

The Shofar

CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL

A National Historic Site

519 Fourth Street • P.O. Box 659 • Greenport, NY, 11944

Business: 1-631-477-0232 • Emergency: 631-765-3504

Website: www.tiferethisraelgreenport.org

Email: ctigreenport@gmail.com



Volume 26 Number 1

Tevet-Shevat 5784/January 2024

To the readers of The Shofar:

Happy New Year. May 2024 be filled with peace, good health, and many blessings.

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Shabbat and Holiday Services (Hybrid)

Fridays: Erev Shabbat, 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m.

Dates To Remember

Sunday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve

Monday, Jan. 1: Happy New Year 2024

Saturday, Jan. 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Shul Events

Friday, Dec. 29: Birthday Oneg Shabbat, hosted by Roberta Garriss

Thursday, Jan. 4: Drama Club (first session), 6:45-7:45 p.m., on Zoom, led by Rosa Lee Emerson

Friday, Jan. 5: First Friday Oneg Shabbat, hosted by Marc and Caren Demel

Monday, Jan. 8: Ritual Committee meeting, 10 a.m., on Zoom

Monday, Jan. 8: Pastoral Committee meeting, 11 a.m., on Zoom

Sunday, Jan. 14: "Let's Talk About Israel," hybrid program to discuss the current situation, time TBD

Friday, Jan. 19: Birthday Oneg Shabbat: hosted by Sara Bloom

Tuesday, Jan. 23: Interfaith discussion, Israel-Hamas, hybrid program at Peconic Landing, time TBD

Lighting Shabbat Candles in January

Jan. 5: 4:24 Jan. 12: 4:31 Jan. 19: 4:39 Jan. 26: 4:47

Deadline for the February 2024 issue of *The Shofar*: Jan. 20

From The Rabbi...



“Together We Will Win”

While traveling through Israel during the past two weeks, I saw unforgettable sights — pictures of the kidnapped, of course, but also a sign that reads “Beyachad Nenatzeach” (Together we will win). Togetherness may not have been one of the goals of this war, but it is a goal of the Jewish people to cohere.

For part of my time in Israel, I traveled with the Rabbinical Assembly Mission, a group of 24 Conservative rabbis from North America with goals to listen, hear, and bear witness. The days were long and intense, and it felt as though we had spent a month together, not just three days — meaningful work for a group of rabbis in the face of the devastation to the country and to its people since Oct. 7. To support displaced families, many rabbis brought duffle bags full of supplies and gifts, cards for soldiers and to those who were hospitalized.

We met with Conservative Yeshiva and Nativ students, who are spending the year in Israel — what has it been like living as a young adult in Israel through all of this? Those who chose to stay convinced their parents they were safe, but I think their choice to stay was their deep connection to our people. We had dinners with our Masorti/Conservative colleagues in Israel from Knesset Rabbanim, and we prayed together.

On our visit to Kfar Aza, one of the devastated Kibbutzim, we were guided by Alon Futterman, a colleague’s son, who was asked to take part in rehabilitating the local community. When I was a second grader, and we learned about the Holocaust, I remember thinking to myself that the worst of humanity had happened. What I have discovered is that it can be even worse than the Nazi’s acts. We ended the visit with a moving Azkara (memorial service), the constant sound of heavy artillery around us. Never again is now.

We continued on and visited Hamal Omer, near Beer Sheva, a private volunteer initiative to provide soldiers with a place to relax, shower, and eat non-Army food. It costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to operate daily. I kept looking around, hoping to see one of my nephews serving in the IDF. This was followed by a conversation with Rabbi Yos Fromer of Magen Avraham Congregation and also displaced Israeli families from the Gaza Envelope region. They had been close to Palestinians before and believed in peace, but now, they said, they can’t see how they can live together with the people of Gaza.

Our last day started with a beautiful Shacharit (morning service) at the Egalitarian Western Wall with our local colleagues and rabbinical students. In Tel Aviv, we met with Achim LaNeshek (brothers in arms), which had converted its massive underground garage used for the anti-judicial reform demonstrations to a warehouse of items to support families in need.

That day we met also with families of hostages and a survivor from the Nova party, whose best friends had been murdered. We finished the day at Kikar HaHatufim (the Kidnapped Square), where the long, empty table awaiting its guests to return from captivity was a powerful and emotional sight. We offered prayers and songs of comfort.

The togetherness of the Israelis these days is remarkable and contagious. We all hope it will continue. But the togetherness shouldn’t stop there. It should include the Jewish people as a whole, forging a symbiotic connection between Jews in Israel and the diaspora.

The perniciousness of what we heard and saw made me realize that I couldn’t have experienced it without this group of pastors. The topics we discussed in the learning sessions focused on temporary burial, and how to pray for the kidnapped — questions asked in Israel now. We value life so much; we value it wherever it is, even in the afterlife. A prayer from Psalm 142: “Listen to my cry, for I have been brought very low; save me from my pursuers, for they are too strong for me. Free me from prison, that I may praise Your name. The righteous shall glory in me for Your gracious dealings with me.”

As Rabbi Akiva taught us, when our worst nightmares come true, God then fulfills the good prophecies as well. The cover page of our program said: “A time to cry, a time to embrace, a time to love, a time to build.” In Leviticus 26, we read “...and I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall terrorize you. I will drive the wild beasts from the land, and neither shall the sword go through your land.” Together we will win.

May 2024 bring hope and freedom to all,

—Rabbi Gadi Capela

From The President...



“Decisions. Decisions”

Readers of *The Shofar*, particularly those who pause for a moment to skim the president’s message, may have noticed that this president tends to use personal experience as the catalyst that informs her bully pulpit. This should come as no surprise; remember, it is this president who leads a memoir-writing class as a side hustle. And what is memoir? Past experience.

For this month’s *Shofar* message, I’ve chosen a past experience that occurred only a short time ago — on a rainy Sunday morning with a forecast for more to come. It was the day of the shul’s much-publicized Hanukkah event.

