



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מִהֶלֶל שָׁם 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

April 1	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
April 8	5:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat
	7:00 p.m.	Pre-Passover Ruach Shabbat
April 15	--	No Shabbat Evening Service
April 22	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
April 29	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

April 2	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service
		Lucas Muhlstein Bar Mitzvah celebration
April 9	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service
April 16	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service
April 23	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service
April 30	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service

In-person Shabbat services will be held in the sanctuary. Individuals wishing to attend services must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 per CDC guidelines,* and masks are optional. Proof of vaccination will be required for admittance into the sanctuary. Children 5 to 12 have to be vaccinated to enter the sanctuary. Services will also be streamed via Zoom.

*To be considered fully vaccinated by CDC guidelines, two weeks must have passed since you received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks since you received a single-dose vaccine.

Mitzvah Day—April 10

See pp. 7, 8 for details.

Vol. 75

April 2022 (5782)

No. 8

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

On Shabbat, we are commanded not to work. One question I sometimes hear is, “Why is using electricity on Shabbat considered work?” Isn’t it less work to, say, press a button on your dishwasher than to wash a sink full of dishes (which *would* be permitted on Shabbat)? When people first began to use electricity in their homes, someone must have gone to a rabbi to ask if using it was permitted on Shabbat. The determination was made that it was not. Turning on a device that runs on electricity was too much like an action that is forbidden on Shabbat. But which action? Rabbis disagree. Some say that it is not permitted because it is too much like lighting a fire, others cooking, building, finishing a task, and so on. Some Orthodox rabbis say that using electricity on Shabbat is not forbidden, that it is only a pious custom.

I wonder how important electricity was when the determination was made to forbid it. Who was using electricity in those days? A few rich people? If it is not completely clear why traditional Judaism does not use electricity on Shabbat, could the decision have been made the other way? And might electricity have been permitted on Shabbat had it been as vital to our lives as it is today?

Today, electricity is essential to our daily existence. It is said that a person can go up to four minutes without air, up to four days without water, and up to forty days without food. How long can we go without electricity? After a storm, I have been without electricity for a week, once for two weeks. It is hard. No electricity in my house means no hot water, no lights, no computer, no phone. Electricity is to a house what blood is to the body.

As I write this article, a group of workers, under the direction of Bill Sherman and David Greenfield, are rewiring Riverdale Temple. I can’t tell you what they are doing exactly, but they are doing a great deal. They are running wires behind the walls. They have moved everything out of the library and the nursery school classrooms, and then moved it all back in again. I have had no electricity in my office, then had it come back again but no phone service. My internet has gone out, and when in, the Wi-Fi has been terribly weak, but it will come back stronger than ever (or so they tell me).

Redoing the electricity at Riverdale Temple is like a person with clogged arteries taking medication or having an operation to clear them out. Everything will work better once the clogs are gone.

continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					29th of Adar II 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	1st of Nisan 5782 Parashat Tazria 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Lucas Muhlstein's Bar Mitzvah celebration
					1	2
2nd of Nisan 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes	3rd of Nisan 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sferno	4th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes	5th of Nisan 5782	6th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 8:15 pm Life After Life with Rabbi Gardner	7th of Nisan 5782 5:00 pm Pre-Passover Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm Pre-Passover Ruach Shabbat, followed by potluck communal dinner	8th of Nisan 5782 Shabbat Metz'orah/ Shabbat HaGadol 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9th of Nisan 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes 11:00 am Mitzvah Day (to 2:00 pm)	10th of Nisan 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sferno	11th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	12th of Nisan 5782	13th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 8:15 pm Life after Life with Rabbi Gardner	14th of Nisan 5782 Erev Pesach No Shabbat Evening Service	15th of Nisan 5782 Pesach I 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 6:30 pm Second Night Seder
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16th of Nisan 5782 Pesach II No Simcha Learning Center classes	17th of Nisan 5782 Pesach III Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sferno	18th of Nisan 5782 Pesach IV No Simcha Learning Center classes	19th of Nisan 5782 Pesach V	20th of Nisan 5782 Pesach VI 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	21st of Nisan 5782 Pesach VII 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	22nd of Nisan 5782 Pesach VIII 10:30 am Passover service with Yizkor
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23rd of Nisan 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes	24th of Nisan 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: The Torah Portion of the Week with Sferno	25th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes	26th of Nisan 5782	27th of Nisan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 8:15 pm Life after Life with Rabbi Gardner	28th of Nisan 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	29th of Nisan 5782 Parashat Achrei Mot 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 1:30 pm Chavurah (see p. 8)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

APRIL

Temple events and services take place in person and/or on Zoom. Check the bulletin and e-blasts for specific information and latest updates.

