



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרַח שָׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאֵי מַהֲלֵל 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

- Jan. 7 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Jan. 14 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Jan. 21 5:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat
 6:30 p.m. Ruach Shabbat
 Jan. 28 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- Jan. 1 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Jan. 8 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Jan. 15 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Jan. 22 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Jan. 29 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

***Anyone aged five and older who wishes to come into the sanctuary for our Shabbat services must be fully vaccinated per CDC guidelines. You must either upload your proof of vaccination on the registration form or bring your documentation with you. All nonfamily groups must sit at least six feet apart. Everyone in the sanctuary must remain masked.**

Services will also be streamed via Zoom. For the time being, we have decided to cancel our onegs and communal lunches, out of an abundance of caution.

Consult the e-blasts for the latest information, including Zoom links. To subscribe to our e-blasts, email: administrator@riverdaletemple.org

MLK Day of Service 2022

Join the team changing the world as the Riverdale Y, in partnership with the RJCP and UJA Federation, hosts our annual Martin Luther King Day of Service, **Monday, January 17.**

Find out how you can be an influencer for good at: www.RiverdaleY.org/mlk

Vol. 75

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No. 5

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

The Winter Olympics of 2022 are approaching. They will take place in China, and many people have been comparing them to the Summer Olympics of 1936. The 1936 Olympics took place in Berlin and were an important public relations coup by the Nazis. There are those who believe that the Nazis wanted to prove the racial superiority of the so-called "Aryan race," and that they failed, because, as you might know, of Jesse Owens. Still, Germany won 89 medals, more than any other country. The United States was second, with 56.

The real coup, however, was that the Nazis ended up looking like just another government. Their racial policies and frightening rhetoric were politely ignored by the rest of the world, whose Olympic committees "discouraged" Jewish athletes from competing, so as not to embarrass their hosts.

China is far from being Nazi Germany. Nonetheless, it is engaged in what many organizations and governments, including that of the United States, have deemed a genocide. Through forced abortions and sterilizations, through the imprisonment of more than a million Muslims, through indoctrination and suppression, China is attempting to erase the Uyghurs as a separate people. On a lesser scale, they have been doing similar things to the Tibetans since 1951. Do we legitimize the Chinese government and indicate our lack of concern about the fate of the Uyghurs, the Tibetans, and those who call for democracy in Hong Kong, by participating in the Olympics? The Biden administration is aware of the problem and has announced that there will be no official participation in the Olympics by the United States government.

This is a compromise between ignoring China's policies and a complete athletic boycott of the games. It is not unusual to see an individual country boycott the Olympics. In 1980, 65 countries chose not to participate in the Moscow Summer Olympics. Many of those countries boycotted those games following the lead of the United States, which was protesting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The boycott did not influence the USSR's policy in Afghanistan, but an important statement was made. Perhaps the current administration hopes to make a similar statement about China without asking U.S. athletes to make the sacrifice of missing what may be their only chance to compete for an Olympic medal.

continued on p. 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						28 Tevet 5782 Parashat Va'era 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
						<i>1</i>
29th of Tevet 5782 No Simcha Learning Center classes	1st of Shevat 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	2nd of Shevat 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes	3rd of Shevat 5782	4th of Shevat 5782	5th of Shevat 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	6th of Shevat 5782 Parashat Bo 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
7th of Tevet 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes	8th of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	9th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	10th of Tevet 5782 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club: The Slaughterman's Daughter (Yaniv Iczkovits)	11th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	12th of Tevet 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	13th of Shevat 5782 Parashat Beshalach 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
14th of Tevet 5782 No Simcha Learning Center	15th of Tevet 5782 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Building closed	16th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes	17th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm WRJ Tu B'Shevat Seder	18th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	19th of Tevet 5782 5:00 pm Tu B'Shevat Tot Shabbat 6:30 pm Ruach Shabbat	20th of Shevat 5782 Parashat Yitro 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 1:30 pm Chavurah (see p. 8)
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
21st of Tevet 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes	22nd of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II	23rd of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center classes	24th of Tevet 5782	25th of Tevet 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: A Tale or Two	26th of Tevet 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service	27th of Shevat 5782 Parashat Mishpatim 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
28th of Tevet 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center classes	29th of Tevet 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II					
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>					

***JANUARY**

***Onegs and kiddushes are canceled until further notice because of the rise in pandemic cases. 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.**

The Olympics aside, the situation in China has a great deal in common with the political situation in the 1930s. In both cases, an economic and political powerhouse is mistreating a minority group within its own country. In both cases, there is really no way to prevent them from doing so without waging a major war, and it almost goes without saying that the United States is not going to begin a war with China to protect the Uyghurs or Tibetans, any more than the United States was willing to begin a war with Germany solely to protect the Jews.

