afro-Caribbean music, while maintaining jazz piano at the center.

In the past year, he has been musical director of the Lincoln Center theater show *Sancocho*, playing with his trio at New York venues, backing jazz star vocalist Lauren Henderson, and composing and recording the song "Si Te Vieras Con Mis Ojos" (co-written with his sister Dora) with the Latin jazz group La Banda Ramirez.

Jack began his musical journey in his native Bogotá, Colombia, and he moved to Israel at age 12, together with his father, which enabled him to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah at his local Conservative synagogue in Tel Aviv. In his teens, he resided for more than a decade in Israel, where he attended the prestigious Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts. He has been a professional since his mid-teens and through the years has performed and recorded with numerous top artists, among them Bobby Sanabria, Louis Hayes, Eric Alexander, Christian McBride, and the Fat Cat Big Band. He has played for more than 15 years with drum legend Billy Kaye, with whom he gained great experience and a strong link to the rich NYC music tradition.

He participated in artist residencies at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at the Ravinia Steans Music Institute in Illinois. He has been involved in educational projects from Jazz at Lincoln Center and continues as an active member of the NYC scene. His playing and compositional skills are evident in his many recordings as a leader and as a collaborator. He lives in Brooklyn, rides a bike, has enjoyed a vegan diet, and takes part in animal-rights activism.

Jack is a brilliant musician and, most importantly, a wonderful person to have on our bimah.

I hope you join our spirited and energetic worship services this March. Rabbi Gardner and I are here with you together, striving to inspire and bring much joy to your spirits.

Happy Purim! L'hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome to Adar (actually Adar II) and the celebration of Purim! Who does not love Purim? Many years ago, I had the good fortune to be in Jerusalem during Purim, and it was a sight to behold. Everyone was out on the street, young and old in costumes, spraying cans of Silly String and blowing horns. Little girls were dressed as Esther and the boys as Mordechai. It was a national celebration. They tried to kill us, we won, pass the hamantaschen.

The Book of Esther takes place in Persia. While there is no external validation for the story as history, it does accurately describe the manners of the court of the Persian emperor. It is also one of the only documents we have that gives hints of life in the Diaspora and the first evidence of anti-Jewish attitudes directed at these communities.

The chronology of events leading to the exile is complex. Following the death of Solomon, his kingdom quickly split into a northern realm (Israel) and a southern kingdom (Judah). In addition to their own internecine conflicts, the kingdoms were buffeted about by stronger empires around them: Egypt and Assyria/Babylonia. The Kingdom of Israel was quickly overrun by the Assyrians. The Kingdom of Judah held out longer, paying tribute to Nebuchadnezzar for a time, but then rebelling. This led to a full-on invasion by the Babylonian forces, the capture of Jerusalem, and the forced exile of Judah's most powerful, wealthy and educated families. The Persians, under Cyrus, overthrew the Babylonian regime in 539 BCE. The Book of Esther is set during this Persian period.

The Edict of Cyrus (539 BCE), written to the exiles of Judah living in Babylon, gave the Jews permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, and as early as 538 BCE, Jews began to leave. However, Xerxes (Ahasuerus) reigned from 483 to 465, so the Book of Esther is the story of Jews who chose to remain in Persia. This helps us to understand some of the perplexing aspects of the story.

The Jewish community in Persia seemed to feel fully at home, but continued to stress their Jewishness. However, they did not build a Temple for sacrificial purposes, and it is likely that their worship was now decentralized. They are credited with developing

the idea of the synagogue, a house of assembly that became a house of worship.

Although there is evidence that these Persian Jews maintained links to their original homeland, the Book of Esther makes no mention of the larger Jewish community and is concerned only with these particular Jews living in the Diaspora. Haman describes them as those "whose laws are different from those of any other people," but the story tells us nothing about the community's religious practices. Esther is reluctant to reveal that she is a Jew, so there is an implication that Jews are not fully accepted. As we all know, Adonai is not mentioned in the scroll at all, and while it describes Mordechai tearing his clothes and putting on sackcloth and ashes, he does not cry out to Gd and beg for heavenly intercession. Similarly, while Esther fasts, she does not pray. The plot against the Jews is foiled and the story ends without any coda. It assumes that everyone just continues to go about their business as before. If there was trauma, lingering suspiciousness or anxiety, the tale ignores it.