Passover will be here soon. On Passover, we are instructed not to have any *chametz* in our homes. Hoping not to bankrupt Jews who owned flour companies, beer breweries, bakeries and so on, the rabbis gave permission for people to sell their *chametz* to a non-Jew before Passover and buy it back afterwards. Still, the days leading up to Passover are wonderful times to clean out your cupboards, wiping up spilled crumbs, throwing out old cereal, stale crackers, oatmeal that the bugs have gotten into. Clean out your refrigerator, wipe up spills and stains, and throw away all of the stuff you will never eat. Like rewiring a building or revitalizing your arteries, you can make your home clean and new. This is the time to do it!

When we clean the *chametz* out of our homes, we are acting out physically an action we should also be performing spiritually. Now is also the time to clean out those aspects of your personality that

are holding you back. Egotism, greed, selfishness, materialism, anger, argumentativeness, xenophobia—all of these things were taken into our hearts because they are somewhat useful, like that box of crackers you bought last summer. But their usefulness has passed, and they are clogging up your soul. Now is the time to get rid of them.

Passover is the festival of freedom and redemption. We cannot be free if we bring Egypt along with us. We cannot be redeemed if we will not kill our own inner Pharaoh. On April 15, we will sit down to a beautiful Seder with those we love. If we have cleaned out our inner *chametz*, we will be able to sing, “Avadim hayinu,” We were slaves, slaves to our own faults and weaknesses, slaves to our fears and desires, “Ata b’nei chorin,” We *were* slaves, but now we are free. Happy Passover!

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR’S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

I am overjoyed that Riverdale Temple found a wonderful new cantor to continue the journey and serve Riverdale Temple as the new incoming clergy member! Cantor Joshua Finkel will be a wonderful addition to our clergy team, and I wish him to go from strength to strength! Cantor Finkel is lucky to be a part of such a wonderful temple family, and I know that you all will make him feel very welcome.

Please join us on April 8 at 7:00 p.m. for our upbeat and joyful Pre-Passover Ruach Shabbat with our full band! After that, my family and I will be in Israel for two-and-a-half weeks, visiting our family we have not seen for many years. We will be celebrating Passover with our big families, and that will be very exciting. I wish our community a very safe and joyful Passover! I look forward to returning and sharing my experiences from my original home, the Holy Land.

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

Cantor Sharett-Singer Farewell and Thank-you on May 6 and 7

Save the dates to celebrate Cantor Inbal 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.

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. Invitations to follow, and RSVPs will be required.



BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION



Lucas Muhlstein

We are thrilled to celebrate Lucas’s Bar Mitzvah on April 2, 2022! Lucas is an honor student in the 7th grade at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy. If you’ve met Lucas, you already know him to be self-determined, inquisitive, passionate, and bright. In addition to being an excellent student, Lucas is also a well-rounded athlete. He just finished his winter season playing basketball for Marlon Smith’s AAU team, and he is about to enter his 10th season playing travel soccer for the Riverdale Vipers. This spring, he is also joining a lacrosse team in nearby New Rochelle. Lucas also loves snowboarding and spending his summers at Camp Wayne in Pennsylvania. When he’s not burning off all that energy on the courts and fields, you can easily find him in his room playing video games with his friends.

For his Mitzvah project, Lucas raised more than \$5,000 for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) to support refugees fleeing Ukraine. We are so proud of all Lucas has accomplished to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, and we cannot wait to celebrate with our family and friends.

—Carrie and Howard Muhlstein

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Passover begins at sundown on April 15, the 14th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. This holiday is so central to Jewish life that even Jews who observe nothing else will attend a Passover Seder (or a family dinner on Passover, sans the Seder part). The Torah depicts Passover with great drama. In Exodus 12, Moses commands the Israelites to slaughter a lamb, put its blood on their lintels, then roast it, and eat it hurriedly, their loins girded, sandals on their feet, and their staff in their hand. But this is not exactly how we celebrate Passover and its three-hour-plus Seder these days.

