



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

- Dec. 3 5:00 p.m. Chanukah Tot Shabbat
 6:30 p.m. Chanukah Ruach Shabbat
 Dec. 10 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Dec. 17 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Dec. 31 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- Dec. 4 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Dec. 11 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Dec. 18 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Dec. 25 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Riverdale Temple services and events are offered in person and remotely via Zoom. Consult the e-blasts for the latest information, including Zoom links. To subscribe to our e-blasts, email:

administrator@riverdaletemple.org

Vol. 75

December 2021 (5782)

No. 4

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Chag Urim Sameach! This bulletin should reach you during the Festival of Lights, so Happy Chanukah to all! Chanukah always makes me think about assimilation, acculturation, and all of the complications of living as a minority within a larger culture. The way we celebrate Chanukah here has been greatly affected by the way American Christians celebrate Christmas, but that is not the only reason. The Hasmonean rebellion began because of a dispute between Jews as to how Greek they could be and still remain Jewish.

Was it okay to go to the theater, even if it had religious overtones? Should you send your sons to a gymnasium to be educated? Should Jews compete in sports, or should we keep them home to study Torah? Should we refrain from circumcising our baby boys, if they would be surrounded by Greek boys, and would look different?

What threw things out of kilter was the involvement of the government. When the king got involved, he came down heavily on the side of the Hellenizers, trying to crush the more traditional Jews. When he attempted to force them to worship idols, they decided to fight back.

I recently received an email from a congregant that dealt with some of the same questions the Jews under the Seleucids faced. The congregant complained that there was too much Hebrew in our Shabbat services, and they contained some things which were off-putting to non-Jews. The person who wrote this is married to someone who is not Jewish and suggested that the spouse might attend more often if the liturgy was made a bit friendlier to people who were not Jewish.

These two complaints are related. As acculturated Jews, we are native speakers of English, and we do not speak Hebrew very well, with a few exceptions. Of course, this has been a problem in Judaism for thousands of years.

In the Talmud, we see that the Hebrew phrase that a person was supposed to recite when he brought his first fruits to the Temple, more than two thousand years ago: "My father was a wandering Aramean" was actually recited by the priest. Why? So as to not embarrass the Jew who did not understand Hebrew. The religious elite also struggled with what to do with sacrifices brought to the Temple by non-Jews (they accepted them). The appearance of all different forms of the Kaddish in our service (which is in Aramaic, the language Jews were speaking in the early Common Era) was a concession to those who attended service who did not speak Hebrew, and



continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			27th of Kislev 5782 Chanukah Day 3 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club <i>Our Country Friends</i> by Gary Shteyngart (on Zoom)	28th of Kislev 5782 Chanukah Day 4 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life	29th of Kislev 5782 Chanukah Day 5 5:00 pm Chanukah Tot Shabbat 6:30 pm Chanukah Ruach Shabbat (honoring new members)	30th of Kislev 5782 Chanukah Day 6 Parashat Mikeitz 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
			1	2	3	4
1st of Tevet 5782 Chanukah Day 7 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center	2nd of Tevet 5782 Chanukah Day 8 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	3rd of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center	4th of Tevet 5782	5th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	6th of Tevet 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	7th of Tevet 5782 Parashat Vayigash 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8th of Tevet 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center	9th of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	10th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	11th of Tevet 5782 7:30 pm WRJ meeting	12th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	13th of Tevet 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	14th of Tevet 5782 Parashat Vayechi 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 12:30 pm Chavurah
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15th of Tevet 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center	16th of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	17th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center	18th of Tevet 5782	19th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life	20th of Tevet 5782 Building closed for regular business 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	21st of Tevet 5782 Parashat Shemot 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22nd of Tevet 5782 No Simcha Learning Center classes	23rd of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	24th of Tevet 5782 No Simcha Learning Center classes	25th of Tevet 5782	26th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life	27th of Tevet 5782 Building closed for regular business 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER

Temple events take place in person, in person and on Zoom (e.g., services), or only on Zoom. Check the bulletin and emails for specific information.

the reading of the Torah was always translated into Aramaic, and then explained.

We know that many non-Jews attended synagogue in the Roman era. Of course, there were barriers to their full participation in the service. An upstart branch of Judaism, later called Christianity, removed a lot of those barriers. That worked out pretty well for them.

