



The Bulletin Riverdale Temple

מִמְזֶרְחַ שְׁמֶשׁ עַד מְבֹאוֹ מְהֵלֵל 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

- Oct. 1 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Oct. 8 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Oct. 15 7:00 p.m. Ruach Shabbat
 Oct. 22 5:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat
 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
 Oct. 29 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- Oct. 2 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Oct. 9 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Oct. 16 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Calder Weiss Bar Mitzvah celebration
 Oct. 23 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
 Oct. 30 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening 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

October 2021 (5781–5782)

No. 2

THE RABBI'S COLUMN

Recently, I had a very busy day. I rushed to work, then out for an event. Back to the office, and then, 45 minutes later, out again. As I was rushing out, I realized that I did not have my cell phone with me. Afraid of being late to my next appointment, I rushed back into my office and looked around. I couldn't find the phone under the couch, on my desk, or in the pocket of the suit I had just been wearing. Deciding I must have left it in the car, I rushed downstairs. It was not in the car.

At first, I was upset. I would have no access to the internet, I could not listen to my songs in the car, people would not have any way of getting in touch with me. Of course, it actually turned out to be a somewhat pleasant six-hour respite, a little bit of relaxation until I found my phone again (on my desk, under some books).

I try not to carry my phone or use unnecessary electronics on Shabbat. Even so, it was very difficult for me to contemplate being out in the world without a phone on a weekday. I know that many other people feel the same way.

I often see people in services or classes suddenly get a text or a phone call. Sometimes they turn the phone off, but often they rush out of the service or class, whispering to the caller. If it is a text, they often hold the phone down, hoping no one will notice, while reading or responding to the text.

Of course, many people do have urgent messages that can't wait. Doctors may be answering questions about patients, people may be responding to family members who are ill or have emergencies. I myself remember exiting Rosh Hashanah services with a ringing phone in September 2001. Although the Japanese Consulate had been working long hours responding to the September 11th attacks, I told them that I would be taking the day off for my holiday, and they could call me only if it was an emergency.

As it happened, the ban on all flights was lifted that day, and they called me to send me to the airport to meet a planeload of Japanese citizens with missing family members. I still remember the baleful stares I received as I rushed out of the sanctuary at Rodeph Sholom on 83rd Street.

I have a family member who always answers the phone when we are together, even if we are eating dinner, even if we are in the middle of an important conversation. It does seem terribly important when someone you

continued on p. 3

YIVO
Yidische kultur-serye
JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2021–2022

Learn with YIVO and Riverdale Temple—Live on Zoom!

**THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE:
ITS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
See p. 11 for details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					25th of Tishrei 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service <i>1</i>	26th of Tishrei 5782 Parashat Bereshit 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service <i>2</i>
27th of Tishrei 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center <i>3</i>	28th of Tishrei 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II 6:30 pm Back to School Night <i>4</i>	29th of Tishrei 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center <i>5</i>	30th of Tishrei 5782 <i>6</i>	1st of Cheshvan 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life <i>7</i>	2nd of Cheshvan 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service <i>8</i>	3rd of Cheshvan 5782 Parashat Noach 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service <i>9</i>
4th of Cheshvan 5782 No SLC class <i>10</i>	5th of Cheshvan 5782 Columbus Day Building closed <i>11</i>	6th of Cheshvan 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center <i>12</i>	7th of Cheshvan 5782 <i>13</i>	8th of Cheshvan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting (on Zoom) <i>14</i>	9th of Cheshvan 5782 7:00 pm Ruach Shabbat <i>15</i>	10th of Cheshvan 5782 Parashat Lech-Lecha 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service Calder Weiss Bar Mitzvah celebration 1:15 pm Chavurah (in person) <i>16</i>
11th of Cheshvan 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center <i>17</i>	12th of Cheshvan 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II <i>18</i>	13th of Cheshvan 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center 7:30 pm YIVO talk: The Yiddish Language, Its Past, Present, and Future <i>19</i>	14th of Cheshvan 5782 <i>20</i>	15th of Cheshvan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting (in person) <i>21</i>	16th of Cheshvan 5782 5:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service <i>22</i>	17th of Cheshvan 5782 Parashat Vayera 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service <i>23</i>
18th of Cheshvan 5782 9:30 am Simcha Learning Center <i>24</i>	19th of Cheshvan 5782 Noon Lunch and Learn: Psalms II <i>25</i>	20th of Cheshvan 5782 4:00 pm Simcha Learning Center <i>26</i>	21st of Cheshvan 5782 7:30 pm WRJ Book Club <i>27</i>	22nd of Cheshvan 5782 4:00 pm Study with Rabbi Gardner: Life after Life <i>28</i>	23rd of Cheshvan 5782 7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service <i>29</i>	24th of Cheshvan 5782 Parashat Chayei Sara 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service <i>30</i>