A close reading of the biblical text reveals that there are actually two holidays mentioned. The first is the ritual of the Passover offering, which lasts long enough to kill, cook, and eat the sacrifice. The second is Hag ha'Matzot, or the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which lasts for seven days. Today, we tend to conflate the two holidays because the biblical ritual focuses on the Passover sacrifice, which no longer holds a place in our practice. This transformation of Passover, from a cultic rite to a festive family meal, following the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, is fascinating and mirrors the general transformation of Judaism following that destruction.

Because Deuteronomy had centralized ritual sacrifices in the Temple, the absence of the Temple effectively ended the ritual slaughter of the lamb, and the rabbis had to figure out how the people could experience the power of the Exodus differently. They had the precedent of what Jews living in the Diaspora, who had no access to the Temple, were already doing, which was probably enjoying a nice get-together. While synagogues had not yet taken shape as full-fledged institutions, there were places for the reading of the Torah, instruction in the commandments, and socializing; discussions of the Exodus certainly took place there.

In addition, the recitations of prayers and psalms were becoming popular, and these were often home-based activities. And, of course, the Hag ha'Matzot could continue as described. What the rabbis wanted to do most of all was to work through the trauma of the loss of the Temple and give these other aspects of practice legitimacy by insisting that nothing had changed.

The forerunners of the rabbis, the Pharisees, had claimed that people could experience Gd's presence outside of the Temple. They used the idea in the Torah that the Israelites were a nation of priests and said that everyone was to act in their daily lives as if they were priests in the Temple and eat their meals at home as the priests did in the Temple. Actually, the Torah's portrayal of Passover is as a home gathering. Early rabbinic Judaism adopted and adapted the ideas of the Pharisees, claiming that all people could experience the divine without the Temple. So, even without the Temple and priesthood, there was much for the rabbis to build on to create a meaningful account of the Exodus.

Although the Torah instructs us to "tell your children," there was no Haggadah or format for a Seder with symbolic foods. These elements were developed over several centuries and continue to be reworked to this day (e.g., the proliferation of Haggadot; putting an orange on the Seder plate). The Mishna, written 130 years after the Temple was destroyed, laid out some important elements, describing the Seder as a banquet. The Torah mentions eating bitter herbs (although it actually refers to a relish and has no connection to bitterness), but items such as a roasted egg, haroset, four cups of wine, the afikoman, the cup for Elijah, the four sons, and the four questions, were added over time, some in counterpoint to Christian observance.

The Haggadah itself is a mishmash of excerpts from the Bible, Mishna, and midrash, with stories, psalms, songs, and prayers thrown in for good measure. It is not particularly coherent, but the rabbis did not believe in telling stories in a linear manner, and nobody pays close attention to it anyway.

To close, over the years I have heard Jesus's Last Supper referred to as a Passover Seder. Undoubtedly, Jesus had a last supper, and I hope it was both festive and spiritual, but it was most certainly not a Seder. Jesus lived and died while the Temple in Jerusalem was still standing, at least a century before the development of the Passover Seder. But you can experience your own wonderful Second Night Seder right here at Riverdale Temple on Saturday, April 16. Please sign up for it.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

Purim Celebration 2022. —Photos by Rob Katz



BULLETIN BOARD

Temple activities take place in person and/or via Zoom. For updates, please consult the calendar on p. 2, the temple website at <https://riverdaletemple.org>, and e-blasts.



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 **April 15**. You can email it directly to administrator@riverdaletemple.org (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



Congratulations

Zachary Mendez and his family on Zachary's Bar Mitzvah celebration

Riverdale Temple	Cantor	5
Telephone Extensions (718-548-3800)	Simcha Learning Center	6
Temple Office	0 or 1 Emergencies	7
Bookkeeper	2 General Information	8
Nursery School	3 Other	9
Rabbi	4	

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

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

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.



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.

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. Write to: administrator@riverdaletemple.org or president@riverdaletemple.org

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).

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SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

What a festive month March was. We celebrated Purim in person with the Simcha Learning Center families and welcomed the greater community to join our Human Size Megillah reading. Prior to the reading, our students had painted the Megillah, and one of the scenes was illustrated by our very own 6th grader Macy Chervitz. The Megillah was narrated by students in the rabbi's class and the rest of the students enjoyed cheering and using their groggers to make some noise when Haman's name was called out.

Prior to the Megillah, our teachers helped facilitate a mini-carnival. The annual synagogue carnival has been pushed to the

last day of our SLC in May to usher out the year. Stay tuned for more details.