In both cases, we agonized over whether to risk a rupture between the countries by rebuking them for their mistreatment of the minority, even as we knew that a rebuke would not change their behavior. In both cases, a small but dogged group of the people being discriminated against lives in this country and calls for someone to do something. In both cases, some government representatives ignore these protestors, while others privately say they wish we could help, but what can we do to stop Germany/China?

Some German Americans supported Germany then, as some Chinese American citizens support China now. They do not say that the treatment of the Uyghurs, Tibetans, or Jews is appropriate, but that what we hear about it is greatly exaggerated. That we do not understand the delicate situation there. In both cases, many companies benefit from the close economic ties between the United States and the other country, and economists and chambers of commerce alike warn the United States government not to anger the other country with ineffective bluster and toothless warnings.

You might say that this comparison is a stretch. After all, the Chinese nation is not engaged in the wholesale slaughter of Tibetans or the Uyghurs. Of course, the Nazis were not engaged in the wholesale slaughter of Jews—in 1936.

I do not believe it is likely that China will ever engage in the massacre of vast numbers of Tibetans or Uyghurs. The Nazis felt that Jews were polluting the gene pool, and the slaughter of Jewish men, women, and children seems, in retrospect, inevitable. China only fears difference and separatism. They do not care if their citizens have Tibetan or Uyghur blood, as long as they think of themselves as Han Chinese. As long as they do not practice their own religion, speak their own language, or dream of self-determination, the Chinese government has no problem.

I do not bring this comparison up because I believe we should fight a major war against China. The Jews of Europe were fortunate that the Nazis were foolish and hubristic enough to try to conquer the world. World War Two was fought to save England and France, not Jews, but because of that war a few of the Jews of Europe were preserved. I bring it up because it is something we should think about. I bring it up again so we can ask ourselves what the words “never again” mean. And I bring it up so that we may have more compassion for our grandparents and great-grandparents, who wanted to help the Jews of Germany and Europe, but could not manage to do so.

—Rabbi Thomas A. Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

Shalom Chaveirim,

I hope you are all healthy and safe through this outbreak, and that you know that Rabbi Gardner and I are here for you whenever you need us.

New York City is yet again the epicenter of the pandemic, and the number of infections around us is high and alarming. Many of us are in some form of quarantine, and we have made some serious adjustments to our routine. Sadly, we have been here before—in 2020, but there is much strength and comfort in gaining wisdom and experience in how we cope with our lives overall at such difficult times. We are accustomed to wearing masks and social distancing, we know how to get tested, and we know what makes us feel better throughout this uncertainty. We have done it before, and now we will do it even better!

We know that this pandemic is not going to disappear right away, and there are no quick solutions to stop it. In thinking of a central story from our Torah, I reflect on the time when the children of Israel crossed the Sea of Reeds. Even though they were free and saved from Pharaoh, they were still not in the Promised Land. It took 40 years of journeying through the desert for them to reach their destination. While I certainly hope we will live in better health and safety much sooner than 40 years from now, there is much to learn and be inspired by from our ancestors.

Change is hard, and change is never direct. There are always bumps and surprises along the way. It is *how* we handle these

situations that is the most important aspect in moving forward with a sense of balance and peace. We should approach each other with an open mind, flexibly, humbly, and bravely. We should overcome challenge with an open mind and an open heart. That is truly the hardest path, but that is the only path to gain Shalom, peace. There are blessings even in the darkest corner, and we should “Seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:15).

Our worship services remain open for in-person attendance (please follow our guidelines on our eblasts), as well as on Zoom. Please join us in whatever way feels right to you. Stay connected to your temple family!

Wishing you a happy and healthy new secular year. May this year bring health, peace, and joy to all.

L'hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

A graphic with the words "TOT SHABBAT" in large, bold, black letters. Each letter is filled with a different image of people, likely from a synagogue service, such as children, a woman, and a man.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:00 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Last month I wrote that I had been taking a class on messianism given by a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The reading was very dense, and the class was not long enough to do justice to such a difficult topic. I learned a great deal, but mostly I learned enough to know that I have a great deal more to learn.