OCTOBER

Services and other events are in person and on Zoom. Check specific articles for more information

know calls you, even when you are speaking to someone else. I answer my phone in the office too often. If it goes to voicemail, people will know I am busy and I will call them back later. Even so, I often answer, perhaps just to say, "I am meeting with someone right now, can I call you back in a few minutes?"

If that is true for a meeting, then it is true for prayers as well. When we are speaking to Gd, should we interrupt the conversation to speak to someone else? Then, too, a ritual is like a performance in which no one is an audience member, all are participants. Imagine a Broadway show in which a performer's cell phone rings while she is onstage, and she runs off the stage to take a call.

Of course, there are always limits. The rabbis of the Talmud said that we are speaking directly to Gd when we do the Amidah, and we should not interrupt our prayers even if a poisonous snake appears. Still, there is a Chasidic story of a Rebbi who chastised his

student for not breaking off his Amidah when he heard his young son crying. In such a case, the Rebbi said, you should go see to your son. Gd will understand.

On Rosh Hashanah, I spoke about the value of being fully present. It is very difficult to be present when your phone is calling you away. Of course, if possible, the best thing is to leave the phone at home, or turn it off when you come to the synagogue. Our society is getting used to the idea that everyone is reachable at any time. This is not good for us. Hopefully, nothing will happen that cannot wait two hours, or 25, for those who put their phones down for Shabbat. Putting your phone down is a commitment to be present, to be with the people who are there in front of you. I know how hard that is! But we should do our best.

I look forward to being fully present with you in 5782!

—Rabbi Thomas Gardner

THE CANTOR'S COLUMN

To the Moon and Back: Rosh Chodesh

Shalom Chaveirim,

Unlike in universal practice, when days begin at sunrise, in Judaism our days begin at the onset of evening, with the beauty of the moon. Our tradition has been captivated by the appearance and importance of the moon for thousands of years. We learn in Genesis: "And it was evening and it was morning, one day" (Genesis 1:5), as well as, "God said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years" (Genesis 1:14). And indeed, it is the moon that predicts the timing of our holidays, and our calendar follows the lunar system.

A Jewish month is announced at the beginning of each new moon and is called a *Rosh Chodesh*, the beginning, or the head, of the month. At Riverdale Temple, we announce Rosh Chodesh on the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh. Traditional Judaism calls this Shabbat *Shabbat M'varchim*, the Sabbath of Blessing. After the reading from the Torah, we say a special blessing, "May the new month bring us goodness and blessing. May we have long life, peace, prosperity...a life in which the longings of our hearts are fulfilled for good" (Mishkan T'filah, p. 379).

During Rosh Chodesh, the moon itself is being born again, every month anew. During this holy time we can scarcely see the moon in the sky and only a halo around a dark moon that quickly expands into a waxing crescent shape. The traditional belief is, in simple terms, that each month brings a potential for growth, just as the moon grows, for renewal, fulfillment, and blessings. At the same time, each month we also acknowledge our failure and cope with hardships that are just like the waning of the moon. We draw comfort knowing that, from such reduction, just like the moon, we can grow, learn, and be better. We can be hopeful for a new beginning with each new moon and let ourselves be reborn again to life.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, our ancestors treated Rosh Chodesh as a holiday: they announced the new month ceremoniously with the blowing of trumpets, made a special animal offering, and prepared a festive meal. The Mishnah, in the Rosh Chodesh tractate, tells us that the members of the Sanhedrin,

the Jewish High Court, would determine the exact date of the birth of the moon. The head of the court, the Nasi, would sit and listen as the members told him how they saw the moon: from east to west, or from north or south. They would converse about which kind of moon did they see. When two witnesses saw the same exact moon, they declared, "*mekudash, mekudash, mekudash*" (holy, holy, holy), and that was how they determined the Rosh Chodesh, after which they passed the news by lighting beacons of fire.