This month we will be celebrating Passover with a model Seder for students and their parents on Sunday, April 10. This is the first time we are offering such a special family experience in which the students will help lead the Seder and offer skits and songs to accompany it. Following the Seder, all families will be invited to participate in Mitzvah Day. An event not to be missed.

Wishing you all a *Zissa Pesach*—a sweet Passover.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist

The **Student Sponsorship Breakfast** is looking for more people to join the committee. If anyone has any "nominations" that they would like the committee to consider, please let Joanne Heyman know at JoanneHeyman@CBSigProp.com or 914-715-3234.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



This past month, the 2s have been learning about Passover. When you walk through the halls, you can hear the children singing Passover songs as they prepare for their Seders. Each child is working on their own Seder plates, matzah covers, and Haggadahs,

which they will be taking home before the break.

Our 3s are learning about community helpers. They created their own mailboxes so they could write mail to their friends. Then they walked to the mailbox and mailed the letters, and they even got to meet the local mailman and see his truck. They are learning about doctors and fire fighters and becoming chefs as they bake and cook in their classrooms.



Our 4s are learning all about space. They have transformed their classrooms, creating spaceships as they pretend to be astronauts preparing to go to space on a mission. They are learning all about the different planets and how they compare to our planet Earth. This unit will take us into Earth Day as we celebrate the earth and learn how we can take care of our planet.



On March 17, we celebrated Purim and Wacky Tacky Day. The children and teachers came to school in their wackiest outfits and costumes. We had a magician visit to do a magic show for the children and ended the

day with a pizza party. Thanks to the PTA, each child went home with their own Shaloch Manot.

Tours

Twos tours continue for the 2022–2023 school year. If you have friends who are interested, please tell them to call the school at 718-796-0335 or email at director@riverdaletemplens.org. The time to register for 4-K has passed, but you can still apply for 3-K at myschools.nyc. The deadline to apply is April 14.



Camp

We are very excited about summer camp!! We are filling up, and will need to close the registration soon. If you know someone who may be interested, they can register on our website: www.riverdaletemplens.org. Camp is open to families who attend Riverdale Temple Nursery School and outside families. It will begin June 27 and run through August 5. If you are interested, please contact Alexandra Abikzer at director@riverdaletemplens.org.



School is closed from April 15 to April 22 for Spring Break.

—Alexandra Abikzer, Director

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Dear Friends,

And, just like that It's spring!

Thank you to everyone who made Mishloach Manot so special! The tremendous outpouring of support superseded our financial expectations and WRJ truly thanks you! I, personally, want to thank Sherrill Spatz, Fay Statsky, Fanta Davis, Ronna Weber, Sydney Greene, Helen Krim, Susan Birnbaum, and Rachel Radna for their generous help. I could not have done it without you!!

Our Lay-led Service is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 (see right). This service is always special, and we hope that you will join us. You should have received an email about participation. If you have not, please reach out to Shelley Ast or myself. There is always room for you!

Finally, I wanted to welcome aboard Arline Davis, who has graciously offered to help with WRJ's oneg schedule. Sponsoring an oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate an important milestone; if you are interested, please contact her.

For those who have read this far, Dorothy Kay is focusing on the transition committee (for Cantor Josh), her duties as Financial Secretary, membership committee commitments, and numerous other important duties for the temple. She is not going away (I won't let her) and Dorothy's love and support for WRJ will always continue. Dorothy, we love you deeply and thank you for everything.

April's column has proven to be a lot of "thank-yous"; it just shows that *together*, we are stronger, and I appreciate everyone who has tirelessly volunteered and keeps volunteering. We are

looking to have a meeting mid-April (after Passover), so please keep an eye open for an email.

The next **Book Club** selection is *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk. The author is Polish, and the book is a translation. Because this enormous, Nobel prize-winning book is very long, we are going to meet next on Wednesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. This is subject to change if there is a conflict with other temple events.

—Joanne Heyman, President

The **WRJ Lay-Led Service** on Saturday, May 14, is a wonderful opportunity for WRJ and all of the Riverdale Temple women to celebrate a joyous Shabbat. One reason it is so special is everyone's participation. Shelley Ast and I will be organizing this event and assigning all of the readings. Please let us know if you would like to participate. There are passages/readings in Hebrew and English, so please tell us your preference. You can recite alone or with others. If you must participate remotely, please let us know that, too, by indicating "In-person" or "Zoom only" when you respond.