While much that we would like to know is left out of the story, there are many implicit lessons. Feminists love the depictions of strong women who take charge of their destiny (Vashti and Esther). Although Gd is not mentioned, we see the Divine Hand working in the many incredible coincidences. (Mordechai overhears the eunuchs talking. Esther just happens to be the queen beloved by Ahasuerus.) The Jews prevail through their wits, so their military weakness does not matter. It is possible to overcome prejudice. You can live in the Diaspora, maintain your Jewishness, and prosper. These are themes that speak to us to this day.

I look forward to seeing you at our wonderful Purimspiel on March 16. Reading the Megillah of Esther is a mitzvah, so please contact Cantor Sharett-Singer to volunteer to read a sentence or two of the scroll. You can do it in English, Hebrew, or the language of your choice. After all, it's Purim!

—Dr. Ronna Weber

BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION



Zachary Mendez

From Zachary's Parents: We are so proud of our son **Zachary Mendez** and look forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on March 26, 2022. Zachary is an honor student on the Principal's List at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy. He plays soccer for the Riverdale Vipers travel team. He also enjoys playing chess, reading about American and world history, and cooks an amazing steak! For his Mitzvah project, he is raising funds for the Mount Vernon Animal Shelter. Zachary and his family would like to thank Rabbi Gardner, Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer, and all the staff at the Riverdale Temple who have worked so hard to make his Bar Mitzvah an amazing and special day.

Mazel Tov Zachary!!!

BULLETIN BOARD

Many temple activities will take place via Zoom and in person. 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 **March 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.

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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!



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



The Bulletin: Vol. 75, No. 7, March 2022. *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.

SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER



Although there were no holidays this past month in the Simcha Learning Center, there are a lot of festivities going on and much learning. Several of our students completed their first Hebrew book and joyfully moved on to the second one. With the guidance and the teaching of the rabbi and the cantor, our fourth- and fifth-

grade classes have been progressing beautifully in their Hebrew studies. Our second- and third-grade classes have been enjoying their new teacher, Yardena, as she ventures forth on exploring various different Jewish symbols throughout our Jewish life as well as our Jewish synagogue. The children have experienced a scavenger hunt, looking for all the mezuzahs in the building. They learned how to sing the Shema and how it



is found on the inside of each decorative mezuzah case. They also learned about the importance of the Jewish star and how it is a symbol that is identifiable to all.

Our older group studies with the clergy, who continue to perfect



their knowledge of Tefilah and their willingness to get up in front of the entire school to lead parts of the service at our Sunday morning prayer services. Our kindergarten and first-grade classes enjoyed continuing to explore Shabbat with various Jewish stories as well as Jewish arts.

We look forward to the month of March, as we welcome in the month of Adar 2, during which we will celebrate the festivities of Purim.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

On February 10, the children had Pajama Day and breakfast in their classrooms. Pajama Day is always a fun and exciting day for the children and the teachers.

The Twos have been busy planting for Tu B'Shevat. They painted pots and then planted parsley, which they will keep to use at their Passover Seders.

Our Three-Year-Olds are studying hibernation. They made giant caves out of a refrigerator box that they can all climb into and use for hibernating. There was also a lot of "I Love You Day," in the Threes' classroom. They made cards, presents, and decorations. They also learned about Chinese New Year, President's Day, and Black History Month.

Our Four-Year-Olds are studying water. There are ponds, lakes, tubing, and lots of pouring and rainbows in all the classes. There is also a lot of experimentation and truly learning by doing. Children are making boats and seeing if they sink or float. The children are painting with ice and watching food coloring spread on paper and explode and change colors.

Now we are getting ready to go on Winter Break, but when we return, we will have Purim and Crazy Hat Day on March 17. We will have a magician come and do a magic show, and children will come to school in costumes and crazy hats.



Tours

We continue to have tours for the 2022–2023 school year for Two-Year-Olds. The DOE has opened registration for 3-K and Pre-K as well. Families can register at [myschools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov). If you have friends who are interested in our Twos program, please tell them to call the school at 718-796-0335 or email me at nsdirector.rtms@gmail.com.