They would raise the beacons up and down and side to side, until a second beacon would be seen, and then a third, until the entire land was full of beacons, all marking the holy new month. In fact, it took more than 24 hours to get those fire signals across the diaspora to Babylonia, and because of that, Jews observed the holidays also on the second day, which continues today! When Israel's enemies (the Samaritans) started lighting beacons as well, trying to confuse the Jews, the Sanhedrin decided a new solution: only messengers would be sent to pass the news of the holiness of the new month.

Around the ninth century, our sages called the moon the *Levanah*, a feminine form that means the "white one." The *Levanah* is said to be very special for women during Rosh Chodesh. There is an old Midrash that tells that while Moses was receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, the Israelite men grew impatient and wanted to build the Golden Calf and worship it. They asked the women to give up their gold jewelry, but the women refused. And because the women remained faithful to God, God rewarded them with a special holiday of their own, Rosh Chodesh (even today, Orthodox women do not have to work or do house chores on Rosh Chodesh).

Another legend is that the moon and sun were once equal, but God made the moon smaller, so it would be easier to have only one of them as a sovereign. In Kabbalah, the moon is seen as the *Shechinah*, God's feminine aspect, and strives to reunite with the masculine aspect of God—only then shall there be redemption.

In the Israel of today, the Women of the Wall gather together every Rosh Chodesh to read Torah and pray at the Kotel, the Western Wall, in Jerusalem. They interpret this occasion as the time when they gather not only to show their loyalty, as the women on Mount Sinai did, but also to show the world that Jewish women

are already equal to Jewish men and can worship, lead, and teach as equals.

The month of *Cheshvan* begins at sundown on Tuesday, October 5. During *Cheshvan*, I am looking forward to celebrating together our first Ruach Shabbat on October 15, and I am especially

looking forward to celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Calder Weiss on October 16. Please join us and help us to bring goodness and blessings to the month of *Cheshvan*!

L'hitraot,

—Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The High Holy Days are behind us, as will be Sukkot when you read this, and I find myself starting to battle the melancholy of seasonal affective disorder. The days are shorter, with darkness falling earlier. We will now be saying, "*Mashiv haruach umorid hagashem*" (You cause the wind to shift and the rain to fall), instead of, "*Morid hatal*" (You rain dew upon us). That alteration in the G'vurot prayer has always signaled the onset of winter to me. In addition, the last time the Chavurah met, on September 18, we read the final two portions of the Bible, which have Moses' last speech and his death—a bummer.

Although we had a very lively discussion about whether or not Moses should have been allowed to enter the Promised Land, the general tenor of the conversation was one of sadness for Moses and empathy for the pain he must have been feeling. But, the sages never let us feel sad for too long, giving us Simchat Torah and dangling Chanukah before us.

This is an aspect of Judaism that is intriguing. We are supposed to be happy most of the time. The Promised Land is not described as what it primarily is: mostly desert, without rivers, and with an iffy climate. It is invariably referred to as a land overflowing with milk and honey. The metaphors for Shabbat are wedding festivities and tables laden with delicious food. The commandments are not described as onerous. They are a joy to perform. Being able to study Torah is a gift. The prophets excoriate the people, but always end by reassuring them that Adonai loves them and will redeem them from exile. The Yom Kippur fast is supposed to be pleasant. The three weeks of mourning leading up to Tisha B'Av are followed by seven weeks of consolation leading up to Rosh Hashanah. When we read the Haftarah on Shabbat, the passages are chosen so that the selection always ends up on a positive note. And, of course, there is the major innovation of Judaism and the prophets: we can increase our happiness and lessen our misery by performing the mitzvot. Adonai will reward our good behavior. Judaism very much wants to see the world as rational and fair.

I think this idea that Adonai is generous and wants us to be happy undergirds the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*. We have so much, we should gladly share it with the less fortunate. We don't hold the Calvinist belief that poverty is a sign of God's disfavor. Rather, we have to try to balance the cosmic scale by giving to those with less. Giving charity is a very important commandment, and it should never be given grudgingly. We should consider our actions as part of our partnership with Adonai. We must strive to make the world more perfect.

One of my goals for this coming year is to increase our acts of loving-kindness. I would like to see us hold more food drives, and I would like to find a way that we could help refugee families. I am hoping to become more familiar with our Social Action Committee and explore ways we can do more together. If you have ideas that you would like to see us pursue, please contact me. It would lessen my melancholy.

—Dr. Ronna Weber

SAVE THE DATE!!!