Come morning, it was gray and overcast, and by noon, it had drizzled on and off a few times, then seemed to stop for an extended period. Maybe... Phone calls and email messages flew back and forth among Greenport Mayor Kevin Steussi, parks superintendent Doug Jacobs, and this president. The cause of all the consternation was, of course, the menorah lighting in Mitchell Park, scheduled for 5 that afternoon. Will we meet in the park? Will we chance a break in the rain? Or not? Sara, make a decision.

And there it is — the theme of this month’s message: decision making. Some decisions are easier than others, to be sure. Should I have a bagel for breakfast or whole wheat toast, which is not as tasty, but is healthy. Or, what should I wear today? I’m reminded of the old joke about the Jewish mother who buys her son two sweaters for Hanukkah. The next morning, he appears in one of the sweaters. As his mother gazes at his sartorial choice, she says, “You don’t like the other one?”

When it comes to decision making, I always think back to my friend and former boss, the editor of the newspaper group I still work for from time to time. David gave sage advice in response to my question, “David, of all the major stories that cross your desk, how do you know which one gets top billing?” And he said, “I make my best judgment, and I stick with it.” Stick with it, the operative phrase.

This was what I had to decide: Do I keep with tradition and go with the park program, no matter the weather, making the traditionalists in our shul happy, weather be damned? Or should I take a cautionary stance — not risk colds and flu in bad weather and, good grief, suppose somebody slips and gets injured walking on wet pavement to and from the shul?

Poor Mr. Jacobs was still waiting for me to give him the word as I drove from home to the shul around 2:30 or 3 to check on the latkes and room decorations underway. Uh-oh, on the way, droplets on the windshield. That’s it. No park. I arrived at the shul and, not even waiting to get inside, I sent a text to Doug Jacobs with my no-go decision. Then I texted Andrea to send the predetermined email message to members and friends, and post the decision on the website. Done...

...except for the comments to come. “You did what? We’ve lighted the park menorah in rain, snow, whatever.” And, “I guess you did the right thing, but...” Reassuringly, one person gave me a thumbs up, saying, “I’d have cancelled it first thing in the morning and saved myself the headache.”

At 5 o’clock, I busied myself at the shul, didn’t even look out of the window at the weather, didn’t want to know whether a downpour was occurring, or if all was clear and starry, a lovely night in Mitchell Park. I remembered David Kirkwood: make your decision, and stick with it. Not that I could change it...

Why am I telling you this?

Because people face decisions all day long and, as shul members, one important decision every single week. It’s not a life threatening one, but it’s consistent. Shabbat occurs every Friday at sundown and lasts till sundown Saturday — every week, without fail, no exceptions, no surprise. Will you say, “Well, it’s really comfortable here in my Archie Bunker chair. Maybe next week.” Or will you make the decision to start your week on an uplift, joining together with congregants in song and story for an inspirational takeaway that gives you something to think about all week?

Here in January, at the start of a new civic year, I hope you will choose the latter — decide to come to shul, for god’s sake — for God’s sake and yours. Make the decision. And stick with it.

—Sara Bloom

• SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

Let's Talk About Israel...

Join us on Sunday morning, Jan. 14, for a frank and diplomatic discussion about the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Clear up misconceptions, learn the history of unrest in the region, and why Oct. 7 occurred now. What's your point of view? Has it changed since the attack? How do we move forward?

Spirited discussion. Important information. Clarity. Intelligence. Moderated by Judith Weiner and Rabbi Gadi. It's time we talked about this together. More event information as the date nears.

It Was Sunday, Dec. 10, And We Had A Latkepalluzza At The Shul



Rain. Rain.
Rain. It
was coming
down in buckets,
leaving huge
puddles in its wake.
Did we care? Not a bit.

We gathered
in the community room,
where Ron and Dave
were making music.
Deborah was in the



kitchen with her staff, flipping those latkes — 450 by her count — onto platters, and hungry Hanukkah revelers were scarfing them up as fast as they appeared. And who made all those latkes? Women from CAST, learning that veggies as well as potatoes

make tasty latkes. Thanks to Adrienne, the tables were set, and the decorations were up. Greenport's Mayor and members of his staff were in attendance. Rabbi Gadi played host, and led the assembled in lighting the candles on the fourth night. Meanwhile, Madelyn was putting the final touches on the Silent Auction items so the bidding could continue, and bid we did, right up to the final seconds. Judith reached into the basket and picked out Christine's name as the winner of the 50-50 raffle, an unexpected windfall for her. All of this was made possible by a bunch of folks working for weeks ahead of the big event: Madelyn, Caren, Roberta, Nina, Adrienne, Deborah, Miriam, Judith, Sara, CAST women, Greenporter staff, Silent Auction solicitors, contributors, purchasers, and 50-some, who despite the wet weather, came for latkes, sufganiyot, togetherness, and the joyous lights of Hanukkah.

Photos by Adrienne and Sara

Shul's New Art Show By Israeli Painters Draws An Appreciative Crowd *Curator Michelle Schwartz Offers An Insider's View In Art Talk*



By special arrangement with Michelle Schwartz, a highly regarded gallerist and curator of Israeli art in the Bay Area of San Francisco, the shul's Judaism and Art group debuted a new show highlighting the work of an impressive roster of creative artists. The first viewing of the show took place on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m., at a bagels and lox brunch, after which the curator and gallerist talked about the art, the artists, and the vision each artist was conveying about the challenges and ideals of living in Israel.

An appreciative gathering of art lovers filled the community room on a rainy Sunday, listening intently to the art talk and peppering Michelle Schwartz with questions that delved into the background of the artists and the art scene in Israel. With asides about her own foray into the art market, Schwartz endeared herself to her audience with personal stories and good humor.

Represented in the show are works by Dorit Feldman, Samuel Katz, Menashe Kadishman, Moshe Kupferman, David Reeb, Naftali Bezem, Nachum Guttman, Moshe Castel and Samuel Bak. Much of the show will remain mounted in the shul's community room through the next few months. Members and visitors are invited to view the art when the shul is open for Shabbat and holiday services and also on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SMBloom photo

Trope Trainer: Learn To Read From The Torah. New Class Forming *Sign Up Now For Launch Early in 2024*



Adding to the education program at our shul, Rabbi Gadi has announced the start of a new class, beginning in January, to teach interested congregants how to read from the Torah. Several members have been studying informally with the rabbi, who will now offer the opportunity to others.