When we try to decide what kind of services we will have, we consider the purpose of services. If we have services because a Jew is obligated to pray, we must include those obligatory prayers. If people come to services because they get something out of it, there should be no limits to changes you can make in order for them to do so.

In practice, Jewish services fall somewhere in the middle. Orthodox Jews feel obligated to say prayers, but that doesn't mean they don't love certain melodies, or feel more centered after morning prayers. In Reform Judaism, we come down on the other side of the equation, but don't we feel some sense of obligation, too? Certainly, people don't come to services just for entertainment. How could we compete with TV, the theater, opera, concerts, and all of the other places a person could go to on Friday or Saturday? If there is some sense of obligation, we must be careful not to rid our service of those elements that make it a Jewish service.

As the congregant mentioned above pointed out, some of our prayers speak to Jewish people, and emphatically not to non-Jews. One is the Aleinu, which traditionally points out that Gd has given us a different destiny from non-Jews, who worship sticks and stones (idols). Since the earliest days of Reform Judaism in this country, people have felt free to change the wording of that prayer. Some of the original wording can be found in our current prayer book, but we at Riverdale Temple do not use it.

Another is found in *Nissim B'chol Yom*, the blessings for daily miracles, in which we thank Gd for making us a Jew. This is an improvement over the original version of this blessing, in which we thank Gd for not making us a non-Jew. If this prayer makes non-Jews uncomfortable, should we remove it?

Throughout history, Jews have written prayers that talk about how much better we are than non-Jews when we are being persecuted. When the persecution dies down, we are often embarrassed by those prayers, which have become traditions.

In fact, all Jewish services are some kind of balance between disparate elements. We could do our whole service in English (so could the Orthodox), but it would feel less Jewish. We could do the whole thing in Hebrew, but people would feel adrift. We could shorten the service by cutting out most of the music, but the service would move people less. We could shorten the service by removing some Hebrew prayers, but at some point, it won't seem like a Jewish prayer service anymore. That point will be different for different people and can be taught. Many Jews in years past got used to a partial Amidah, and never reading the Torah, but that period was also known for services bereft of spirituality, and deep divisions between Reform and Orthodox Jews.

Since we became your clergy team in 2015, Cantor Sharett-Singer and I have tried to create services that are delightful, meaningful, spiritual, and authentically Jewish. Since all of our congregants have different opinions, we have not succeeded completely with everyone. We do our best, and I think that most congregants are fairly satisfied. We are open to change, and enjoy hearing constructive criticism. While your comments might not change the service, we keep them in mind, and when enough congregants agree, and if we can pacify those who feel the opposite, the change might come.

The traditionalists who won the Hasmonean Rebellion rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem. They commemorated the fact by establishing the holiday of Chanukah, which was an extremely Hellenistic thing to do. Judaism always changes, and it is always affected by the majority culture that surrounds it. So hang your blue and white lights, put your blow-up dreidel on your front lawn, and put on your talking menorah sweater. We are finding our path, and it will be one that will be both meaningful and truly Jewish.

—Rabbi Tom Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

We are now in the midst of celebrating Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. We celebrate the miracles and victories of light against darkness, of religious freedom, and the bravery of a small group of heroes, the Maccabees, who saved us from the tyranny of the Greeks.

As I am writing this, the fear of the Omicron variant is growing by the minute. So much is uncertain, and fear is all around us. Again! After we have all been there before—and we have already learned how to deal with Covid-19. So how do we again deal with the fear and frustration that comes with this new form of darkness? And yes, of course, I am also afraid!

There are a few ways of dealing with fear. We can pretend it doesn't exist—simply push forward and enjoy every day of our lives. Or we can hide in our homes and keep safe, keep danger away at all costs. We need to choose the middle path—to go on with our lives, while taking all the necessary precautions.

All throughout history, we Jews have had to deal with fear and suffering: we were expelled, forced to convert, forced to leave our jobs, our homes and our families, and killed. And yet, throughout

history we have managed to survive, adapt, evolve, and thrive. We have reinvented ourselves time and again.

What kept us going from generation to generation was, and still is, the love of Torah and our rich tradition, acts of justice, love, and kindness, the faith in the Divine, and our love for Israel.