JOIN US FOR A GALA DINNER AND FUNDRAISER FOR HGI HONORING FREDERICK M. SCHWEITZER WITH ELISHA WIESEL ON HGI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!



**OCTOBER 24TH | 5 PM
MANHATTAN COLLEGE**

Come hear Dr. Frederick M. Schweitzer's personal story, meet Elisha Wiesel, take a tour of the Herman and Lea Ziering exhibit, and enjoy great food and drinks while mingling with students, community, and the HGI board members!

For more information, go to the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center, at: www.hgimanhattan.com

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

Dr. Frederick Schweitzer, for being honored by Manhattan College on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith (HGI) Education Center.

Copy for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is due by **October 15**. You can email it directly to administrator@riverdaletemple.org (put "Bulletin" in subject line).



Visit our website: <https://riverdaletemple.org>
Join Us on Facebook!

Did you know that Riverdale Temple has a Facebook page? Find us by searching for "Riverdale Temple Bronx, NY" on Facebook and join this page by clicking on "like." This is a space where we can exchange ideas, blog, discuss events, share photos, etc., and strengthen our bonds as a community. Join and make our numbers grow.

To give a contribution to Riverdale Temple, send your donation to Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471. Please make your check payable to Riverdale Temple. Give the name/category/event to which your donation applies. We now accept payment by credit card; call the office (718-548-3800, ext. 0) or go to www.riverdaletemple.org. You can support Riverdale Temple by buying a mug with our logo for just \$10.

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Riverdale Temple House Committee

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

Registry of Holocaust Survivors

If you are a Holocaust survivor or a family member of a survivor, you can register to be included in the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. For more information, go to ushmm.org/resourcecenter.

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

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



Recapture the joy of reading through the JBI Library for visually impaired, blind, and reading-disabled individuals, all provided free of charge and delivered to your doorstep. Call toll free at 1-800-433-1531 or visit JBI's website at www.jbibrary.org



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SIMCHA LEARNING CENTER

The Simcha Learning Center got off to a wonderful start right after the High Holidays. On the first day of classes, Riverdale Temple was buzzing with the sounds of children being greeted by teachers and clergy returning after a long summer. Many students came back after not being in the temple building for more than 18 months but were with us on Zoom. Several families returned after taking a year off due to COVID. And we welcomed eight new children for the first time at the SLC.

Outside one could hear many people busy building the temple sukkah while inside the children were active singing with the clergy as they were led in a musical service followed by class activities focusing on ice breakers and learning about the upcoming holidays.

The children enjoyed having a song session with the cantor in preparation for Simchat Torah. All had fun making sukkah decorations, which the children then hung up to beautify our sukkah. The day ended with sweet popsicles for a sweet new year.

The following week was celebrated in the sukkah, with each child learning about the holiday. We shook the lukav and etrog and focused on the ways they resemble various body parts—mouth, eyes, heart, and spine, all of which we need to be companionate, active people in our world to make it a better place. The children celebrated in the sukkah by performing the mitzvah of eating and sitting in there and creating edibles. We look forward to many

more delegations and a year of friendship and learning. It's good to be back full force in person!

—Judy Weinberg, Education and Engagement Specialist



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Now that all of the holidays are over, we are ready for a full month of school in October. All of the children have settled into their routines and are happy to be in school, playing with their friends and teachers.

The two-year olds are painting, collaging, and slowly their art work is going up on the walls. They are learning about the holidays through play, songs, and stories. They are busy learning about their new environment and all the new routines of the day. They are making new friends and are excited to run and hug their wonderful teachers each morning.

The three-year olds are learning about colors. They are exploring the primary colors, and experimenting to see what other colors can be made by mixing these primary colors together.

Our Pre-K class has begun the year with the unit *All About Me*. This unit helps the children learn about themselves and their friends. What makes them special and unique? If you walk into their classrooms, you will see drawings of self-portraits and pictures of each child's family. The Pre-K children are also beginning to talk about fall and exploring nature to see how their environment looks now, so they can continue to follow the changes throughout the seasons.

This year we are excited to have our specials again. This month we will begin having music, movement, and yoga during the regular school day. After school we are offering 3- and 4-year-olds extended days from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. They can also choose

to take one of our enrichment classes, which include soccer, Jewish enrichment, and dance.