As Hebrew readers know, the difficulty in reading from the Torah is that the text contains no vowels and no punctuation. Various symbols indicate directions to readers. Learning the symbols and their meanings is challenging and also satisfying, enhancing one's understanding and connection to the ancient script.

To join our shul's community of Torah chanters, email ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Rabbi Gadi.

New Drama Club Forming For Actors, Playwrights And Playreaders



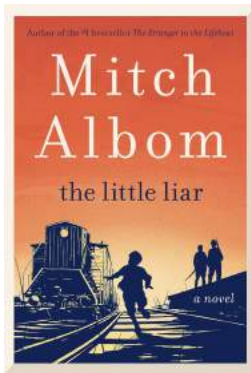
Shul member Rosa Lee Emerson is calling all actors, playwrights and playreaders to join a new group she is heading at the shul called DramaWorks. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4, from 6:45-7:45 p.m., on the shul's Zoom.

In the planning stages are readings, theater games, mime and improv that focus on Jewish identity, and perhaps a performance later in the spring for shul members, family and friends.

Sources may include a book of one-act plays titled "Are You Jewish?," written by Bruce Bloom, and also a one-act play by Chuck Simon.

To sign up, contact Rosa Lee at dremerson@rlemerson.com, and provide your contact information. For questions, email or call Rosa Lee at 347-573-0072.

The Book Circle's December Selection Considers The Power Of Love



Set against the backdrop of WWII, bestselling author Mitch Albom offers a powerful novel of hope, forgiveness and love in *The Little Liar*, a novel that explores the lives of three young people, forever changed by deception and the grace of redemption. Here, Albom confronts the destruction that lying can wreak on the world stage as well as individual lives.

The Book Circle meets monthly to address books on Jewish themes by Jewish writers. The January meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 3:30 p.m., on Zoom. For more information about the monthly meetings, email ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Susan Rosenstreich, coordinator of the group.

• FYI FYI FYI •

Three Top University Presidents Testify About Antisemitism On Campus *Penn President Resigns After Remarks At Congressional Hearing*



Liz Magill, president of the University of Pennsylvania, resigned on Dec. 9, four days after her response to a question about antisemitism posed to her and two other university presidents at a congressional hearing on Dec. 5. Her response angered many Jewish students, alumni and donors, and drew rebukes from Congress and the state's Jewish governor.

Magill was the first college president to resign after protests and counter-protests over the Israel-Hamas war began roiling college campuses two months ago. The former dean of Stanford Law School, Magill was inaugurated as Penn's president in 2022, and promised to protect free speech on campus. But like many college presidents, she has struggled since Oct. 7 — when Hamas attacked Israel and prompted a war in Gaza — to balance supporting free speech with concerns that some speech has gone too far.

At the House committee meeting on antisemitism, Magill had a chance to quell anger over her handling of protests on campus, as well as a Palestinian literary festival the university sponsored in September, which included a highly controversial guest list, many believe. Throughout the fall, many Jewish students and parents charged that anti-Israel rhetoric had created a hostile environment for Jews on campus, and had at times crossed the line into hate speech.

But in a moment that went viral, Magill hedged when asked by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) whether calls for genocide against Jews would constitute harassment on Penn's campus, according to the university's code of conduct. Stefanik asked the same of Harvard's president, Claudine Gay, and also the president of MIT, Sally Kornbluth. All three presidents said the answer to Stefanik's question would depend on context. The remarks by all three came off as insensitive.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, both of whom are Jewish, were among those who criticized Magill for her statements in front of Congress, although neither said she should lose her job. "Frankly, I thought her comments were absolutely shameful," Governor Shapiro said on Dec. 7. "It should not be hard to condemn genocide."

"Liz Magill has voluntarily tendered her resignation as President of the University of Pennsylvania," Scott Bok, chair of the university's board of trustees, said in an email to university alumni. He also said that Magill would remain a tenured faculty member at the university's law school.

McGill's resignation followed days of calls for her ouster, including from the board of Wharton, the university's business school. Additionally, more than 70 members of Congress called for the trustees of Penn — as well as Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — to fire their presidents over their responses to antisemitism on campus, according to Reuters. All three faced enormous backlash from high-profile donors when they failed to condemn calls for the genocide of Jews.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said on social media that Magill's resignation was a "wake-up call." "Campus administrators must protect their Jewish students with the same passion they bring to protecting all students," he said.

In additional fallout, the president of Harvard apologized in a statement published in the student newspaper. "I got caught up in what had become at that point an extended, combative exchange about policies and procedures," Claudine Gay said. "What I should have had the presence of mind to do in that moment was to return to my guiding truth, which is that calls for violence against our Jewish community — threats to our Jewish students — have no place at Harvard, and will never go unchallenged." Harvard expressed support for president Gay.

Additionally, Rabbi David Wolpe, a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School, who has built a reputation as one of the country's most prominent rabbis and Jewish thinkers, resigned from an advisory committee on antisemitism Harvard had created in November. He cited "events on campus" and Gay's "painfully inadequate testimony." Harvard Hillel's leadership also expressed a lack of trust in Gay's ability to protect Jewish students on campus.

Sally Kornbluth of MIT responded to Stefanik's question about whether a call for genocide against Jewish people would constitute harassment on MIT's campus. Kornbluth said harassment would have to be targeted at individuals and pervasive, as well as require an investigation.

MIT's governing boards released a statement on Dec. 7 standing behind the institute's president amid backlash to her testimony.

[Pictured, from left, Claudine Gay, Harvard; Liz Magill, Penn; Sally Kornbluth, MIT. Axios photo]

Nationwide Swatting Spree Targets Nearly 200 Jewish Shuls, Institutions

A nationwide swatting spree [generating a law enforcement response under false pretenses] targeting nearly 200 synagogues and Jewish institutions over the weekend of Dec. 15 and 16 appears to have been a coordinated effort by an entity based outside the United States, FBI spokesman Cathy Milhoan said in a memo to law enforcement agencies.