Much to the discomfort of Reform Jews like us, messianic thinking is a long and deeply held belief system in Judaism. The range of thought about the messiah is broad, going from ecstatic, mystical, and abstruse to semi-rational, but it is certainly there.

In its essence, the Jewish messiah is a person (and I stress person, not demigod) who will lead the Jews out of oppression in the diaspora, gather them together in Jerusalem, resurrect the dead, rebuild the Temple, and usher in an age when humankind will be perfected. Clearly, this messiah has not yet come. But aside from learning about various strains of messianic belief, I have come to see that we, today, do truly live in a messianic age.

I have become aware of how much our prayers are suffused with messianic longing. We have prayers that express hope for the day when all will accept the Jewish deity. We wait for the false gods of idolatry to be utterly destroyed. We want to be gathered together from the four corners of the earth.

Our Reform prayer book has scrubbed out any mention of rebuilding the Temple, but it has given us the option to use the word *metim* (revive the dead), although we choose not to say it.

While our sages worried that messianic beliefs were destabilizing and tried to discourage these thoughts from taking hold, they did support the idea of the resurrection of the dead and certainly wished to have the yoke of our oppression in the diaspora lifted from our lives. Their major disagreement was over whether we should try to hasten the coming of the messiah through our actions or wait for Adonai to do the job.

I have also become attuned to what messianism really is in our modern political lives. While Jews may wait for the messiah to emerge from the house of David, many people wait for a political figure to lead us out of our miseries and give us lives of unfettered freedom and prosperity.

When I see the intense idealism in which certain politicians are held, I become uneasy, because it feels messianic. As the rabbis feared, it is destabilizing, leading to loss of perspective and rash acts.

In the mid-1600s a self-proclaimed messiah by the name of Sabbatai Tsvi came on the scene in the Ottoman Empire and quickly gained a fanatic following. Although the rabbis put him in *cherem* (excommunication), his popularity increased, engulfing huge swaths of the Jewish world.

People sent him immense sums of money, sold their property, packed up their belongings, and waited for the promised new exodus to Jerusalem. Even when he eventually converted to Islam, some held onto their beliefs in him, devising conspiracy theories to explain his actions.

These 17th-century Jews were not all crazy, just as our present-day believers are not. There is something in us all that leaves us open to messianism. I think it is partly that we really want to

be taken care of, and this wish leads us to embrace strongmen, despots, and authoritarian leaders who promise us that they will do just that. They alone can fix things.

We also have a desire to see our world perfected and hope to see an end to poverty, sickness, and war. The messiah promises to do that. But, another attraction of messianism is that it suffuses our lives with meaning. Every action becomes important, a small way of furthering the goal of perfection. Things that were humdrum and ordinary become full of symbolism and meaning. Surrounded by like-minded believers, we share the special handshake and nod to each other knowingly.

The tradition in Judaism to constantly question received wisdom is a protection against falling into messianic traps, but obviously not a complete protection. We want to hold onto our dreams of a world made whole and just, but we must be on guard when placing our hopes in the actions of someone other than ourselves. There is a way that each of us at Riverdale Temple can work toward our goal of making the world a better place, and that is by supporting our social action initiatives.

Please bring nonperishable food for the hungry among us and participate in our many drives to help the needy. Each of us can act to heal the world.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

SAVE THE DATE
RUACH SHA  AT



FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 6:30 p.m.

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.

Congratulations

Irene Brenner, on her special birthday.

Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by **January 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!



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



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SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

As we say goodbye to 2021, we hope to leave behind the lines for PCR testing, the masks in school, and the need to sign up for all the events beforehand. This is out of our hands. However, there is much we would like to hold onto. We found much joy in returning to the SLC in person at the beginning of September. We enjoyed gathering in the sanctuary once again with the cantor and rabbi, and I myself enjoyed services, learning new songs and hearing memorable stories.

The students had great fun at holiday celebrations, including making an edible sukkah in the sukkah and laughing at the performance of the magician on Chanukah and petting his dove, lighting the Chanukah menorahs as a community, and participating in a dreidel race with the rabbi, to name a few. Our oldest group took part in deep conversations with a focus on children and the Holocaust with Rabbi Gardner.

We move into 2022 with a strong feeling of community and look forward to celebrating several children who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and many more simchas. Here's to 2022—be well and healthy.

