

The Shofar

CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL

A National Historic Site

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Volume 26 Number 3

Adar 1-Adar II 5784/March 2024

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Shabbat and Holiday Services (Hybrid)

Fridays: Erev Shabbat, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m.

Yiskor in 2024: April 30 (Passover); June 13 (Shavuot); Oct. 12 (Yom Kippur); Oct. 24 (Shemini Atzeret)

Dates To Remember

Wednesday, Feb. 28: “Maimonides Across Eight Centuries,” 7 p.m., Center for Jewish History, NYC
Sunday, March 10: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. (Set clocks ahead one hour.) Daylight Saving Time was first initiated as an energy-saving measure in WWI. President Richard Nixon enacted the measure permanently in 1974 so that people could enjoy more daylight during the summer season.
Tuesday, March 19: Winter 2024 ends; first day of spring (the Vernal Equinox), begins at 11:06 p.m. ET. Daylight and nighttime are of about equal length.

Shul Events

Friday, March 1: Oneg Shabbat, sponsored by Marc and Caren Demel, immediately following the Shabbat service, in memory of their late son's birth date.

Monday, March 4: Ritual Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Pastoral at 11 a.m., on Zoom

Mondays and Thursdays during March: Laurie Short's Trifecta Workout, community room, 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28: Hebrew Class at 4:30 p.m.; Trope Training at 5:30 p.m., at the parsonage and on Zoom

Sunday, March 17: Board of Directors meeting at 9 a.m., on Zoom

Sunday, March 24: Purim (Reading of the Scroll of Esther), 11 a.m.

Wednesday, March 27: GEM Model Seder at our shul, 11 a.m.

Thursday, March 28: Book Circle, 3 p.m., on Zoom

Lighting Shabbat Candles in March

March 1: 5:29 March 8: 5:37 March 15: 6:45 March 22: 6:52 March 29: 7:00

Deadline for the April 2024 issue of *The Shofar*: March 20

From The Rabbi...



“Learning Torah at our Shul”

It was one of those moments in synagogue that intrigued me, challenged me to look deeper at Torah commentary. In discourse this Shabbat about the clothing of the High Priest, I was explaining the difference between the word tzitz at the forehead of the High Priest in Exodus 28:36, and tzitzit – the tassels with the singular blue string that we are commanded to extend from the Talit. Twice a day, we read in the Shema prayer: “Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of The Lord and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge.”

Curiously, the Torah does not use the word tzitzit to describe the blue string; the Torah uses the word ptil — like the wick of a candle. Once I pointed out the use of the word ptil, Ari Paul asked why the Torah differentiates the blue thread in its wording. The color is different, of course, but is that the reason for the usage? I was intrigued to find out. Right after Shabbat, I began searching further in a quest for an answer.

I discovered much commentary on this point. Ibn Ezra commenting on Numbers 15:38:3 writes about the thread of blue as being a sky-like color, also referring to threads that are not woven. That brought me to Haamek Davar, who compares ptil to Naftali, which means twistedness, entangled. The matriarch Leah called her son Naftali, hoping that now her husband Jacob would be entangled with her. The blue thread is the one wrapping the rest of the strings. It reminds me how Broadway cuts across the avenues on an angle, connecting the other avenues that run parallel.

According to the Malbim, the string was entwined, interwoven. The blue resembles God’s throne, which connects everything from the inside. Similarly, for Kitzur Ba'al HaTurim, the Techelet resembles the sky and the throne of God. “...He who is careful with the mitzvah of tzitzit will see the face of the Shekhina — the glory of God, and God will carry him on wings of eagles.” The Techelet, which means Everything, can bring everything together, bundled, integrated. It makes sense then that the sky-blue color was used also to construct the Tent of Meeting, God’s sanctuary, and the clothing of the High Priest. According to our Rabbis, the blue color was found in a sea creature, perhaps a squid or an octopus; we don’t know for sure. But a creature living in the water is like living in heaven.

And then there is the Kli Yakar, who says, “...This is the secret of the Techelet that reminds us of all the mitzvot. And by that he makes a full clothing for the soul, and he will not be buried naked until he becomes like Adam — the first human. Only one mitzvah was given to him [to avoid the Tree of Knowledge], and he stripped himself from it. But there is another mitzvah that reminds us of all the mitzvot — love thy neighbor — which means that one string can bring the human being to the essence of everything...”