As we face another wave of darkness, as we light our Chanukah menorahs, let us spread a light of hope and happiness to all around us. I pray that we will find the perfect balance between living our lives to the fullest and keeping safe from harm. As we continue to build our community together, as one congregational family, a mishpachah, let us continue to care for one another and find comfort in our friendships and strive for the day when we shall thrive again.

There are many ways to keep in touch with your Riverdale Temple family, in person and on Zoom. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Rabbi Gardner and me whenever you are in need.

L'Shalom,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I would like to devote this article to extolling the joys of adult education, a subject dear to my heart. Our rabbi has been teaching a class called “Life after Life: What Does Judaism Say Happens When We Die?” There has been a large turnout for this class, both in person and on Zoom, a testament to the interest (anxiety?) we all have about this topic. (Of course, the turnout is also because our rabbi is such a good teacher.) Although the rabbi has been exploring this topic from a religious perspective, as a sidebar to the class, I have been reading a book called *Life's Edge: The Search for What It Means to Be Alive*. It turns out that life and death are not necessarily binaries. Sometimes, things appear to be dead, only to come to life again under the right circumstances. Sometimes, life and death are not easy to discern.

For a very long time, the cessation of breathing was considered to be the hallmark of death. However, when pacemakers and ventilators permitted the heart to continue to beat after catastrophic injury, the criteria was changed to brain death. But there are also problems with this metric, because it assumes that consciousness is the essence of life—at least for humans. Yet, people can live without a functioning brain, since many metabolic processes are carried out by a part of the brain, the hypothalamus, that has its own blood supply and can therefore escape the anoxia that can destroy other brain cells.

The author of the book relates the story of a young girl who suffered massive loss of oxygen to her brain and whose EEG showed no activity. The state of California issued a death certificate, which the girl's parents refused to acknowledge. They had her transferred to a facility in New Jersey, which maintained her on her ventilator and gave her a feeding tube. The child's body continued to use the glucose in the nutrition she was given and she maintained a steady metabolism. She grew in height and weight and began to menstruate, although her EEG continued to show no activity. Eventually, after several more years, her organs began to fail and she was issued a second death certificate by New Jersey. Was she alive between the issuance of the two death certificates?

Of course, these are very fraught questions and ones that every

religion must confront. A few years ago, Rabbi Gardner taught a class on rabbinic thinking about many of these complex issues, such as transplanting organs, in vitro fertilization, and removing life support. We long for certainty, but failing that, we long for guidance with difficult decisions. We turn to doctors for help, but we also turn to religious leaders. However, there is a range of ideas in Judaism about practically every conundrum, so advice might vary with who is speaking.

I have attended every adult education class that our rabbi has taught, but for the past few weeks I have also attended classes that Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield, the new rabbi of The Riverdale Minyan, our downstairs neighbor, has taught. I can report that there are differences in how these two rabbis teach, but also many similarities.

Rabbi Lehrfield discussed some thorny issues, such as the brain death debate, and referenced the writings of the sages, Halacha, and the rabbi who was his primary mentor. Rabbi Gardner has also cited rabbinic writings in his classes. Rabbi Lehrfield acknowledged that there were differences of opinion, as has Rabbi Gardner. And, there were differences in pedagogical style. I think Rabbi Lehrfield saw his role as one of providing the clarity that comes from citing rabbinic authority, to the extent that there is rabbinic agreement. Rabbi Gardner's method is more Socratic, and, as a result, his classes can lead to more questions than answers. I do not think his goal is to provide us with moral clarity, but rather to ask us to struggle with the questions. So, we are not any closer to understanding life after life than we were when we started. This can be frustrating, but I think this fits better with Reform Judaism, whose adherents often reject received wisdom.

I am also completing a class in Jewish ideas of Messianism, at the Jewish Theological Seminary. More about that next month.

—Dr. Ronna Weber



 **RIVERDALE TEMPLE**
OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS

Join us for Chanukah Tot Shabbat!