A record number of incidents and false bomb threats were tracked by the Secure Community Network across multiple states, including California, Arizona, Connecticut, Colorado and Washington. None of the email threats involved any explosive devices or harm to congregants.

According to SCN, swatting incidents are up over 540% from 2022, with about 450 taking place this year. Thirty FBI field offices are investigating the threats.

A Symbolic Pairing Took Place Ats The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin



German chancellor Olaf Scholtz and Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal attended the ceremony to light the first candle of the Hanukkah menorah at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, on Thursday, Dec. 7.

AP Photo/ Markus Schreiber

• JEWS IN THE NEWS •

Zvika Klein

Zvika Klein has been named the new chief editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, succeeding Avi Mayer. Klein has been the newspaper's Diaspora Affairs correspondent and deputy editor-in-chief.

Previously, Klein, an Israeli-American, had been for 10 years the Diaspora Affairs reporter for the Makor Rishon newspaper.

Miriam Adelson

Miriam Adelson, one of the richest women in the world, sold \$2 billion in stock in the Las Vegas Sands Corp, the casino company her late husband built, to buy the Dallas Mavericks basketball team. Even after the sale, which is pending approval by the NBA board of governors, she will remain the majority stockholder of the casino company, retaining 51.3% of company shares.

The \$3.5 billion purchase from team owner Mark Cuban would make Adelson one of a few female owners of a U.S. professional sports franchise, and one of the wealthiest overall. Her net worth was reported by Forbes at about \$32 billion, ranking here fifth-richest among women in the U.S. and 35th richest billionaire in the world.

Sylvan Adams

Canadian-Israeli businessman Sylvan Adams has donated \$100 million to Ben-Gurion University as part of an effort to rebuild the south, following the devastating Hamas attacks on Oct. 7, university officials announced at a benefit gala in Toronto on Dec. 3.

Adams, a real estate magnate who moved to Israel in 2015, is perhaps best known for his support of cycling in Israel. He established the country's first cycling institute, created an eponymous commuter bike path in Tel Aviv, and brought the opening stage of the Giro d'Italia competition to Israel in 2018 — at a personal cost of more than \$20 million. He also owns the Israel-Premier Tech Cycling Team, and last year won the world championship in cycling for his age group.

The \$100 million donation is the largest ever to an Israeli university, which lost 82 members of its community on Oct. 7, including students, staff, faculty and their family members. The funds will focus on six areas: the future of the Negev and Israel, technological advancements, climate change, sustainability, and global health.

• OBITUARIES •

Henry Kissinger

Former U.S. Secretary of State and national security advisor Henry Kissinger, arguably one of the most influential and also controversial foreign policy figures of our time, died Nov. 29 at the age of 100.

His policies and strategies under former Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford brought widespread attention, both positive and negative, that changed the course of American history.

Kissinger received the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to arrange the end of U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War, and is credited with secret diplomacy that helped Nixon open communist China to the U.S. and the West. But he was also reviled by many over the bombing of Cambodia during the Vietnam War and accused by critics of needlessly expanding the conflict.

Kissinger escaped Nazi Germany in his youth and came to the U.S. in 1938 before ultimately cementing his legacy in foreign policy in the 1970s.

Norman Lear

Writer-producer Norman Lear, who revolutionized American comedy with such daring and immensely popular early-'70s sitcoms as "All in the Family" and "Sanford and Son," died Dec. 5 in his home in Los Angeles. He was 101.

Lear's shows were the first to address the serious political cultural and social flashpoints of the day — racism, abortion, homosexuality, the Vietnam War — by working new wrinkles into the standard domestic comedy formula. No subject was taboo. Their fresh outrageousness turned them into huge ratings successes. "Family" accounted for six spin-offs, was honored with four Emmys in 1971-73, and a 1977 Peabody Award for Lear "for giving us comedy with a social conscience."

Some of Lear's other creations played with TV conventions. "One Day at a Time" (1975-84) featured a single mother of two young girls, a new concept for a sitcom. "Diff'rent Strokes" (1978-86) followed the growing pains of two Black kids adopted by a wealthy white businessman.

Frances Sternhagen

Frances Sternhagen, the Tony Award-winning actress who played leading roles in stage productions of "Driving Miss Daisy" and "On Golden Pond" as formidable older women when she was so young that she had to wear aging makeup, died on Dec. 4 in New Rochelle, NY. She was 93.

Miss Sternhagen won Tonys as featured actress in a play for her performances in two widely diverse productions. In a 1995 Broadway revival of “The Heiress,” based on Henry James’s novel *Washington Square*, she was Cherry Jones’s well-meaning, matchmaking Aunt Lavinia. In “The Good Doctor,” Neil Simon’s 1973 take on Chekhov, she played multiple roles in comedy sketches.

On television, she played the controlling working-class mother of the oddball postal carrier Cliff Clavin on “Cheers,” and was Dr. John Carter’s aristocratic Chicago grandmother on “ER,” among other maternal figures in memorable hit series. She continued working into her 80s, playing her final film role in “And So It Goes” (2014), a comic drama in which she played a wise, snarky and chain-smoking real estate agent.

Suzanne Shepherd

Suzanne Shepherd, an influential New York acting teacher who found success in midlife as a character actress, including memorable turns as the mothers of Edie Falco’s character on “The Sopranos” and Lorraine Bracco’s character in “Goodfellas,” died on Nov. 17 at her home in Manhattan. She was 89.

After establishing herself as a stage actress and director, Ms. Shepherd became well known as an acting instructor — her students included Gregory Hines, Bebe Neuwirth and Christopher Meloni — before she began acting in film and on television when she was in her mid-50s.

In her final film, “The Performance,” Ms. Shepherd played the mother of Jeremy Piven’s character, a Jewish American tap dancer whose troupe is scouted to perform for Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. Recently, her friend Carl Capotorto said that Ms. Shepherd had told him, “There are plenty more mothers to play. I want to play them all.”