The blue string reminds us that we are connected directly to what is above us, that each of us is like a High Priest, and each blue string is part of the coat of blue worn by the High Priest. But since everything in the work of the High Priest and the Temple is about capturing the heavenly light, the ptil is also the wick in the eternal light. God’s original clothing for Adam and Eve before the sin was light. Therefore, the Zohar writes: “A candle is a Mitzvah and the Torah is the light. A candle without a light is nothing, and light without a candle cannot shine; both need each other: When we perform the Mitzvah, we correct the candle; and when we study Torah, we light the candle. To the Hasidic sages, the flame of the candle is made of white fire that wraps the heart of the flame in blue. The white fire symbolizes the Mitzvah, and the blue fire is the Torah.

Come join us every Shabbat as we journey through the Torah and navigate through life...

—Rabbi Gadi Capela

From The President...



“John Lewis: Still Delivering Hope”

As I write this message for the March issue of *The Shofar*, the snowfall that began a few hours ago is deepening on my property. From the windows of my office here at home, I can see it accumulating, hanging heavy on the pine trees. It is still February as I write, a time designated to observe Black History Month. And like every year at this time, and just a night or two ago, I re-read John Lewis’s prologue to his book, *Walking With the Wind*. It strikes me today that as the two elements converge — the snowstorm’s purifying whiteness and feeling of renewal, and the words from that towering figure for civil rights, they help me grapple with the terrifying situation in the State of Israel that haunts me daily — a time of fear for the survival of the Jewish homeland, its people, and citizens displaced in Gaza. But as thoughts coalesce, they deliver courage.

John Lewis’ story (reprinted below) focuses on circumstances close to him, and yet I see in that story a universality that points just as determinably to circumstances close to me — foundational from ancient times that, perhaps more than ever before, touch me, enrage me, shock me, but strengthen resolve. May you find the setting — the cleansing snow blanket and John Lewis’s words — as aspirational as I do.

— Sara Bloom

“Walking With The Wind”

About 15 of us children were outside my Aunt Seneva’s house, playing in her dirt yard. The sky began clouding over, the wind started picking up, lighting flashed far off in the distance, and suddenly I wasn’t thinking about playing anymore; I was terrified...

Aunt Seneva was the only adult around, and as the sky blackened and the wind grew stronger, she herded us all inside.

Her house was not the biggest place around, and it seemed even smaller with so many children squeezed inside. Small and surprisingly quiet. All the shouting and laughter that had been going on earlier, outside, had stopped. The wind was howling now, and the house was starting to shake. We were scared. Even Aunt Seneva was scared.

And then it got worse. Now the house was beginning to sway. The wood plank flooring beneath us began to bend. And then, a corner of the room started lifting up. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. None of us could. This storm was actually pulling the house toward the sky. With us inside it.

That was when Aunt Seneva told us to clasp hands. “Line up and hold hands,” she said, and we did as we were told. Then she had us walk as a group toward the corner of the room that was rising. From the kitchen to the front of the house we walked, the wind screaming outside, sheets of rain beating on the tin roof. Then we walked back in the other direction, as another end of the house began to lift.

And so it went, back and forth, 15 children walking with the wind, holding that trembling house down with the weight of our small bodies.

More than half a century has passed since that day, and it has struck me more than once over those many years that our society is not unlike the children in that house, rocked again and again by the winds of one storm or another, the walls around us seeming at times as if they might fly apart.

It seemed that way in the 1960s, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, when America itself felt as if it might burst at the seams — so much tension, so many storms. But the people of conscience never left the house. They never ran away. They stayed, they came together, and they did the best they could, clasping hands and moving toward the corner of the house that was the weakest.

And then another corner would lift, and we would go there. And eventually, inevitably, the storm would settle, and the house would still stand. But we knew another storm would come, and we would have to do it all over again. And we did.

And we still do, all of us. You and I. Children holding hands, walking with the wind...

• SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

The Shofar joins the membership in welcoming Jonathan and Susan Schrott of Shelter Island to our Congregation. Susan and Jonathan are the daughter and son-in-law of long-time shul member Leah Friedman. We look forward to meeting both of you and to participating with you in our spiritual, educational and social events.

Only A Few Days Remain To Donate To John's Place For Homeless Men



Shul members spearheading Tikkun Olam at our shul designated February as the time for a drive to provide gently-used warm winter outerwear plus new T-shirts, socks and underwear to the 30-40 homeless men who seek out John's Place every Tuesday night.

John's Place, located in the Parish Hall of St. Agnes Church in Greenport, provides the men with a warm place to sleep, hot showers, and clothing from November through April. John's Place also provides dinner at night, morning breakfast, and a brown-bag lunch to-go.