Baby Classes

We are in the middle of our second session of Mommy and Me and will begin our Spring session in April. We are also excited to announce a new baby yoga class for children ages 12 to 36 months. This class will be on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., beginning in March and going to June. The company running the class is Yogi Beans. For more information or to register, please contact me at nsdirector.rtms@gmail.com.



Camp

We are still enrolling 2- to 5-year-olds for summer camp. We are also looking for counselors and CITs. Camp will be for six weeks, from June 27 to August 5. There will be lots of projects, water, planting, fun themes, and specials each week. We will have soccer, dance, music, and yoga each week as well. To register, you can fill out an application on our website under "camp" at [riverdaletemple.org](https://www.riverdaletemple.org).

—Alexandra Abikzer, Director

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Riverdale Temple's community relies on the monthly *Bulletin* to keep our schedules organized. I often hear throughout the month, "Was it in the *Bulletin*?" or "the *Bulletin* said it is/was at 7:30 p.m., so it must be." I wonder how many of you know that there is group of volunteers who tirelessly read every column; look for spelling errors, grammatical mistakes, and make sure that everything is in order. Marge Griffel pushes everyone EVERY MONTH. This shows that when we work together, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! We are a community; when we help each other, we thrive.

The National WRJ website states, "Founded in 1913 as an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, WRJ strengthens the voice of women worldwide and empowers them to create caring communities, nurture congregations, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values. To fulfill this vision, WRJ engages tens of thousands of women through a global network of hundreds of sisterhoods and women's groups. Stronger together, we ensure that these women make a difference in the world." Another community!

Stronger together, we ensure that these women make a difference in the world. I am in awe of the generosity of the women in our temple. And I look to them for guidance, conversation, wisdom, and comfort. Decisions are never easy; there is always a challenge to do what is right for the community.

I am pleased to state that we are having our Mishloach Manot fundraiser. (I imagine you have seen the numerous emails.) I am grateful to Sherrill Spatz, Fay Statsky, the guidance of Rachel Radna, and the magnificent bakers to fulfill this "requirement" of Purim. If you have not placed your order, put down the *Bulletin* and place it NOW—the deadline is March 2nd (see below).

I am saddened to report that, after much discussion, we have decided not to have our Women's Seder this year. This was a very difficult decision, and we went back and forth many times on it. And as I mentioned above, we are a community, and our final decision was based on what is best for our community. I know many will be disappointed, but we will celebrate together soon.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

—Joanne Heyman, President

Book Club: The next book under discussion by the WRJ Book Club will be *The Book of Numbers* by Joshua Cohen. You may recall him as the author of *The Netanyahus*.

This highly acclaimed work is 592 pages long. Because of its length, we are going to be flexible about the timing of our next meeting.

Let's set it for **Wednesday, March 23**, at 7:30 p.m. If necessary, we can move the meeting to early April.

The Student Sponsorship Breakfast is looking for more people to join the committee, and if anyone has any "nominations" that they would like the committee to consider, please let Joanne Heyman know, at jheyman@wrhh.net or 914-715-3234.

Order Your Mishloach Manot Bags from the WRJ by March 2

Members of WRJ will prepare bags filled with hamantaschen, home-baked goods, confections, and a special Purim greeting from you.

Mishloach Manot bag for 1 person: \$18; for every member of Riverdale Temple: \$180. *Seeing the spread of joy among the members: Priceless!*

Order by Monday, March 2. Bags will be delivered on the days leading up to Purim.

Send your check, with a list of the names of each person, made out to the WRJ of Riverdale Temple.

You may also pay online on our website. Please write the names of those you wish to send the bags to in the notes portion. For sending to all members, write "Every Member Mishloach Manot" in the notes portion.



MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

With best regards.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

Northwest Bronx Refugee Coalition Committee: A group of community, college, and interfaith people has made an application to HIAS to sponsor an Afghan family in this area of Riverdale/Kingsbridge/Yonkers. The group would focus on such things as housing, health, education, employment, and community connections to help the family settle in the area and over time become self-sufficient. The Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (HIR), The Bayit, has agreed to act as our fiscal sponsor. They will accept donations on our behalf and, once we have been assigned a family, make disbursements for our needs: rent, utilities, furnishings, food and toiletry supplies, etc., as needed. They are also working on a way for donors to make gifts to our campaign online. Please help us help a new American family.