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Winter is here and we are all learning about the change in season. The 3s and 4s are learning about animals in winter, where animals live, and where we live. They will learn about hibernation, migration, and adaptation. They will also look at the architecture in our area and study different types of buildings and homes. The 2s are focusing on shapes and Jewish mitzvahs. They learned about lighting Shabbat candles, kissing a mezuzah, giving tzedakah, and more. Each child created their very own mezuzah, a set of candle holders, and a tzedakah box to take home.

As we enter a new year, we wanted to wish you all a very happy holiday and a happy new year from RTNS. We are so grateful for our families and staff who help us keep our children safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. We are looking forward to the second half of the school year.

Touring

We are currently giving tours for the 2022–2023 school year. We are already filling up our 2s program. If you know anyone who has a soon-to-be two-year-old who would like to take a tour of the school, they can contact me at nsdirector.rtns@gmail.com.

Camp

We are also enrolling children for summer camp 2022. We will have a program for children ages 2–5 years old. Camp will be

six weeks long, from June 27 to August 5. To register, you can visit our website at www.riverdaletemple.org.

Mommy and Me

The second session of our Mommy and Me program will begin January 4. This class is for children ages 12 months to 36 months and their caregivers. In this class, children play, sing, explore different art materials, play with many different manipulatives, and engage in many multisensory activities. If you or anyone you know would be interested in registering for this class, they can register on our website. Classes are every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

—Alexandra Abikzer, Director



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

Dear Friends,
Welcome 2022!

I am sure that everyone was hoping that by the end of 2021, life would be returning back to normal. I think the “norm” is everyone searching for PCR testing sites in the area. The year 2022 will be better, and I have it from a good source that it may be!

WRJ will be co-sponsoring the Tu B'Shevat Seder on Zoom on Wednesday, January 19, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Arline Davis.

In addition, the members of WRJ agreed that we are going to plan on having our Women's Seder and lay-led service. Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 30, for the Women's Seder, and Saturday, May 14, for the lay-led service. And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

WRJ is also asking for volunteers to sponsor our Friday night onegs, once we are able to resume them. This is a wonderful opportunity to share an important event with our temple family. Please contact Dorothy Kay directly to sign up.

As we turn the calendar forward, many people like to look back on the previous year and make resolutions. I hope that everyone is much kinder to each other and that we finally put the pandemic behind us. I hope that this new year is full of many celebrations and that we are together (in person!). I also want to take this opportunity to thank Susan Birnbaum, Ronna Weber, Rachel Radna, Ronni Stolzenberg, Helen Silber, Dorothy Kay, Marge Griffel, Muriel Adams, Linda Eisenkraft, Shelley Ast, Arline Davis, Barbara Ferber, Yvette Marrin, Helen Krim, Sherrill Spatz, and Cantor Sharett-Singer for all of their help this past year—IT TAKES A VILLAGE, and I couldn't do this without YOU!

Happy 2022!

—Joanne Heyman, President

The next selection of the **Book Club** is *The Slaughterman's Daughter* by Israeli author Yaniv Iczkovits. This well-received work, described as having “fabulist style reminiscent of Sholem Aleichem and his disciples” (Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*), looks at the difficulties of Jewish life under the Russian Empire. The meeting will take place on **January 12, 2022**, at 7:30 p.m., on Zoom.

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.



Purimspiel March 16, 2022

Come one! Come all! Join the music, merriment, and mayhem of Purim. Come join the Riverdale Temple Players producing another smash-hit Purimspiel.

This year the story of Esther will feature the music of the 1960s. All thespians and wannabe thespians are welcome. Can you sing? Can you play an instrument? Can you collect or make props or costumes, or design a program? Do you like fooling around in the theater? Contact Carol Kassel at cmkassel@gmail.com. And let's have some fun! Casting call on Sunday, January 23, at 9:30 a.m. The Purimspiel will take place Wednesday, March 16, after the reading of the Megillah.

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN'S CLUB)

Best wishes for the New Year.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SAVE THE DATE!

Mitzvah Day 2022

April 10, 2022

SOCIAL ACTION

We made it to 2022! A fresh start on the secular calendar, with continued and new opportunities to participate in social action efforts.

Looking Back, Looking Forward: In 2021, we had a successful, outdoor Mitzvah Day, an overwhelming special collection for Afghan refugees, a collection of new pajamas for needy children and teens through the Pajama Program, a coat collection to help others to keep warm through winter, and ongoing grocery collections and donations. Many thanks to all who donated and helped to take the donations to receiving organizations. Special thanks to Jeff Sklar, Phil Clarke, and Jesse Mechanick for their help taking our winter coat donations to AAA Yonkers.