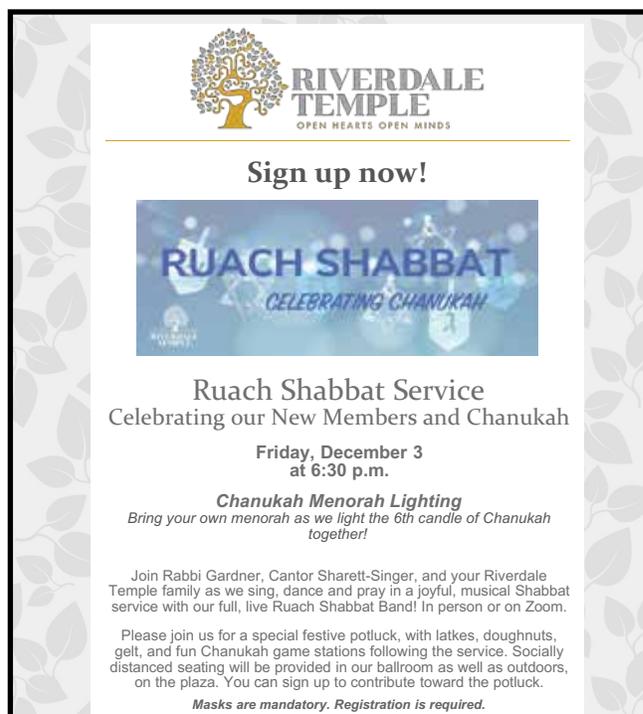


Shabbat services geared toward our youngest members!

Friday, December 3
at 5:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Gardner, Cantor Sharett-Singer, and your Riverdale Temple friends and family for a joyful and fun Tot Shabbat service in person, in the lobby. We will conclude with jelly doughnuts and get!!
HAPPY CHANUKAH

Masks are mandatory. Registration is required.



 **RIVERDALE TEMPLE**
OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS

Sign up now!



Ruach Shabbat Service
Celebrating our New Members and Chanukah

Friday, December 3
at 6:30 p.m.

Chanukah Menorah Lighting
Bring your own menorah as we light the 6th candle of Chanukah together!

Join Rabbi Gardner, Cantor Sharett-Singer, and your Riverdale Temple family as we sing, dance and pray in a joyful, musical Shabbat service with our full, live Ruach Shabbat Band! In person or on Zoom.

Please join us for a special festive potluck, with latkes, doughnuts, gelt, and fun Chanukah game stations following the service. Socially distanced seating will be provided in our ballroom as well as outdoors, on the plaza. You can sign up to contribute toward the potluck.

Masks are mandatory. Registration is required.

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 **December 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 House Committee

Our mission is to ensure that the building and grounds of our synagogue best respond to the spiritual, educational, cultural, and social needs and activities of our congregation. We are concerned about safety, cleanliness, comfort, and appearance and maximizing the functionality of our facilities. The committee works closely with the maintenance staff to ensure that the facilities are well managed and meet the needs of our community efficiently and economically. The committee benefits from members with varied experience in facilities management, engineering, construction, and related fields. **Please volunteer to serve on this committee by writing to: administrator@riverdaletemple.org or president@riverdaletemple.org**

Riverdale Temple is now part of the organics/compost pilot program in the Bronx. We can now recycle our food scraps. Please observe the different signs on the garbage receptacles and put throwaways in the proper container. We are pioneers in a wonderful program—please join the effort in caring for our environment. Thank you!



Riverdale Temple	Rabbi	4
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Bookkeeper	2	7
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	Simcha Learning Center	9
	Emergencies	
	General Information	
	Other	

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



The Bulletin: Vol. 75, No. 4, December 2021. *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

What a busy month November was. We ended it with a marvelous Ruach Shabbat Service, in which more than 60 percent of our children participated and had leading parts. We then ushered in the month with the celebration of Chanukah. On the third night of Chanukah we planned to invite parents to join us for candle lighting, celebrating with songs, and playing dreidel. We also were set to play a Jewperdy game, based on the Chanukah story, traditions, and songs, in which the children were sure to have a good time competing against the adults.

Also planned was the candle lighting, and many of the children made their own menorahs in school. They were made out of tiles, ceramics, and glass. The Sunday of Chanukah (Dec. 5) we were set to enjoy a magician, to tell the Chanukah story with magic, juggling Chanukah paraphernalia and making balloon shapes that depicted a dreidel and the Maccabees shield.

As the days get longer, we enjoy the warmth of our SLC community.

Wishing you a good December.

— Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

We are so grateful to be in school each day. Our families and our staff are doing such an amazing job and are always putting the health and safety of our children first. This past month our 2s learned about Thanksgiving and talked about what they were thankful for. They also learned about Chanukah through stories and songs. Each child made their own menorah and was eager to take it home.

The 3s learned about feelings and friendship. What does it mean to be happy and sad, and what makes a good friend? The 4s focused on family and the idea that they were all the same but all unique in their own way. As we got ready for Thanksgiving, you could hear the children talking about what they were grateful for and what it meant to be thankful.

Last month we began our in-person tours for the 2022–2023 school year. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining our RTNS community, please have them email me at nsdirector.rtns@gmail.com to schedule a tour. You can also visit our website for more information.



We also had our annual BOOK FAIR with Main Street Books in November, and people were able to order directly from them as well.

We hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

— Alexandra Abikzer, Director

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Greetings, Friends!

Chag Sameach! Happy Chanukah! The days may be getting shorter, but the candles will keep us warm and bright!

In the past, the December bulletin has been a lovely recap of our Artisan Fair Trade and Craft Fair. Unfortunately, WRJ had to cancel this again because of the pandemic. I would go on and on with praising Susan Birnbaum, Ronni Stolzenberg, and our many bakers and volunteers for making the fair so successful. I am very happy to still thank everyone, because there is much to be thankful for. Ronni has been the powerhouse for the WRJ Book Club, and under her direction, the Book Club is getting stronger and stronger. If you haven't participated yet, please consider it. This Book Club is open to everyone in our temple community.

Susan, who never lets an obstacle stand in her way, is determined to host the Women's Seder at the end of March, and Dorothy Kay

is busy assigning dates to members for the Friday night onegs. If you wish to sponsor one, please let Dorothy know. This is a lovely opportunity to share your "news" with our community. So, I am very thankful. I am also happy to announce that our next meeting of the WRJ will be Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. I believe it will be via Zoom; and, of course, I will keep everyone posted.

On a somber note, I would like to thank everyone who has been my "support" over the past two months. With the passing of my father and now with Jen, it has not been easy, but together, we will move forward and eventually the days will be longer (and brighter), and we will celebrate again together.

Happy Chanukah!

—Joanne Heyman, President

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.

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 a later issue of the *Bulletin*.

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

Celebrating Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, this year will be a bright spot for me after nearly two years of living in a pandemic. I hope to be attending a public candle lighting ceremony while in Florida for the holiday.

As we celebrate the triumph of the Jewish people over those who wanted to destroy us, we also remember the miracle of the oil lasting eight days. We remember this symbol of light defeating darkness.

During this eight-day festival, we share memories with family and friends while also creating new bonds, as we have opportunities to make new memories each night. There are dreidel games to be played, stories to be told, and delicious foods to enjoy, and I encourage all of us to make the most out of this very special Jewish holiday.

I wish all of you a joyous Chanukah,

Steven Rosenfeld

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

It's December and we are in the middle of celebrating an early Chanukah as well as preparing for the winter days.

There are several ways to mark the Festival of Lights and also to help people in need, not only for the holidays, but throughout the cold, long winter.

The Pajama Collection Update: Many thanks to everyone who donated new pajamas for children and teens. Riverdale Temple collected 50 new pairs of pajamas. The Pajama Program matched us with a local group in need, The Grace Tabernacle Ministries, on Bailey Avenue. Special thanks to Phil and Fanta Clarke, Tom and Helen Krim, Jesse Mechanick, Grace Psachie, and Jeff Sklar for helping to sort and count the pajamas.

Grocery Collections: We are conducting ongoing, monthly groceries collections. This month, please consider donating healthful soups, canned salmon, vegetables, and evaporated milk. Be sure to check freshness dates and conditions. Last month's donations went to the Broadway Family Plaza Transitional Shelter. Special appreciation to Jesse Mechanick, who brought all the donated groceries to the site, when they could not be picked up.

December Winter Coats and Jackets Collection: Please donate gently used winter coats and jackets (only) through December 25, 2021. The coats will go to a local collection through the 50th Precinct or the Yonkers AAA. Help people in need to stay warm this winter.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, and good 2022!

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

SAVE THE DATE!

April 10, 2022, for Riverdale Temple's Mitzvah Day!