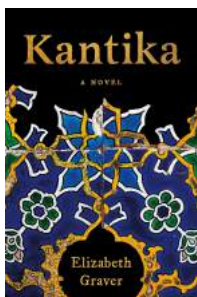
Tikkun Olam placed a large container at the kitchen door on Thursday, Feb. 1, and will empty it in a few days. Tikkun Olam is hopeful that shul members will respond as generously to the drive for clothing (M-L-XL) for John's Place as they have for various CAST drives, most recently Toys For Tots, which was so successful in December that CAST personnel had to empty the overflowing big red barrel several times during the drive.

Veronica Kaliski told *The Shofar* that if people have items to donate but can't get to the synagogue to deposit them in the barrel, she will provide pick-up service. To arrange for pickup, email

ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Veronica Kaliski.

Tikkun Olam has volunteered to coordinate the packaging and distribution of candles for the Yellow Candle Project that the shul undertakes in observance of Yom Hashoah each May. Veronica Kaliski, who heads the Tikkun Olam group, is looking for additional volunteers to help with packaging, delivery and mailing. Please email ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Veronica to help with this program to honor those lost in the Holocaust.

In March Selection, Book Circle Follows The Displacement Of A Family



At its next meeting, to be held on Thursday, March 28 at 3 p.m., on Zoom, the Book Circle will consider a novel by Elizabeth Graver titled *Kantika*, a word translated from Ladino as "song."

In this work, readers will meet Rebecca Cohen and her family as they traverse four countries that test their endurance to maintain the family dynamic.

The book group meets monthly to explore the writing of Jewish authors and/or Jewish themes. For more information, email ctigreenport@gmail.com with a message for Susan Rosenstreich, coordinator of the group.

Palestinian Restaurateurs Make Shabbat Dinner For Jewish Neighbors



The dinner menu on Jan. 26 at Ayat, a restaurant in Ditmas Park, Brooklyn, included challah, a staple of Ashkenazi Jewish cuisine and a traditional offering on a Shabbat table. The bread was served with a complete dinner to more than a thousand guests who responded to an invitation to a free Shabbat dinner posted on Ayat's Instagram page. "It's about breaking barriers, fostering dialogue, and connecting on a human level. This evening is more than a meal; it's an opportunity to share stories, embrace diverse perspectives, and celebrate our shared humanity," read the post that received more than 10,000 likes.

The idea came to Ayat's co-owners, Abdul Elenani and Ayat Masoud, after they faced backlash for naming the seafood section of their latest restaurant's menu "From the River to the Sea," a poke at the recently resurrected pro-Palestinian slogan. The slogan refers to the liberation of the region from the Jordan River west to the Mediterranean Sea. Critics see it as a call for violence against Jews and a denial of Israel's right to exist. The menu sparked an outcry on the neighborhood's Facebook page, where many accused the restaurant's owners of being antisemitic.

For the owners, a Shabbat dinner was a way to set the record straight by reaffirming their respect for their Jewish neighbors.

Photo by Religion News Service/Fiona André

Photographer's Archive Honors Holocaust Survivors



Photographer Gillian Laub orchestrated a sweeping public art project in which her portraits of Holocaust survivors would be projected on the facades of buildings and landmark structures across Manhattan and Brooklyn. Here, Rabbi Aliza Erber, age 80, is projected against the Brooklyn Bridge on Jan. 27, the United Nations' designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day, to draw attention to the Live2Tell project. "The number of Holocaust survivors in the world is dwindling, but the story must be kept alive," Rabbi Erber said. "We are the last link in this horrible chain."

Gillian Laub photo

Torahs Confiscated By The Nazis Are Part Of A Global Lending Program



About 1,400 Torahs that survived the Holocaust in Moravia and Bohemia, were first shipped to the Jewish Museum in Prague and are now part of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, the London organization that administers the collection. The scrolls are never sold or gifted, but are allocated on permanent loan to synagogues that request one, *The New York Times* reported.

Many of the scrolls had been burned, waterlogged, torn or scarred when synagogues were destroyed during WWII. In 1963, Eric Estorick, an art dealer who had a gallery in London, helped to arrange a sale of

the Torahs to Ralph Yablon, a British philanthropist who bought the entire collection for \$30,000 and established the trust. Over the next 20 years, the Torahs were repaired, and in 1964, the trust began sending them to synagogues in two dozen countries around the world. Institutions that seek a scroll are asked for a donation, now \$5,000, for the trust, which operates with an all-volunteer staff.