Checks should be made payable to HIR, with **NWBCR** written in the check's memo line in the lower left corner. Checks should be mailed to Margo Golos, Apt. 3010, 2600 Netherland Ave., Bronx, NY 10463.

Mitzvah Day 2022 (April 10): Please plan to help in the following ways:

1. Purchase and donate new, white socks for men (The Midnight Run).
2. Purchase and donate diapers and wipes for babies and toddlers (The Concourse House for Women)

3. Purchase and donate healthful canned and boxed groceries across the Purim and pre-Passover periods. (Please, no matzohs or gefilte fish.) You can bring these donations to the temple from March 16 to April 10

4. Bag clothing to donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Each bag should be separated and labeled for women, men, and children. You can bring the bagged clothing donations from Sunday, April 3 (9:00 a.m.–noon), to Sunday, April 10 (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.).

Our temple administrator, Linda Eisenkraft, is in on Monday, April 4–Thursday, April 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Friday, April 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can get a receipt from Big Brothers Big Sisters, if you need one for your donation.

5. Please watch for flyers and a volunteer sign-up sheet online in later March. We need volunteers to help receive donations, sort clothing, check grocery dates, and possibly help with children and teens making plant cups.

Similar to last year, with COVID still around, we plan to do most activities outside the entrance and in the lobby.

Wishing everyone a Happy Purim!

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



Study with Rabbi Gardner at the Temple

Lunch and Learn: Mondays, from noon to 1:00 p.m. (also accessible via Zoom). “The Torah Portion of the Week with Sforno.”

A Tale or Two: Selected Yiddish Stories. Every Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the ballroom or on Zoom

In the years since the birth of the Yiddish language almost 900 years ago, a rich heritage of oral folk literature and written materials was produced. Modern Yiddish literature, as we readers of the language have become aware, was produced largely in the 19th and 20th centuries. For many years, until these works were translated into English, much of Yiddish prose fiction was virtually unknown to most Americans.

Join Rabbi Gardner in a class that will highlight the richness of thought that was expressed through Yiddish stories and connects us to a world that links to our spiritual roots and our Old World past.

YIVO Conversational Yiddish Classes

The YIVO may still have a few spaces in their spring Yiddish classes, which start shortly. If you are interested in a class in conversational Yiddish, I can inquire for you. There is a tuition fee that would be reduced for Riverdale Temple congregants.

YIVO Jewish Culture Series, Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Save the date! Next month we will be giving you further details for the next YIVO Jewish Culture Lecture on Wednesday, May 11. The speaker, Dr. Alison Joseph, senior editor of *The Posen*

ADULT EDUCATION

Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, volume 1, brings her academic expertise in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism to the management of the ancient volumes of the Posen Library.

Volume 1, which Dr. Joseph will be presenting, is chronologically the first of a monumental anthology of primary sources. It covers the longest time period of any of The Posen Library volumes, reaching back into the second millennium BCE and extending into the fourth century BCE. It covers the development of the Hebrew language and alphabet, Israelite/Jewish law and religion, the books of the Bible, Israel's ancient cultural innovations, and more. This volume juxtaposes extrabiblical inscriptions and documents side by side with biblical materials to illuminate the legal, religious, and cultural environment of the Israelites of that time. It draws on archaeological evidence and a rich sampling of visual and material culture to complement the written texts.

We are excited to invite you and members of the community to attend this program. It will be presented via Zoom.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on **March 19** at 1:30 p.m., following the Shabbat service and communal lunch. The Torah portion for that day is *Tzav*. This reading describes the different kinds of sacrifices and the laws concerning them. It commands the priests to keep a perpetual fire lit on the altar. This is the kind of passage that tends to make Reform Jews roll their eyes, but, as Jews, we should continue to struggle to make these passages relevant to our own times. Join us as we attempt to do this.

—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.

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Kol Nidre Appeal

Thank you for your Kol Nidre donations. To those of you who haven't responded yet, please do your share to be part of the whole! We would love to have 100 percent participation! Kol Nidre donations will be listed in the April issue of the *Bulletin*.