Abraham Bergman

Dr. Abraham B. Bergman, a pediatrician who was instrumental in passing a federal law to combat sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), died on Nov. 10 in Seattle. He was 91.

In the 1960s and early ‘70s, Dr. Bergman was president of the National Foundation for Sudden Infant Death, a grass-roots group that supported parents who had lost children to what was once commonly called crib death. Although SIDS, as the syndrome became known, was the leading killer of infants less than a year old, its cause was unknown. Parents often blamed themselves, marriages broke up and, in some cases, the authorities investigated for child abuse.

Dr. Bergman’s group sought to destigmatize SIDS, support grieving parents, and raise money for research. Its efforts led to the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Act of 1974, which appropriated millions of dollars for research.

In another groundbreaking piece of legislation, Dr. Bergman testified before a Senate subcommittee about flammable sleepwear. “You senators are in a position to save far more lives than physicians,” he said. In response, Congress toughened and broadened the Flammable Fabrics Act to require more flame-resistant clothing.

Irving Liberman

During those long car and airplane trips to visit family, spare a thought for Irving Liberman, a scientist who helped make GPS a reliable, precise resource. He died on Nov. 6 at his home in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh. He was 86.

A lifelong tinkerer, Mr. Liberman was always fascinated by how things worked. At a young age, he would take things apart and put them back together, sometimes with parts left over, yet they still worked. Before he would use any gadget, he had to know how it worked.

The owner of eight patents and author of more than 50 publications, Mr. Liberman, who had earned master’s and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering, was recruited by Westinghouse Research

& Development. In 1995, he was the project manager for a cohort that developed the miniature atomic clock, which was accurate within a millionth of a second per day and would come to be used for many disciplines, especially GPS technology, and also smart bombs, cellular communication systems and even the ankle bracelets worn by prisoners.

Andrea Fay Friedman

Andrea Fay Friedman, an actress with Down syndrome, who starred in the television series “Life Goes On” died on Dec. 3 at her home in Santa Monica, CA. She was 53.

Ms. Friedman was known for her portrayals of people with developmental disabilities. She called her Down syndrome her “up syndrome,” her father, Hal Friedman, said in a phone interview.

Her breakthrough in acting came in 1992 on the TV drama “Life Goes On” about a character with Down syndrome. Ms. Friedman played the main character’s girlfriend and later wife, for two seasons. She also appeared in other TV shows, including “Baywatch,” “ER,” and “Law and Order: SVU.”

David Ellenson

Rabbi David Ellenson, a scholar who wrestled with the interplay of tradition and modernity in Judaism,, and who shaped a generation of Reform rabbis as a teacher and later as the president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, died on Dec. 7 at his home in Manhattan. He was 76.

He taught for more than 40 years at the Reform seminary, which trains rabbis, cantors and Jewish educators on four campuses: in New York, Cincinnati, Los Angeles and Jerusalem. He forged important academic and intellectual alliances across the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism. The question that animated his life was: How does the Jewish religious tradition adapt, transform and resist the powerful forces of modernity?

Rabbi Ellenson wrote seven books and more than 300 articles and reviews. His book, *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity* (2005) won the 2006 National Jewish Book Award as the outstanding book on Jewish thought.

Shlomo Avineri

Shlomo Avineri, an Israeli political scientist, historian and former government official whose pessimism about resolving the conflict with Palestinians did not stop him from advocating measures to ease it, died on Nov. 30 in Jerusalem. He was 90.

In his writings, Mr. Avineri was consistently skeptical about Israel’s prospects for achieving peace with its enemies. He was convinced of Palestinian and Arab hatred for Israel and Zionism, whose 19th-century roots he chronicled in 1981 in his book, *The Making of Modern Zionism*. The Hamas attack in Israel on Oct. 7 buttressed this view. Immediately afterward, speaking to *The New York Times*, he noted what he said was Hamas’s view that in Israel “every civilian is a soldier.”

Mr. Avineri had a distinguished academic career behind him when he entered Israel’s foreign ministry in 1975 as director general in the government of Yitzhak Rabin. “What I have in mind specifically,” he wrote at that time, “is a discussion with the Palestinians now under Israeli rule concerning the possibility of establishing a Palestinian Arab state on the West Bank and in Gaza.”

George A. Cohon

George A. Cohon, a Chicago-born entrepreneur who, by introducing the Big Mac — or the Bolshoi Mac — to Moscow in 1990, died on Nov. 24 at his home in Toronto. He was 86.

A Fuller Brush salesman in college with a flair for merchandising, Mr. Cohon abandoned his law practice when Ray Kroc, the McDonald’s founder, offered him the chain’s franchise for eastern Canada.

Mr. Cohon borrowed \$70,000 to buy the rights and opened his first restaurant in London, Ontario, in 1968. In 1971, he traded the franchise for McDonald's stock and in 1992 became senior chairman of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada, which included some 1500 eateries, and of McDonald's in Russia.

Though waiting on lines was part of daily life in Soviet Russia, opening day in Moscow — Jan. 31, 1990 — exceeded all expectations when an estimated 10,000 people queued up in Pushkin Square for Happy Meals and double cheeseburgers. By the end of the day, around 30,000 people had sampled the menu at the mammoth 700-seat restaurant, emblazoned with its trademark golden arches. It was the beginning of what Mr. Cohon called "hamburger diplomacy."

At McDonald's in Canada, where he was chairman, president, and chief executive until 1992, Mr. Colon was a self-styled, hands-on "front counter kind of guy," as he wrote in his memoir. He handed out hamburger-shaped business cards that included a voucher for a free Big Mac.

Mort Engelberg

Mort Engelberg, a movie producer behind such hits as "Smokey and the Bandit" and "The Big Easy" who drew on his Hollywood expertise to stage manage appearances for politicians, notably a bus tour for Bill Clinton and Al Gore following the 1992 Democratic convention, died Dec. 9 in Los Angeles. He was 86.