—Alexandra Abikzer, Director



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (SISTERHOOD)

My brother sends his friends and family a “Holiday Update”: he reviews his past predictions and usually comes to a “significant conclusion” or a rhetorical statement for everyone to ponder. I would like to take a page from his book and review WRJ’s column. The column began:

5782! I reviewed last year’s column, where I commented how “5781 will be a challenge but we will rise to the occasion!” I think I can safely say that we are all a bit wiser and much more proficient on Zoom. We have had to cancel many events and readjust our schedules. I believe this year will be more of a challenge—we can’t let “our guard down”; we have to find more ways to be sociable and hope that our definition of “normal” will return. But as I type this, I realize that this is an important reflection—and this is what our New Year is all about. We have to rise to the challenge, we have to push forward.

When I wrote the above, I thought the challenge would be of how we could keep our members active and events occurring. It does get tiring having to “think outside the box.” Luckily for me, there are always people I can count on.

At the beginning of the month, our local area received an enormous amount of rain. I was horrified hearing about the loss of life and families that lost their homes. During our High Holiday services, I reflected and hoped that this New Year would bring peace and a new beginning. Many of you know that we ourselves also had substantial water damage; but we thought the damage ended at new sheetrock, kitchen cabinets, and additional (and various) drainage devices. Fast forward to the last week of September, when we had to provide access into our storage room to our contractor. When we walked in, I looked around and noticed that everything was ruined. Waterproof containers that held my precious memories were now holding six inches

of water, or was it eight? It really didn’t matter. Everything was just washed away. As I typed this, I was still in a bit of a shock. My sister tried to reassure me that “dry cleaning” can do wonders but I just keep reflecting and knew that I need to turn this into a teaching moment. I can make different choices, I can start fresh, nothing has to hold me back. I can make a difference.

What does this have to do with WRJ? As I look around, I still see people struggling—whether with COVID, paying bills, finding food to eat, having their voting rights taken away, having their reproductive rights taken away. We have to do something—we have to make a difference We need to bring hope back. I am not asking you to reach deep into your pockets, I am asking you to reach deep into your heart and your mind and “step up”; get involved; let’s make a difference. Get involved with Riverdale Temple, with our community, with WRJ. If you don’t know what to do, call me; email me. I have some great ideas—I just need help. We can continue this conversation on October 2 (see box below)—I have a blank page in front of me and a column due—let’s write it together!

—Joanne Heyman, President

Book Club: We had an interesting discussion about the Netanyahus on September 22 that also touched on the Spanish Inquisition. Thanks to all who attended. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:30 pm. Unless notified otherwise, we will meet on the LAST Wednesday of each month. Our selection for October is *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present* by Dara Horn, a book, as can be gleaned from its provocative title, that has aroused controversy in the Jewish community.

—Ronni Stolzenberg



PROTECT WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS Saturday, October 2, at 2:00 P.M. Van Cortlandt Park, Broadway and W. 254th Street. WRJ will be joining with members of the Women’s March, as we unite to march and show support for our sisters in Texas that have been targeted for their right to choose! We must MOBILIZE and DEFEND our reproductive rights. Signs will be provided, or you may make one of your own.

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (MEN’S CLUB)

The Riverdale Temple Men’s Club: an open door for open minds. First, I want to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, and Rewarding 5782. I hope you and your families experienced a meaningful and spiritually fulfilling holiday season. It was wonderful to see and greet so many of you during the holidays, and I was particularly inspired by seeing so many new faces experiencing the beauty of our services this year.

Most of you know that now is the time of year when I reach out to our community to regroup and participate in the events and outreach that the Men’s Club sponsors, supports, or endorses. We will be naming new officers this year, and there is a very ambitious list of undertakings being planned. This includes efforts to aid the integration of newly arriving Afghan refugees in our area, initiating a weekly effort to provide meals to families facing food insecurities, a winter coat drive, and other endeavors that contribute to the betterment of our local community. There will also be special activities, including social distancing dinners,

gatherings for cultural enrichment, including trips to theater, music venues, and sporting events. We also plan to resume our lecture series featuring writers, medical professionals, financial advisers, and other interesting areas.

BUT, none of these plans can be successfully realized without YOUR participation. Therefore, I will be reaching out to you via email within the next couple of weeks with details of meeting schedules and a survey from which your responses will help shape the future direction our organization will pursue.

In the meantime, our annual dues will be \$50.00, and you can send your payment directly to the temple office, where I will be able to receive and process it. If you are unable to pay the full amount, but wish to participate in the Men’s Club, please send in a payment that you are comfortable with. You will not be denied your membership. For those of you who wish to give an amount in excess of \$50.00, I can assure you this money will be used wisely. Historically, the

WRJ and the Men's Club have been frugal and respectful of your donations, and we are very mindful of how every penny is used.