One of the scrolls is on loan to Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, a Roman Catholic institution that cares for the terminally ill. The scroll is taken to the beds of patients of all religions, or none. The trust hopes that the scrolls are used to remind people of all faiths what we have in common rather than what divides us.

EEJCC Event: 'The Golden Path: Maimonides Across Eight Centuries'



The East End Jewish Community Council invites those interested to attend in-person or on Zoom a private tour of the exhibit, "Maimonides Across Eight Centuries, to take place on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16th Street, Manhattan.

The exhibit features highlights from the Hartman Family Collection of Manuscripts and Rare Books, including manuscripts in Maimonides' own handwriting, a carved 11th century Door to the Torah ark from Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue, and beautifully

illuminated medieval manuscripts. The exhibit tells the story of Maimonides and his legacy across centuries, continents and cultures. Explore the life and impact of this multifaceted luminary and great Jewish sage.

Dr. David Sclar, a teacher, historian and curator will lead the event. Dr. Sclar's scholarship focuses on Jewish religious life in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Jews of Italy and Amsterdam, and the history of Jewish books. He is a teacher and librarian at the Frisch School, and previously oversaw the Rare Book Room in the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

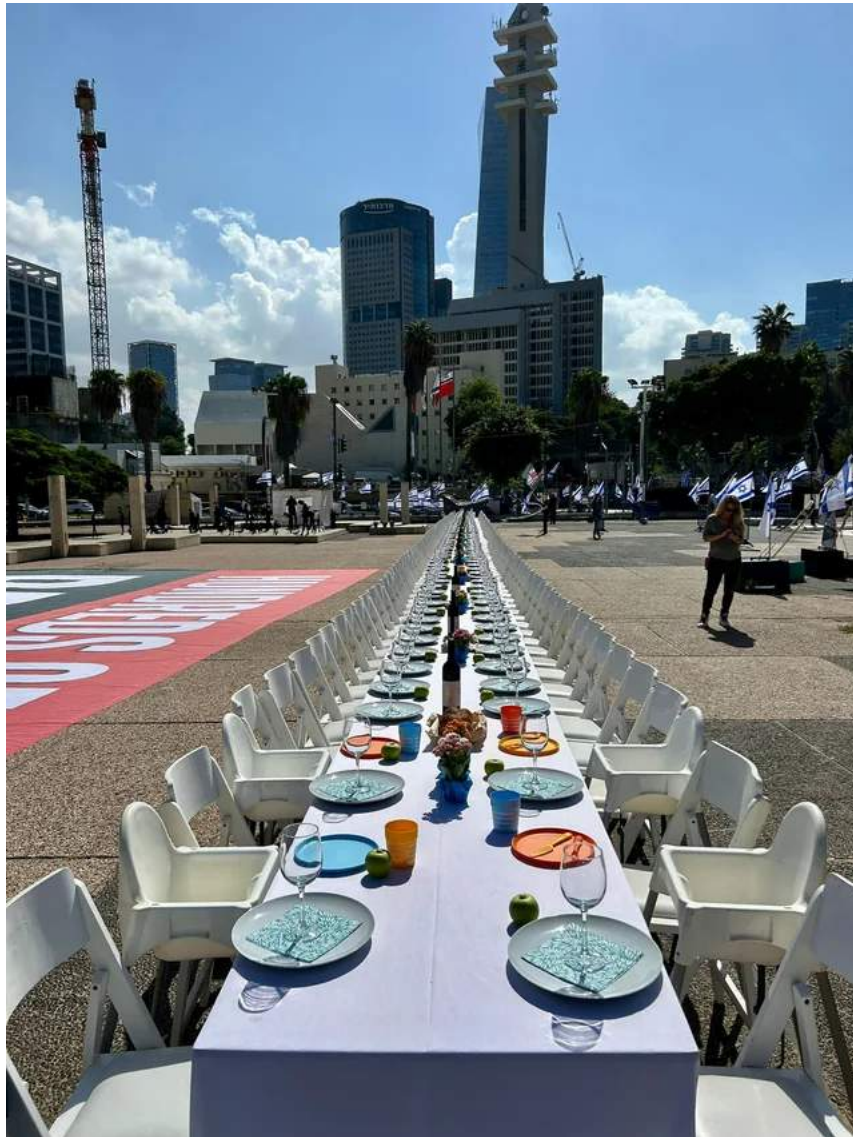
RSVP ctigreenport@gmail.com. Cost is \$25 in-person; \$18 on Zoom.