He drew on the tropes of road movies to invent the modern presidential bus tour for Clinton and Gore through Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky and other heartland states. The eight-day bus trip drew throngs of people, and helped to cement Mr. Clinton's image as a down-home politician.

Merle Goldman

Merle Goldman, an historian at Boston University, widely considered one of the world's leading analysts of Chinese politics, died Nov. 16 at her home in Cambridge, MA. She was 92.

Dr. Goldman's specialty was the politics of dissent in modern China, a topic that gave her a unique perspective on the country's seismic changes under Communism. She wrote books, book reviews and opinion articles that were required reading for government and opinion leaders.

She and her husband, Marshall Goldman secured teaching positions in the Boston area — he at Wellesley College, where he specialized in the Soviet economy and she at Boston University, where she taught from 1972 to 2001. She worked at Harvard's Fairbank Center until 2014.

Their extensive knowledge of their respective subject countries, as well as their ability to trade on each other's insights, made them frequent advisers to politicians and business leaders.

"We don't argue about the children," Dr. Goldman told The Boston Globe in 1988. "We argue about the significance of Confucius."

Neil Drossman

Neil Drossman, who brought wit to print advertisements and television commercials, died on Nov. 25 in the Bronx. He was 83.

From the late 1960s until this year, Mr. Drossman was a copywriter at several agencies. One of the most enduring lines Mr. Drossman wrote was for Meow Mix: "Tastes so good, cats ask for it by name. For Stick Ups, small deodorizing disks made by Air Wick that could be glued anywhere in the house, he wrote "This is a good place for a Stick Up." When Readers Digest hired him in 2003 to refresh its image, Mr. Drossman pushed that venerable publication into slightly risqué territory. One of the ads in the campaign showed a woman in a bathrobe holding a copy of the magazine and looking into the camera. "If we got any closer to our readers," the headline read, "we'd have to use protection."

Guy Stern

Guy Stern, who fled rising antisemitism in Nazi Germany at 15 for a new life in the United States but returned to Europe during WWII as a member of a military intelligence program that trained him to interrogate prisoners of war, died on Dec. 7 in West Bloomfield, MI. He was 101.

Mr. Stern was one of the so-called Ritchie Boys, a group named for a secret Army camp in Maryland that served as a training center — mostly for German Jews — to learn how to interrogate imprisoned German and Italian officers and translate documents to extract vital information. At least 60% of the actionable intelligence in the European theater was amassed by the Ritchie Boys, according to David Frey, director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at West Point.

Dan Greenburg

Dan Greenburg, the prolific humorist, best-selling author, essayist, playwright and screenwriter, whose satirical prose examined Jewish angst, died on Dec. 18 in the Bronx. He was 87.

Mr. Greenburg achieved national fame in 1964 with the publication of his *How To Be A Jewish Mother: A Very Lovely Training Manual*, a tongue-firmly-in-cheek assessment of the unique and often baffling qualities of a stereotypical Jewish mother. Though his own mother didn't think it was particularly funny, the book sold more than 270,000 copies in its first year alone, and opened the door for the 28-year-old Mr. Greenburg to embark on a long career as a writer.

He subsequently published more than a dozen books for adults and later began writing humorous children's fiction, turning out volumes of the popular "The Zack Files" series, for which his son was the inspiration. In a 1998 interview with *The New York Times*, Mr. Greenburg said, "There's nothing more fulfilling than hearing that you've turned a kid on to books."

Robert M. Solow

Robert M. Solow, who won a Nobel in economic science in 1987 for his theory that advances in technology, rather than increases in capital and labor, have been the primary drivers of economic growth in the United States, died on Dec. 21 at his home in Lexington, MA. He was 99.

Professor Solow taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he and a fellow Nobel laureate, Paul A. Samuelson, forged the M.I.T. style of economic analysis, which emerged as a leading approach in the second half of the 20th century and played an important role in economic policymaking.

Although choice posts in Washington beckoned — he did serve briefly as a staff member of the president's Council of Economic Advisers during the Kennedy administration — Professor Solow's heart was always in academia. Once, when invited to an embassy party, his secretary was asked his rank so he could be properly seated according to protocol. "Tell them," he told her, "I'm a full professor of economics at M.I.T. — and they don't have anything that high in the government."

Irwin Cohen

Irwin Cohen, an inventive developer who transformed a derelict factory, where the first Oreo cookie was produced in 1912, into Chelsea Market, an exuberant 21st-century food bazaar that helped revitalize its New York City neighborhood, died on Dec. 18 in Manhattan. He was 90.

In creating the market, Mr. Cohen reconfigured the former National Biscuit Company plant — a complex of 17 brick buildings dating to the 1890s, filling a block between Ninth and 10th Avenues and West 15th and 16th Streets — into an industrial destination for foodies. Repurposing the plant spurred the gentrification of West Chelsea.

Mr. Cohen and his daughter purchased the factory for \$14 million. In 2018, Google bought the property for \$2.4 billion.

Birthdays In January

2: Molly Byrne
3: Seth Greenseid
4: Stanley Kaplan
8: Alan Weinstein
11: Chuck Simon
15: Rob Brown
16: Arthur Riegel
20: Sara Bloom; Carly Teperman
22: Jo Ann Blumberg
24: Veronica Kaliski

Anniversary in January

5: Stephan Brumberg and Carol Ingall

Share Your Thoughtfulness With A Sisterhood Sunshine Card



On the front, our historic sanctuary; an acknowledgment of your generosity appears inside.

A donation has
been made in your name to
Congregation Tifereth Israel, Greenport, NY
to acknowledge the _____

by _____

In times of celebration or sadness, a card to a family member or friend is a welcome expression of love. Purchase a Sunshine card (\$18 each; 3 for \$36) by calling Andrea Blaga at 631-477-0232. Relay your message, and she will send a card, indicating that a donation has been made to the Sisterhood.

Please mail your donation to the Sisterhood, P.O. Box 659, Greenport, NY, 11944, or go to the shul's website (www.tiferethisraelgreenport.org) to pay with a credit card.