We will read from the fifth Aliyah of *Parashat Emor*, found in Leviticus 23:23–32. If you would like to chant from the Torah, please note the following portions: Aliyah 1: 23:23–25 Aliyah 2: 23:26–28 Aliyah 3: 23:29–32. The Haftarah is Ezekiel 44:15–31. The reader or chanter may do the entire Haftarah. If she prefers to do less, then she should read at least six verses: either 44:15–22 or 44:23–31. So, start thinking about how you would like to participate and then let us know! Thanks in advance for your involvement in this wonderful occasion!

MITZVAH DAY DONATIONS & CLOTHING DRIVE March 16th–April 10th

Collecting Nonperishable Food (KHCC), Diapers & Wipes (Women's Shelter), New White Socks (Midnight Run), and Medical Supplies (AFYA for Ukraine)
Unwanted Clothing to Reuse & Recycle to benefit BBBS of Westchester



Bring your unwanted textiles and donations to
Riverdale Temple
Bins will be located inside the temple lobby

A portion of proceeds from textiles will go to support BBBS of Westchester.
Donations will go to a local pantry, women's shelter, Midnight Run, and Ukraine.

NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY | RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR SENIORS

Are you or your neighbors eligible?

- Are you over 60?
- Are you a New York State resident?
- Do you make less than \$1,396 a month, or \$16,744 a year?

RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
5521 MOSHOLU AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10471
call 917-982-2562 for more information



MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

To those reading this column, I apologize for my absence from the past two bulletins. The resurgence of COVID-19 in the form of the Omicron variant obviously led to the suspension of the past few meetings. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in April, but we will maintain the utmost caution, as there remains sufficient cause to remain careful, especially with Passover taking place in a few weeks.

Speaking of Passover, I wonder how many men actually prepare or at least help prepare the Seder meal. I, for one, have been taking

the lead in the menu selection and the preparation of the Seder meal for decades. This year I have been trying to think of something slightly different, as we will be hosting the Seder in Florida for only the second time in 18 years. Some ideas I have been flirting with are braised lamb shanks with dates, citrus, and baby onions; skillet roasted hens with fennel, parsnips, and scallions; or possibly grouper with horseradish gremolata. Perhaps these ideas may be useful to some of you. I wish all of you and your families a *Zissen Pesach*, and offer a special prayer for peace at this year's Seder.

—Steve Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

HELPING LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

This year Riverdale Temple's Mitzvah Day activities will help others locally and globally:

1. Until April 10, we are collecting:
 - a. New white socks for men (The Midnight Run, which serves the homeless on the streets of New York)
 - b. Diapers and wipes for The Concourse House, which provides a safe haven for women and children up to 9)
 - c. Current canned and packaged groceries for the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center Food Pantry. Please donate reusable bags with the groceries.
 - d. Medical supplies, such as first aid kits, bandages, sterile gloves, and antibiotic ointments, for Ukraine. (AFYA, which helps countries in need, such as Ukraine, the Caribbean, and those in Africa, will transport the donations.)
2. From April 3 to April 10, we are collecting for Big Brothers Big Sisters (providing clothing and selected items to families in need).

- a. Clean, gently used clothing and accessories for men, women, and children
- b. Stuffed animals
- c. Blankets, linens, etc.

Temple administrator Linda Eisenkraft is in Monday–Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You can also bring donations on April 3 and 10 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

3. Please sign up online to volunteer to help set-up and clean-up as well as:
 - a. Sort clothing and receive donations
 - b. Check groceries for fresh dates
 - c. Help families make approximately 100 flower cups that will go to women at the Concourse Shelter and some at the Hebrew Home (10:30–11:30 a.m. on April 10 after the Model Seder)
 - d. Check and count donated items.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and beautiful Passover!

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

ADULT EDUCATION



Study with Rabbi Gardner at the Temple

Life after Life: What does Judaism say about what happens when we die? Thursdays at 8:15 p.m.: 4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12. **This is a repeat of the previous class of the same title, for those who were unable to attend because of the time.**

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. Thursdays, 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.

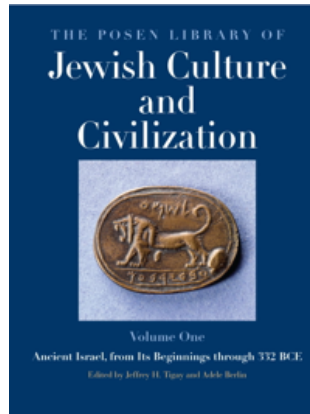
Join Rabbi Gardner in a class that highlights the richness of thought that was expressed through Yiddish stories and connects us to a world that links to our spiritual roots and our Old World past.

Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom: The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, Vol. 1: *Ancient Israel from Its Beginnings to 332 BCE*. Join editor Alison L. Joseph as she discusses this volume. This volume covers a period in history that witnessed the initial development of many phenomena that would come to define Jewish culture and civilization.

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.

It 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.



Alison L. Joseph is senior editor of The Posen Library of Jewish Civilization and Culture. She brings her academic expertise in Hebrew Bible, and ancient Judaism, to the management of

the ancient volumes of The Posen Library. Drawing from years of university teaching, research, and publication in Jewish Studies, and her own public-facing digital scholarship, Dr. Joseph works on the Posen Digital Library to bring the content of the anthology alive.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The Chavurah will meet on Saturday, April 30, following the Shabbat service and communal lunch. The Torah portion for that day is *Achrei Mot*, which is full of interesting topics for discussion, including the rites of Yom Kippur and the laws surrounding sexual prohibitions. All are welcome to join in what will surely be a fascinating learning experience.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

CONTRIBUTIONS

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continued on next page

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Riverdale Temple is pleased to announce the appointment of **Joshua Finkel** as its next cantor. Cantor Finkel and his family are excited to be returning to New York, and to Riverdale, where they share many wonderful memories. Cantor Josh (as he prefers to be called) is a graduate of Bard College and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He draws from a wide range of musical styles to enliven temple services and to create new opportunities for the community to raise its voices in song.

Cantor Josh is a noted composer of new worship music and an interpreter of classical cantorial, Israeli, and Yiddish music. He is married to Professor Emily Barth, who teaches Renaissance English literature at Wagner College. The couple has two children, Sophia, age 10, and Jakob, age 7. For more information on the cantor, go to his website at cantorjoshfinkel.com.

The Departed Whom We Now Remember: April Yahrzeit Observances

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

THE SECOND NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER at Riverdale Temple



Riverdale Temple is proud to continue its joyous tradition of offering the **Second Night Passover Seder**, to be held on **Saturday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.**

The Seder will be led by Rabbi Thomas Gardner. Please join us in the Ballroom for this memorable event!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors, too! **NOTE: All participants, including children 5 and older, must be fully vaccinated and provide valid proof of vaccination in order to be admitted for this event. Masks are optional.**

Riverdale Temple will provide everything for the Seder, including wine, Haggadahs, and a delicious dinner catered by Liebman's Deli. Please don't spend Passover alone. Share this time-honored festive experience without doing all the planning and all the cooking! Rabbi Gardner's Seder leadership and heart-warming story-telling will not disappoint!

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THE HARD DEADLINE OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022.

\$54 per adult \$18 per child ages 5–12 ages 4 and under: Free

If you have questions, please call the temple at 718-548-3800, ext. 1. You may also email questions to doctorshelley18@gmail.com. Please Indicate "Passover Seder" in the email subject line.

Your reservations and payment must be received NO LATER THAN APRIL 6. Please print, complete and return the form below.

Please mail to: Riverdale Temple Attn.: Shelley/Passover Seder 4545 Independence Ave., Bronx, NY 10471

Please find my reservation for a total of _____ seat(s) and a check made out to **Riverdale Temple** in the total amount of \$_____ for the Second Night Passover Seder on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Name:	
Street Address & Apt. #:	
City and Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:	Email Address:
Total Adults Attending @\$54.00/each = \$	Total Children Ages 5–12 Attending @\$18.00/each = \$
List Adult Names:	List Names of Children Ages 5–12:
Total Number Children Ages 4 and under Attending:	

NOTE: You may opt to pay online by clicking the donate/pay link at www.riverdaletemple.org. Please indicate "Passover Seder" in the Comments box and include the names of all adults and children for whom you are paying and reserving seats. **YOU MAY ALSO RETURN THIS RESPONSE FORM TO RIVERDALE TEMPLE WITH ALL THE REQUESTED INFORMATION AND INDICATE THAT YOU PAID ONLINE.**

RIVERDALE TEMPLE

4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

BRONX, NY 10471

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RIVERDALE TEMPLE
4545 Independence Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471

affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism,
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Email: administrator@riverdaletemple.org
Web Page Address: <https://riverdaletemple.org>

Rabbi of the Congregation

Thomas A. Gardner, B.A., M.A., M.A.H.L.

Cantor of the Congregation

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

Rabbis Emeriti of the Congregation

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