As we start 2022, we continue to have monthly canned and boxed grocery collections (for January, please focus on warm cereals, pasta, tomato sauce, sardines, and canned fruits). We can use a few volunteers to review the donated groceries for freshness on January 23, 2022.

We shall start preparing for Mitzvah Day 2022, which takes place this year on April 10, before Passover.

How You Can Start to Prepare for Mitzvah Day

1. Start to go through your closets/drawers to identify items (all seasons) to donate for Big Brothers Big Sisters. We will not receive the items until the end of March through April 10, so please hold on to them.
2. Look for sales during the winter months for new white socks for men and diapers/wipes for babies and toddlers, since two organizations that we shall work with are The Midnight Run and The Concourse House Shelter. (Again, please hold on to the items.)
3. Please let our administrator know if you are interested in helping and volunteering. We will make sign-up sheets as we get closer to the event.

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

ADULT EDUCATION



Happy New Year: Looking forward to seeing you at some of the Adult Education events. It will be a pleasure to see you even on Zoom.

Study with Rabbi Gardner at the Temple

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

A Tale or Two: Selected Yiddish Stories: a new class. Starting January 13, meeting Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (also accessible via 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 has been 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 us both to our spiritual roots and to our Old-World past.

A NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITY in January at the Temple—Study with Cantor Sharett-Singer: Liturgical Hebrew (only via Zoom)

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.*

The class will be offered on Zoom on a weekday morning conducted in six-week cycles. Tuition is \$125.00 for each of the cycles, which 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.

PLEASE NOTE: SOME SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

SAVE THE DATES: Watch for the eblasts with more details (both online via Zoom):

Wednesday, January 19, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Tu B'Shevat Seder led by Muriel Adams and Rabbi Gardner

There are 16 short readings. If you are interested in participating, let Arline Davis know (davisfamilywest@aol.com) as soon as possible, and you will be assigned the number of your reading.

Wednesday February 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m.: YIVO Jewish Culture Series. Annie Polland, president of the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side, is the featured speaker.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on **January 22, 2022**, to read and discuss the portion *Yitro*. In this Torah reading, Moses tells the Israelites to prepare for the presence of Adonai, who then delivers the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai. The scene is one of great drama, filled with fire, smoke, and the blaring of shofars. Just as it was an intense experience as recounted in the Torah, so it is today. Our study will begin after our communal lunch (if the pandemic situation allows), at 1:30 p.m., so please join us.

—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
Dorothy Feldman	Kiddush Fund	Dorothy Kay	Claudette Fetsco, beloved mother of Jeannine Fetsco, mother-in-law of Michael Friedman
Dorothy Kay	Oneg Rabbi Gardner, for his birthday		Jen Jimenez
Rita Pochter Lowe	Rabbi Gardner, for my aliyah Kiddush Fund Cantor Sharett-Singer, for the beautiful Ruach Shabbat		Ruth Kay Bernice Laurita, beloved sister of Jackie Gardner, aunt of Rabbi Tom Gardner and Sarah Gardner
Ignatius Roger	Rabbi Gardner and Cantor Sharett-Singer, thank you for all that you do	Ruth Loebmann	Henry Abrahamson and Erna Abrahamson
DONOR	IN MEMORY		
Muriel Adams	Sarah, my beloved daughter	Rita Pochter Lowe	Rose Stanger Weiss, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother
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Susan Cannold	Ira Handwerker	Renee Spath	Sheldon Turteltaub, beloved brother
Lewis Cohen	Gussie Gold	Sherrill Spatz and Rob Katz	Jen Jimenez
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Beverly Hamada	Benjamin Krisiloff	Judy Zucker	Jen Jimenez
Mark Hochberg	David and Elaine Hochberg		Bernice Laurita

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*.



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Condolences



<p>To</p> <p>Jeannine Fetsco and Michael Friedman</p> <p>Jackie Gardner, Rabbi Tom Gardner, Sarah Gardner, Tom, Bill, Mary, Annie, and Peggy Laurita</p>	<p>On the Loss of</p> <p>Claudette Fetsco, beloved mother and mother-in-law</p> <p>Bernice Michaels Laurita, beloved sister, aunt, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother</p>
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The Departed Whom We Now Remember: January Yahrzeit Observances