Yahrzeits in January

1: Jean Birman; Dr. Arthur Goldin; Jennie Levinson
2: Rose Wasserman
4: Phil Rosenstein
5: Ida Sausmer
6: Toivo Jarvi
7: Marcia B. Block; Martha Levin
8: Selma Lerner; Herman Millman; Gerald Nathel; Stanley Sydney
9: Norma Good; Nedjat Lazar; Steven Newman; Alvin Robins; William Sausmer
11: Nathan Forman; Rose Katz Grossman; Julius Levine; Mel Morrell
12: Jed Clauss; Benjamin Lipman; Monir Lazar
12: Ralph Michelson and his brothers: Morris, Lewis, Conrad, Herbert and Morton

13: Annie Bush, Louis Felder; Rebecca Edelstein; Anna Neimark
 14: Helen Newman
 15: Clara Nissenfeld
 16: Adrien Felder; Herbert R. Mandel
 17: Bella Schwartz
 19: Morris Budofsky; Evelyn Rosenbaum
 20: Earl Victor Friedman; Avraham ben Mordechai
 21: David J. Brown; Jeffrey Doss; Gladys Feinberg; Yehuda L. Levinson; Joan Slade
 22: Rebecca Revere
 23: Anna Posner
 24: Tillie Chrobersky; Dorothy Kaplan
 25: Roselyn Campeas; Jack Dalven
 26: Mazal ha Levi
 27: Mordechai ben Arye; Oscar Goldin; Donna Nadel; Rev. David Orliansky
 28: Adele Blanche Lustig; Samuel Joseph Pelovitz
 29: Stanley Rubin; Abraham Slotkin
 30: Evelyn Reece
 31: Sophia P. Ballen; Samuel Neimark

Refuah Shlemah

Paul Birman
 Menachem Bloom
 Martin Ehrenreich
 Alan Garmise
 Alice Nadel
 Ellen Wiederlight
 Hal Neimark
 Caren Demel

Please share your celebrations with the shul family. Forward the month and day of your birthdays and anniversaries, and those of your immediate family, to Sara Bloom at sbblazer@hotmail.com.

• MONEY MATTERS •

Contributions in December

Kate Eisenberg
 Carol Seigel
 Ari and Susan Spar
 Elaine Goldman
 Stan and Ellen Weiner
 Alicia Altmueller

Dedicated Funds

- **Capital Improvement:** covers major additions and repairs to our building and grounds.
- **Archive/Library:** supports new books for our library, plus archival materials.
- **Education:** provides supplies/materials for the Hebrew School and adult education classes.
- **Ritual Materials:** replaces prayer books, tallit, kippah, Torah mantles, etc.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** allows the rabbi to provide help when he is asked.

- **Financial Assistance Fund:** supports those in need in Southold Town.
- **Harold Winters Fund For the Hebrew School:** supports Jewish education.
- **Paul S. Birman Technology Fund:** supports updates and new communication programs.
- **Marshall S. Hurwitz Fund for Special Programs and Projects:** supports cultural endeavors

Invest In Our Shul

• Cash

Write a check or make a credit card payment.

Donor Benefits: There is an immediate tax deduction for the full value of the gift, and taxable assets are removed from the donor's estate, delivering direct benefits to CTI.

• Appreciated, Marketable Securities

Give a gift of appreciated securities that have been held for more than one year.

Donor Benefits: This gift bypasses capital gains tax; provides a tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities; and removes taxable assets from your estate.

• IRA Charitable Rollover

Donors 70-1/2 years or older can make an IRA charitable rollover (up to \$100,000 per year) to CTI. The IRA funds must be transferred directly to CTI by December 31 of the calendar year you are making the donation. Charitable rollover amounts could count toward the donor's required minimum distribution, although these funds do not provide a charitable deduction.

Donor Benefits: This gift reduces taxes on amounts up to \$100,000 from the donor's IRA, and satisfies all or part of the required minimum distribution for the year.

• Gift in a Will or Trust

Donors can make a bequest gift of specific property, a specific dollar amount, or a percentage of the estate and/or a designated asset. The estate will receive a charitable tax deduction for the amount of the gift, which may reduce the taxable portion of the estate. If the donor already has a will, an attorney can write a codicil to include the bequest.

Donor Benefits: This gift is simple to create; the estate receives a charitable tax deduction for the bequest, and the donor retains control of assets throughout life.

• Life Insurance/Name CTI as Beneficiary

Donors can name CTI as beneficiary and specify a percentage or the entire policy as the legacy gift.

Donor Benefits: Donors can ask for a "Change in Beneficiary" form from their plan administrator, retain control of the policy; and may receive a charitable tax deduction after death. This gift is an opportunity to make a large gift at little cost.

• 401(k) or IRA Retirement Plan Designation

Upon death, retirement plans are subject to estate and income taxes, which means up to 60% of retirement assets may go to the IRS; distributions to charities incur no taxes.

Donors can name CTI as beneficiary and can specify a percentage or the entire account as the legacy gift.

Donor Benefits: Gifts of IRAs and other retirement accounts allow donors to make a gift to CTI while saving on estate and income taxes.

• Charitable Gift Annuity

This gift provides one or two individuals who are 55 and older with fixed payments for life. The gift can be established with a simple contract between the donor and CTI. The donor transfers assets of cash or marketable securities to CTI and, in exchange, CTI promises to pay one or two people for life. The payment rate depends upon the age of the beneficiary or beneficiaries at the time of the transfer; the older

the beneficiary at time of gift, the greater the fixed payments. The donor may be subject to tax on the income stream. When the last beneficiary dies, the annuity's balance becomes the donor's legacy gift to CTI. A deferred gift annuity works the same way, but starts providing payments at a fixed date in the future (rather than immediately). Until payouts begin, the annuity may grow in value, providing a higher payment rate.

Donor Benefits: This gift guarantees annual payments for life regardless of market conditions; a portion of the income may be tax-free; taxable assets are removed from the estate; some portion of capital gains may be bypassed with gifts of appreciated property, and the donor is entitled to an income tax deduction in the year the gift is made.