I am excited about the resumption of our organization, as we are now safer and better prepared for the future, and I look forward

to the progressive leadership that I believe many of our new members will provide. Shalom.

—Steven Rosenfeld, President

SOCIAL ACTION

So Much Need!

So Many Ways to Help!

Riverdale Temple has several ways to meet the many requests for help. We ask you to help by donating items and having friends and neighbors to help out as well:

1. Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration and UJA-Federation of New York: Riverdale Temple has agreed to be one of the drop-off locations for items to help Afghan refugees. Items needed from now to October 8 are men's, women's, children's shoes or sneakers; infant strollers for babies/newborns up to one year old; winter coats (all ages and sizes); and everyday women's handbags.

2. Pajama Program: As you know, many people have been affected by terrible floods or wildfires. We expect to do a collection for NEW pajamas for children and big teens from October 12 to November 14. The Pajama Program will help us know where there is the greatest need. Please donate one new pair for a boy/girl/teen. There will be a separate box for the Pajama Program collection.

3. Grocery Collections: The need for groceries is great at our local food pantries and for refugees. We shall return to a regular, ongoing collection of groceries: shelf-stable vegetables, fruit, fish, rice, pasta, soups, tomato sauce, peanut butter, evaporated milk, etc. Depending on our collection and sizes, the groceries will be

donated to the KHCC food pantry, homeless transitional housing, and Hearts and Homes, a refugee group. Please check freshness dates when you donate. You can bring your donations and leave them in the old wicker basket or a box marked for groceries. If you have spare reusable bags, you can bring the groceries and donate both groceries and bags.

Special Appreciation: Thank you to everyone who donated groceries during the Yom Kippur collection. Special thanks to Helen Krim, who arranged for the Riverdale Y van to take the donated groceries to the transitional homeless lodging on Broadway. Thanks are also extended to Vinnie Gomez, who helped me and donated 200 paper grocery bags, from Key Food at W. 235th St.; and Tom Krim, Fanta Davis Clarke, Gloria Psachie, David Greenfield, and Dr. Ronna Weber, who packed the Y van. Gratitude is also given to Linda Eisenkraft, who assisted with the preparations for the grocery collection.

Many thanks: to Phil Clarke, who organized and participated in the Zoom workshop with the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals on September 12, to help people understand the law regarding back rent and evictions. If you did not catch the presentation but know someone or a landlord in need of more information, please contact Susan Prensky, New York State Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals, nysccpl@verizon.net.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

YIVO Jewish Culture Series



We are pleased to inform you that the YIVO lectures start this month. For new members who are unfamiliar with this program, here is a brief review.

The YIVO Jewish Culture Series was developed by Riverdale Temple in partnership with the YIVO Institute for Educational Research (YIVO.org) in 2011. The YIVO is a Jewish cultural institution known for its world-renowned library and archive of Jewish history and culture. The YIVO Jewish Culture Series at Riverdale Temple draws its presenters from the extensive network of scholars worldwide affiliated with the YIVO. The events are open to the broader community. There is no charge. We have several YIVO lectures each year. There will be at least four lectures presented in this study year. Admission is free. Each will be presented via Zoom.

The series begins on **October 19**, with a talk by **Jeffrey Shandler**, who is Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. He will be presenting "The Yiddish Language, Its Past, Present, and Future." His talk will cover some of the key features of Yiddish and discuss the value of studying the language today. See p. 11 for more details. E-blasts about the event will be sent with a Zoom link.

Later this year, we will be presenting speakers on a variety of other topics, either through a lecture or a mini-course, and we are in the process of completing the schedule. We will continue to work in partnership with WRJ to complete the roster. As I have indicated previously, we will try to be more successful about giving those of you who are interested the Yiddish class that was requested. Also, we are eager to enable our congregation to increase their ability to read the Sabbath prayers in Hebrew and are looking forward to present Cantor Sharett-Singer in a class to support those who want to increase their skills in doing so.

Please see Rabbi Gardner's classes below, which are always of great interest to congregants. We highly recommend them to you, as he is a very talented teacher.

Study with Rabbi Gardner

Class 1—Lunch and Learn: Psalms 2. A close look at some of the most important Psalms. The class meets on Mondays from noon to 1:00 p.m. Register to confirm location and Zoom links.