1 Sylvia Brown	7 Steven Paul Weintraub	15 Julian Spiegel	25 Jack Wittenberg
1 Fannie Fein Lakritz	8 Ernst Fraenkel	16 Beatrice R. Bereano	26 David Bauer
1 Frieda Margulies	8 Sheryl Gilman	16 Sallee Brust	26 Sol Brill
1 Rosanne Martin	8 Benjamin Krisiloff	16 Irving Goldshein	26 Harry Goldberger
1 Phyllis Selk	8 Ed Lowe	16 Hyman W. Rosenblum	26 Dr. Siegfried Loewentritt
1 Pearl Togut	8 Shirley Mandel	16 Dorothea J. Steindl	27 Max Belkind
2 Henry Abrahamson	8 Jeanne Sundheim Spiegel	16 Henry Taig	27 Anna Davidoff
2 Sadie Brill	9 Yetta Kovitz	17 Rose Berman	27 Carl Fisher
2 Julius H. Ginewsky	9 Regina H. Rothman	18 Rose C. Harren	27 Frances E. Friedman
2 Sylvia Mills	10 Louis Friedman	18 Pauline Seeferblatt	27 Joseph Gilman
2 Alfred E. Simmons	10 May Manheimer	19 Adele Baltuch Blum	27 Tillie Kaplan
2 Simon Steinglass	10 Sara B. Merson	20 George Aronson	27 Aaron M. Steren
2 Samuel Wechsler	10 Michael L. Mozlin	20 Siegfried Hermann	28 Fanny B. Appel
3 Lila Chessler	11 Lillian Burgeman	20 Seraphine Fellner Hirschl	28 Joseph Baron
3 Deena Felsen	11 Ann Grushoff	20 Jay Jacobson	28 Helene-Ronnie Bloch
3 Mitchell Lopato	11 Lore Kornberg	20 Betty Ranfeld	28 Robert Feiler
3 Jennifer Sack	11 Abe Molsky	20 Richard Shoulkin	28 Fannie Grossman
4 Sylvia Alwaise	12 Sally Entin	21 Charles Jaffe	28 Betty G. Levene
4 Elias Blaustein	12 Rose M. Evans	21 Margot Manasse	28 Jean Monat
4 Frances Braunstein	12 Grace Kahn	21 Phyllis Platzner	28 Hetta Mouber
4 Milton Eisen	12 Muriel Kaufman	22 Louise Amram	28 Emma K. Mozlin
4 Ira Handwerker	12 Peter Howard Manheimer	22 Leopold Hirschl	28 Celia Turoff
4 Florence Kern	12 Maurice Sigel	22 Estelle Lasky	29 William Adams
4 Liza Lakritz Perelmutter	12 Burton Stein	22 Brana Rozenfeld	29 Ethel Ruth Davis
4 David Spivack	12 Jacob Weinberg	23 Philip S. Birnbaum	29 Mildred Levitt
4 Shirley Waldstein	12 Louis Weiner	23 Gussie Gold	29 Henrietta Felicity Radna
5 Netta Avedon	13 Erna Abrahamson	23 Ray B. Horowitz	29 Diane Wild
5 Blanche Breindel	13 Ida Baron	23 Irving Sorger	29 Abraham Yarlow
5 Ida Feinman	13 Eppie Begleiter	24 Samuel Bialek	30 Michael Sarnoff
5 Lottie Golubock	13 Emma Shapiro Friedman	24 Beulah M. Cohn	30 Dr. Sidney Sommers
5 Samuel Haupt	13 Max Kaplan	24 Wallace R. Cotton	30 Sheldon Turteltaub
5 Theodore Klebanoff	13 Martin Marsh	24 Augusta G. Patek	31 Clara Bruck
5 Susan Leber	13 Jennie Rabinowitz	24 George Joseph Small	31 Irving Fritz
5 Dorothy Reingold	13 David Rapaport	25 Ethel Y. Aronson	31 Lena Jacobson
5 Samuel Jay Resnick	13 Joseph Rapaport	25 Rebecca Jacobson	31 Dr. Gabrielle Koppell
6 Kathryn Bloomfield	13 Eric Reisch	25 Lillian G. Meltzer	31 Miriam Leff
6 Sophie Ginsberg	13 Lillian Salb	25 Natalie Reibeisen	31 Harry Wagonfeld
6 Leona Hermel Adams	14 Abraham J. Lester	25 Rose Saraga	
6 Ali Malak	14 Stanley Sundheim	25 Frieda Schneider	
6 Diane Wild	15 Selma Leslie	25 Lillian Steren	
7 Eleanor Gerber	15 Cynthia Mason	25 Geetha Vaidyanathan	

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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