Please start to think about helping to prepare and implement this event.

ADULT EDUCATION

As this year draws to a close, we reflect that Covid's presence still requires that though we continue our adult education activities via Zoom, we are thankful that we are beginning to have opportunities for seeing each other in person. We are grateful that the world is gradually opening up to increase direct encounters.



Study with Rabbi Gardner at the Temple

Psalms—Lunch and Learn Mondays from noon to 1:00 p.m. (also accessible via Zoom)

Is There Life after Life? Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (also accessible via Zoom)

A NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITY in January at the Temple

Study with Cantor Sharett-Singer

Liturgical Hebrew

Designed to enable our congregants to read the prayers and blessings of our services and rituals. The course is very individualized, so that Cantor Sharett-Singer is able to teach students who are reading at a beginner's level. Each class will also provide opportunities to practice speaking modern Hebrew. *This class is especially helpful to Bar/Bat Mitzvah parents as their children go through this meaningful journey.*

This class will be offered in person on a weekday morning conducted in six-week cycles. The tuition is \$125.00 for each

cycle, and one will begin in January. To register, please contact the cantor directly at cantorsharett@singer@riverdaletemple.org. Five students are needed in order to run the class.

A further learning opportunity in February at the temple: Six one-hour sessions on "The Literature of Grief."

This time of year is particularly difficult when one has experienced the loss of a loved one or a treasured friend. **Marilyn Reinhardt**, whose career spanned her work as an English teacher, adjunct professor, writer, and editor, will offer a six-session course on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., starting February 1, about the universal experience of grief that has motivated and inspired some of the most memorable literature created throughout the centuries. Participants will read about, analyze, and discuss the topic of grief through short selections from both classic and contemporary authors and poets. For interested participants, there also will be an optional writing component. Attendance is free.

YIVO Jewish Culture Series

We look forward to hearing **Annie Polland**, president of the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side, who will present a talk "*Under the Tenement Rooftops: Immigrant and Migrant Families in New York*," on Wednesday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. More about this in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

The team at Adult Education wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on **December 18**, following the Shabbat service and communal lunch. The portion read that day is *Vayechi*, the last parashah in the book of Genesis. In this reading, Jacob is on his deathbed and says his final words to his grandsons (whom he adopted as sons), Ephraim and Menashe. Both Jacob and Joseph die. While they are buried in Egypt, this is

temporary, as their remains will be brought to the Promised Land at the Exodus. All are welcome to attend to read and discuss this important chapter in our Torah.

—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
Sherrill Spatz and Rob Katz	Judy Zucker	Margaret and Michael Griffel	Jen Jimenez, wonderful in her work for Riverdale Temple
		Dorothy Kay	Lydia Davis
			Charles Stewart Heyman
DONOR	IN MEMORY		
Shelley Ast	Jen Jimenez, in loving memory; she will be greatly missed	Meg Allyn Krilov	Anita Krilov, beloved mother, and Seymour Waxman, beloved uncle
Dorothy Baer	Josef Greisheimer	Yvette Marrin	Jen Jimenez
Marian Bauer	Sara L. Mandel	Harriet Martin	Dick Martin
Susan and Howard Birnbaum	Charles Stuart Heyman	Richard Meisler	Rosalyn Meisler, beloved mother
Irene Brenner	Milton Richman	Wendy Parker	William and Annette Parker
Audrey Coughlan	Jen Jimenez	Martin Schneider	Irving Schneider
Arline Davis	Jen Jimenez, in loving memory	Frances Segan	Phyllis Sandler, beloved sister
Barbara Behar Ferber	Ruth Halprin	Helen Silber	Charles Stuart Heyman
	Jen Jimenez	Helen Silber, Jodi French, Lisa Galina	Stanley Silber, beloved husband and father
Gwen Fisher	Lester Fisher	Renee Spath	Margaret Spath, beloved mother-in-law
Michael Friedman	William Friedman	Sandra Weitz	Leon Schenker and Evelyn Schenker
Jackie Gardner	Louis Michaels and Esther Michaels	Judy Zucker	Gary Zucker



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Condolences



To

Ellen and Jerry Jimenez; Joseph, Melissa, Christina, and Jerry;
Jack

Nancy Torres

On the Loss of

Jen Jimenez, former administrator and current communications expert of Riverdale Temple; beloved daughter, sister, aunt