Class 2—Life after Life? What does Judaism say happens when we die? The class meets on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., beginning October 7th. Register to confirm location and to obtain a Zoom link for entry into the class.

—Dr. Yvette Marrin, Chair, Adult Education Committee

The **Chavurah** will meet on **October 16**, following our communal lunch to read and discuss the Torah portion *Lech-Lecha*. In this reading, Adonai plucks Abraham (called Abram) from obscurity and tells him to leave his native land and go “to the land that I will show you.” So, at age 75, Abram, along with

his wife Sarai and nephew Lot, pack up and leave for Canaan. Many events follow in this action-packed parashah, so join us to explore this fascinating story.

—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 HONOR
Shelley Ast	Rabbi Thomas Gardner, for his wonderful sermons and beautiful High Holy Days services	Guy and Ellen Knafo	Our aliyah Temple Luncheon Fund
	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer for her exquisite musical talent and voice during our High Holy Days services	Tamara Lovchinsky	Riverdale Temple
	Jonathan Singer, for his masterful blowing of the Shofar during our High Holy Days services	Barbara Mass	Food Drive
Ephraim Bosgang	Riverdale Temple	Laena Orkin-Prol	High Holy Days Services
Ayelet Durantt	High Holy Days Services	Helen Silber	For my Rosh Hashanah aliyah
Linda Eisenkraft	Kay Book Fund	Sherrill Spatz	Susan Birnbaum’s tour
Barbara Ferber	Rabbi and Cantor’s wonderful High Holy Days services	Leon Tsinberg	High Holy Days Services
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		Leslie Tait	Max Grossman, beloved father
		Harvey Tauber	Dorothy Bussis
			Charles Tauber

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*.

Riverdale Temple Cares

Are you lonely or feeling isolated during the pandemic? Are you or a family member ill? Riverdale Temple is here to help. The temple's Caring Committee offers support during difficult times by calling members and their families to talk—about your concerns or just to have a friendly chat. Good news, such as a milestone birthday or a birth in the family or other simcha? We'd like to share in your joy!

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

The Departed Whom We Now Remember: October Yahrzeit Observances

1 Lilly Lea Hirschl	8 Constance (Connie) Jacob	16 Benjamin Sperling	24 Judge Edward L. Block
1 Sarah Lowenthal	8 Mark Nevins	16 Isabel Virshup Werner	24 Heda Chazen-Cohen
2 Bridie Aguayo	8 Sholom Rozenfeld	17 William Hutter	24 Bertha Cohn
2 Isidore Greenberg	9 Michael H. Abrahamson	17 Morris T. Roth	24 Edward Fogel
2 Werner Oppenheimer	9 Alexander Alperovich	18 George Braun	24 Leonid Krasnopolsky
2 Louis Shapiro	9 Yetta Lester	18 Hattie Fertig	24 Abe Shaifer
2 Dr. Louis S. Werner	9 Adelaide Schulman	18 Hank Grossman	25 Terry Stafford
3 Morris Friedenber	9 Pearl A. Weintraub	18 Rosa Lessin	25 Yetta Young
3 Leonard D. Pearlman	10 Sandra Abramoff	18 Leslie Litt	26 Celia Bloustein
3 Bernhard David Saxe	10 David Avrach	19 Rose Bloch	26 Rebecca Harris Feingold
3 Martin Sternstein	10 Joseph Fertig	19 Catherine (Kitty) Haines	26 Edith Licker
4 Harry Deutsch	10 Daisy Goldberg	19 Isaac Kaplan	26 Celia Maskit
4 Dr. Phil Liebling	10 Sigmund Prince	19 Eugene Levy	26 Ralph Weiskopf
5 Albert Djivre	11 Myrna Faigman	19 Clara White	26 Samuel Wilensky
5 Gerald Gellady	11 Minnie Eva Harris	20 Celia Altman	27 Manasseh Brandt
5 Samuel Gilman	11 Samuel Hellman	20 Leo Evans	27 Irwin Goldstein
5 Isidor Kaminer	11 Frances Licker	20 Rose Gordon	28 Sarah Jacobson
5 Max Rosenbaum	11 Fannie H. Naftal	20 Ansa Schlesinger	28 Lillian B. Kurtin
6 Helene Benardo	11 Stephen Shulman	20 Martin Stern	28 Jeanne Snyder
6 Edyce Elliss	12 Andria T. Schweitzer	21 Sam Moskowitz	29 Shirley Matison
6 Louis Halpern	13 Sarah Changhong Adams	21 Joseph Rappaport	29 Jack Penn
6 Albert Horn	13 Sarah M. Fondiller	21 Minnie Soicher	29 Milton Platt
6 Gloria Katz	13 Frank Glickenstein	22 Fanny Cohen	30 Geraldine Breindel Shlamm
6 Henrietta Krauss	13 Oscar Kalinowsky	22 Samuel Fain	30 Samuel Feldman
6 Diane Pinsley	13 James (Jim) Pinsley	22 Leopold Goldstein	30 Eva Semmel
6 Leonard Y. Rosenberg	14 Annette Parker	22 Carol Lipskar	30 Linda Stein
7 Robert C. Baker	15 Rae Manheimer	22 Robert Mozlin	30 Yacob Zayde
7 Erna Heisner	15 Lottie Mittleman	22 Harry Samalin	31 Pauline Baer
7 Douglas Scholen	15 Hedy Schnitzer	22 Dorothy Simmons	31 Hilda Levy
8 Doris Adelman	16 Cybele Fisher-Koppel	23 Edna Bender	31 Morris Naftal
8 Ida Bennett	16 Victor Lieberman	23 Linda Sue Gray	31 Carole Unger
8 Bessie Cohen	16 Jennie Schoenberg	23 Gertrude Kleinman	