Purim Celebrations

Join us as we celebrate Purim in style! Join the Simcha Learning Center on Sunday, March 13, at 11:00 a.m., for a community-wide Purim event featuring a human-size Megillah.



On Wednesday, March 16, the festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with pizza, followed by a short service, Megillah reading, and our world-famous Purimspiel! This year, the Riverdale Temple players bring you "The Sixties Megillah."



SAVE THE DATE! April 16

We are hopeful that we will once again gather to celebrate Riverdale Temple's Second Night Passover Seder led by Rabbi Thomas Gardner on Saturday evening, **April 16**.

The Departed Whom We Now Remember: March Yahrzeit Observances

1 Rudolph E. Brill	13 George W. Cohn	22 Charles S. Baron
1 Robert Cortese	13 Beatrice Morris	22 Ann Lipton
1 Irving Epstein	14 Melvin Boaz	22 Isidore Rabinowitz
1 Daniel Gross	14 Albert Borok	23 Jane Chazen
1 Sylvia Wessler	14 Thea Griesheimer	23 Ethel Fisher
2 Ida Yarlow	14 Milton Hoffman	23 Fannie E. Levy
3 Louis Feren	14 Louis J. Monat	24 Adam Baldinger
3 Harvey Somers	15 Elliott Bernstein	24 Jacob Lerer
4 Joan Ast	15 Dr. Cyrus Gordon	24 Marilyn (Mata) Offenbach
4 Fred W. Friendly	15 Jack Heftel	24 George Perlin
5 David Egel	15 Harry Tannenbaum	25 Clara Silberman
5 Marti Roskind	16 Janet Haupt	26 Jon Kaufmann
5 Max Tager	16 Marcia Meltzer	27 Lawrence Gardner
5 George J. Harren	17 Alvin Fein	28 Elsa Drucker
6 Joseph Kay	17 James R. Geldert	28 Mildred K. Nachbar
6 Rose Shaifer	17 Philip Rabinowitz	28 Maria Grandy Schorr
7 Solomon Fried	18 Frank Goldschmidt	28 Sarah Shapiro
7 Ariye Furman	18 Sam Samuels	29 Walter Altman
7 Mildred Janow	19 Stephan Fornino	29 Harriet Jaeger
8 Marilyn Freiman	19 Benjamin Kaswell	29 Nathan Spitzer
8 Stephen Gardner	19 Morton J. Margolies	30 Adolf A. Abrahamson
8 Sadie Horowitz	19 Irving Pepper	31 Mildred Auerbach
8 Maxwell L. Rothman	20 Roberta Katz	31 Max Siegel
10 Helen Eisenberg	20 Selma Maier	31 A. H. Warshaw
11 Julius Zuckerman	21 Martha Schneeweiss	
12 Lillian Hirshowitz	21 Al Singer	

Condolences

To
Geovanni Santana

On the Loss of
Elisea Santana, beloved mother of our long-time employee





Coming Together as a Community to Wish Cantor Sharett-Singer Farewell and Thank-you in May

Save the date to celebrate Cantor Sharett-Singer and her ten wonderful years of service and song at Riverdale Temple on Friday, **May 6**, at a Ruach Shabbat with a full band celebrating Israel and a festive oneg.

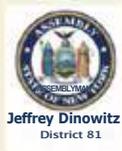
A musical Shabbat service on Saturday, **May 7**, will have special guest speakers, followed by a catered luncheon with farewell speeches and a musical program.

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If You Care ...

And you want to show that you care about your fellow congregants, join Riverdale Temple's Caring Committee. We offer support by making telephone calls to those who are feeling isolated because of the pandemic or because they live alone or who are infirm or ill. We send cards of cheer, or of sympathy, among other ways of showing we care.

Committee meetings are held Monday mornings on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the committee and reaching out to those who need some caring, please contact Muriel (917-353-6843) or Beth (bethfertig@gmail.com).



Make Riverdale Temple Your Choice on AmazonSmile!

SAVE THE DATE! April 10, 2022
Mitzvah Day 2022 (see p. 8 for details)

RIVERDALE TEMPLE

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BRONX, NY 10471

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Cantor of the Congregation

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