Margie Mizrachi, beloved cousin

The Departed Whom We Now Remember: December Yahrzeit Observances

1 Stella Greenblatt	10 Rae Teret	18 Jean Wolfman	27 Adolph Frankl
1 Henri Polak	10 Bernard Willing	19 Lillian Feiler	27 Julia Steiner Halprin
1 Sarah Silverstein	11 Lena Cassel	19 Lester Fisher	27 Alan Ira Sternstein
1 Gary Zucker	11 Yvette Djivre	19 William Friedman	27 Molly Sumner
2 Ruth Kay	11 Helen Klebanoff	19 Samuel Isaacson	27 Sally Tessler
2 Ben Lipton	11 Sol Levine	19 Israel Jacobs	28 Ethel Fondiller
2 Osias S. Majerczyk	11 Sigmund Lipshultz	20 Rebecca Evelyn Schenker	28 Hertha Gottschalk
2 Ilene Nevins	11 Carl Seefer	20 Margaret Sternberg	28 Pearl Hoffman
2 Hy Papierman	11 Jacob White	21 Albert Block	28 Rose Katz
3 Frances Capon	11 Louis David Wile	21 Diane Geller	28 Marilyn Lazarus
3 Samuel W. Stolzenberg	12 Esther Michaels	21 Amir Landsman	29 Anita Krilov
4 Alan Cohen	12 Louis Michaels	21 Mollie Liebowitz	29 Lou Wiggs
4 Henry G. Koppell	12 Edna H. Senderoff	21 Ernest Small	29 Mark Zolkowitz
4 Dick Martin	13 Leo Bloch	23 Nathan Amols	30 Lawrence Goldberger
4 Claire Morse	13 Sophie Froehlich	23 Henny Barrow	30 David E. Lakritz
5 Anna Haas	13 David Gefter	23 Jenny Dilloff	30 Alfred Silverman
5 Rose Kantor	13 Clara E. Newman	23 Fanny Levy	31 Ralph Batt
5 Abraham Kleinberg	13 Anne Rosenthal Lisman	23 Dr. Oscar Richter	31 Miriam Eisen
5 Milton J. Molsky	13 Helen S. Taylor	23 Sydel Rosenberg	31 Selma Friedman
5 Phyllis Sandler	14 Leon P. Bereano	23 Ruth L. Saxe	31 Alan Gallay
5 Emanuel Saxe	14 Mary Franklin	24 Irving Arrow	31 Betty Kahn
6 Josef H. Griesheimer	14 Phoebe Nalitt	24 Harry Davidoff	31 Mary Parker
6 Milton Richman	14 Benjamin Silverman	24 Bill Greenblatt	31 Myrtha Rosello
7 Anne Biegen	14 Laura Glickstein Willing	24 Sidney Reiser	
7 Ethel Weasen	15 Bernard Baron	25 Belle Caplan	
7 Rose Weintraub	15 Himansu Chakrabarti	25 Samuel D. Dorfman	
8 Anna Ripps	15 Gertrud Hirschmann	25 Ruth Halprin	
8 Rebecca Weisberg	15 Leonard Selk	25 Rosalyn Meisler	
9 Ida Greenberg	15 Esther Slade	25 Estelle Weiss	
9 George E. Katz	15 Zena L. Winston	25 Walter Yohalem	
9 Harry Soicher	16 Sol Biegen	26 William Bird	
9 Seymour Waxman	17 Murray Dauber	26 Melvin I. Cannold	
10 Ariadne (Ari) Bloustein	17 Lillian Diamond	26 Ida Klugman	
10 Anna Halpern	17 Aaron Dorfman	26 Esther Lubarsky	
10 Jennie Kronman	17 Bernard H. Gordon	26 Sidney Meyer	
10 Freida Landesman	17 Leon Schenker	26 Riga Perlin	
10 Sarah L. Mandel	18 Isidore Leibowitz	26 Mollie C. Rothberg	
10 Alvin Mass	18 Eric J. Schmertz	26 Miriam Singer	

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 in the new year to those who need some caring, please contact Muriel (917-353-6843) or Beth (bethfertig@gmail.com).

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