Make Riverdale Temple Your Choice on AmazonSmile!

Dear Each and Every One of My Fellow Riverdale Temple Congregants,

I want to thank you so very much for making this year's High Holidays 2021/5782 Callers Program so effective.

In the fifteen years I have been organizing the High Holidays Phone Callers, I have seen the level of congregant involvement grow stronger each year. This year we had more participants than at any other time! We are very fortunate to have a wonderfully generous, caring group of people helping us celebrate the High Holidays. A BIG thumbs up!

We are indeed a better congregation when we spend our talents and energies giving to our families, giving to each other, and giving to our communities.

So let me offer a big round of applause, a giant pat on the back, and a truly heartfelt "thank you" to everyone.

Be well, Rob Katz

This year's callers were: Shelley Ast, Phil Clarke, Barbara Ferber, Beth Fertig, David Glickenstein, Gerri Glickenstein, Joanne Heyman, Linda Kaplin, Dorothy Kay, Martin Kleinman, Helen Krim, Ruth Loebmann, Rita Pochter Lowe, Steve Rosenfeld, Frederick Schweitzer, Sherrill Spatz, Ronni Stolzenberg, and Judith Zucker.

YIVO *Yidische kultur-serye* JEWISH CULTURE SERIES 2021-2022

Learn with YIVO and Riverdale Temple—Live on Zoom!

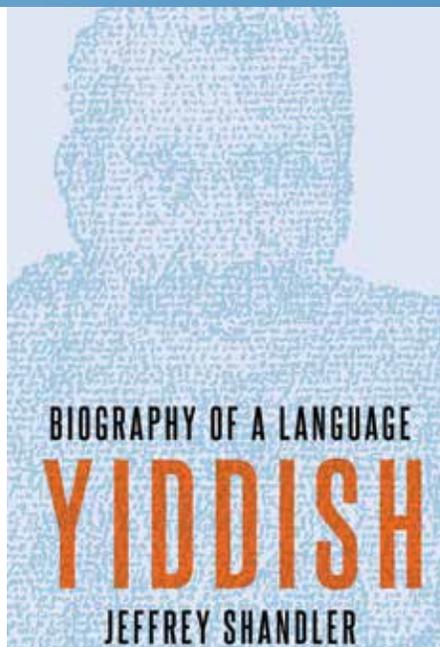
THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE: ITS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Live on Zoom | Admission: Free

Yiddish was not only the most widely spoken Jewish language on the eve of World War II. It has a remarkable history, extending over centuries and continents. Yiddish has a rich and often surprising literature and its speakers have run the gamut of Jewish ideologies, from Hasidism to anarchism. Learning Yiddish—and learning about the language—opens up a wide array of topics concerning Jewish life, past, present, and future. This talk will present some of the key features of Yiddish and will address the value of studying the language today.

Jeffrey Shandler is Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. Currently, he is the National Endowment for the Humanities Scholar in Residence at the Center for Jewish History, New York. Shandler is the author, editor, or translator of sixteen books, most recently *Yiddish: Biography of a Language* (Oxford University Press, 2020).



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