• Charitable Remainder Trust

Donors can transfer assets (e.g., publicly traded securities, real estate, cash) to a trust that pays either a fixed amount (annuity trust) or a fixed percentage that reflects the size of the trust (unitrust) to the donor and/or their designated beneficiaries. This enables donors to make an irrevocable gift that produces payments for life or a set term for themselves and/or their beneficiaries, with the remainder of the donated assets going to CTI. At the end of the term or upon death of the beneficiary or beneficiaries, the trust terminates, and the assets in the trust pass to CTI as a legacy.

Donor Benefits: This gift offers a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the gift, a payment stream, and removal of assets from the donor's estate, which may reduce estate taxes.

If you would like to discuss any of these Legacy Gift options, please contact Judith K. Weiner at jkweiner@icloud.com

Honor Loved Ones With A Plaque

• **Memorial Plaque:** mounted in the sanctuary, lighted during the anniversary month.

Cost: \$300 members; \$600 nonmembers.

• **Tree of Life Leaf:** commemorates a simcha or joyous event, mounted in social hall.

Cost: \$54 members; \$108 nonmembers.

• **Sanctuary Seat Plate:** seat nameplate in sanctuary. Cost: \$200 members; \$250 nonmembers

• SCHEDULE OF SYNAGOGUE FEES •

Event	Members	Nonmembers
Lifecycle Event*	\$1,000	\$2,000
Sanctuary Only	\$500	\$1,000
<u>Commemoratives</u>		
Memorial Plaques	\$300	\$600
Tree of Life Leaf	\$54	\$108
Prayer Book Bookplate	\$54	\$54
Pentateuch Bookplate	\$72	\$72
Sanctuary Seat Plate**	\$200	\$250
Isidore Handler Hebrew School	TBD	TBD

*Fee includes use of the sanctuary, community room, kosher kitchen, and Andrew Levin Park, also cleanup fee. Renters of our facilities must sign a contract at least 30 days prior to the event, and satisfy the fee schedule accordingly. For more information, email ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Elizabeth Adams.

** Seat plates are for current members or to honor deceased members.

Membership Per Year (Revised June 2023)

Family: \$1,000; Individual: \$650

• WHO'S WHO AT OUR SHUL •

Rabbi Gadi Capela: 631-477-0232

Gabbai Paul Nadel: 631-734-8519

Board of Directors

Sara M. Bloom: President

Ellen Buchbinder: Vice President

Joanna Paulsen: Treasurer

Nancy Torchio: Financial Secretary

Suri Lan-Brown: Recording Secretary

Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary

Elizabeth Adams; Caren Demel; Gordon Henry: Members at Large

Adrianne Greenberg: Sisterhood President

TBD: Men's Club President

Immediate Past President: Judith K. Weiner (nonvoting)

Rabbi Gadi Capela (nonvoting)

The Sisterhood

Adrianne Greenberg: President

Joanna Paulsen: Vice President

Roberta Garris: Secretary

The Men's Club

TBD: President

Paul Jeselsohn: Vice President

The Shofar

Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

Shul Committees

Andrew Levin Park/Garden

Adrianne Greenberg, chair

Veronica Kaliski

Advertising

Alan Garmise, chair

Audio-Visual

Adrianne Greenberg, chair

Beautification/Buildings and Grounds

Adrianne Greenberg, chair

Miriam Gabriel

Bylaws

Joanna Paulsen, chair

Alan Garmise, Adrianne Greenberg

Calendar

Elaine Goldman, chair

E-Communications/Website

Andrea Blaga

Education

Ann Hurwitz, chair

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Miriam Gabriel, Madelyn Rothman

Finance

Nancy Torchio, chair

Sara Bloom, Caren Demel, Joanna Paulsen, Judith K. Weiner

Fundraising:

Judith K. Weiner, chair

Gift Shop

Sara Bloom, chair

Information Technology

Paul Birman, Rabbi Gadi Capela, Alan Garmise, Adrienne Greenberg,

Silent Auction

Madelyn Rothman, chair

Sara Bloom, Roberta Garris, Nina Neimark,

Judaism and Art

Saul Rosenstreich, chair

Elizabeth Adams, Sara Bloom, Rabbi Gadi Capela, Graham Diamond, Ann Hurwitz, Ellen Jaffe,

Corrine Slade, Dan Torchio, Judith K. Weiner

Long Range Planning

Alan Garmise, chair

Elizabeth Adams, Miriam Gabriel, Adrienne Greenberg, Susan Rosenstreich, Judith K. Weiner

Membership

Judith K. Weiner, chair

Elizabeth Adams, Sara Bloom, Suri Lan-Brown, Madelyn Rothman, Chuck Simon,

Nominating

Susan Rosenstreich, chair

Miriam Gabriel, Rochelle Garmise

Pastoral

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Miriam Gabriel, Elaine Goldman, Paul Jeselsohn, Bill Packard, Carol Seigel

Plaques

Adrienne Greenberg

Public Relations

Alan Garmise, chair

Sara Bloom

Rabbi Contract Negotiating Committee

Alan Garmise, chair

Sara Bloom, Judith K. Weiner

Ritual

Rabbi Gadi Capela, chair

Sara Bloom, Ellen Buchbinder, Alan Garmise, Elaine Goldman, Adrienne Greenberg, Stephen

Meshover, Paul Nadel, Carol Seigel, Chuck Simon, Judith K. Weiner

Security

Stephen Meshover, chair

Sara Bloom, Rabbi Gadi Capela, Elaine Goldman, Gordon Henry, Judith K. Weiner

Telephone/Sunshine

Sisterhood

Tikkun Olam

Ann Hurwitz; Veronica Kaliski, Susan Rosenstreich, Madelyn Rothman, Corinne Slade

Yahrzeits

Miriam Gabriel, chair

Shul president Sara M. Bloom is an ex officio member of all shul committees.

[Questions and comments to members of the Board of Directors, Sisterhood, Men's Club, committee chairs, and the editors of The Shofar can be addressed to ctigreenport@gmail.com/. In the subject line, type the name of the person you want to reach.]