Antisemitism Continues To Spread On American College Campuses

As reported in *The Forward*...

- Jewish teens are looking at a new factor in their college search — antisemitism. A recent survey of nearly 2,000 B’Nai Brith Youth Organization participants across North America found that 64% said antisemitism on campus was an important factor in the decision regarding where to attend college. In fact, some students said they would withdraw applications to certain Ivy League schools.
- Harvard University said on Feb. 19 that it is investigating an antisemitic social media post shared over the previous weekend by two pro-Palestinian student groups and then reshared by faculty and staff.
- StandWithUs, a pro-Israel advocacy group, filed a lawsuit against Middlebury College in Vermont over alleged antisemitism on campus.
- Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, now a professor at Columbia University, said in a speech she delivered recently in Munich that young people in America are “woefully uninformed” about antisemitism and the Holocaust.

Powerful Support For The Israeli Hostages Staged In Tel Aviv



Empty chairs at a Shabbat table outside Tel Aviv's Museum of Art...one for each of the Israeli citizens held hostage in Gaza by Hamas.

It's Not About Jews Or The Shul, But The Editor Loves This News...



Giant pandas from China could be arriving in the United States again soon. According to *The New York Times*, Beijing is planning to continue its panda diplomacy with Western countries, a statement from the Chinese Embassy to the United States said.

The China Wildlife Conservation Association has reached agreement with the San Diego Zoo in California “on a new round of international giant panda conservation cooperation,” according to the statement. The agreement keeps alive a more than five-decade tradition of China lending pandas to American zoos in a gesture of friendly diplomacy between the two countries. China is also negotiating with the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

The San Diego Zoo is “taking important steps to ensure we are prepared for a potential return,” a statement by Dr. Megan Owen said. Dr. Owen is vice president of conservation science at the zoo.

Pandas in the wild live in forests in the mountains of southwest China, where they subsist on bamboo, of which they need between 26 and 84 pounds daily.

• JEWS IN THE NEWS •

Ebon Moss-Bachrach

Jewish actor Ebon Moss-Bachrach was cast as Ben Grimm, aka The Thing, in the upcoming *Fantastic Four* movie. Grimm is one of Marvel’s Jewish characters, having had a bar mitzvah and Jewish wedding in the comics.

Huma Abedin

Huma Abedin, the former top aide to Hillary Clinton and the ex-wife of disgraced Rep. Anthony Weiner, revealed in a Valentine’s Day post on social media that she’s in a relationship with Alex Soros, the son of George Soros, the Democratic megadonor.

Deni Avdija

Deni Avdija, the Israeli forward who plays for the Washington Wizards, exploded for 43 points and 14 rebounds on February 14, in a game against the New Orleans Pelicans. He is the first player to record those numbers for the team in nearly a half-century. Alas, in spite of the great numbers Avdija put up, the Wizards lost the game 133-126.

• OBITUARIES •

The Shofar joins the membership in mourning the deaths of two long-time shul members: Bill Adams on Feb. 15, at his home in Silver Spring, MD; and Alice Nadel on Feb. 23, at her home in Cutchogue. May their memories be blessed. We extend deepest condolences to the families

Marc Jaffe

Marc Jaffe was at a New Year's Eve party in Hollywood in 1967 when a screenwriter named William Peter Blatty began chatting him up. Mr. Blatty said he had tried and failed to sell an idea for a novel — about a young girl possessed by a demon and the tortured priest who tries to save her. But Mr. Jaffe, editorial director of Bantam Books, the paperback publishing house in New York City, thought the idea had merit, and Mr. Jaffe gave him an advance of \$26,000 to secure the rights to the novel, *The Exorcist*, which sold nearly a half-million copies and made the best-seller lists. What followed was the 1973 movie adaptation, which in turn boosted more paperback sales. By 1974, 10 million copies had been sold, making it, at the time, the second-best-selling paperback of all time, behind Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* and ahead of Erich Segal's *Love Story*.

An editor is lucky," Mr. Jaffe told Clarence Petersen, author of *The Bantam Story: Thirty Years of Paperback Publishing*, "if he has one like that in his career." As it happened, Mr. Jaffe had many, including *Catcher in the Rye* and *Jaws*.

Marc Jaffe, died on Dec. 31 at his home in Williamstown, MA. He was 102.

Naomi Feil

Naomi Feil was only 8 years old when she moved into what was then known as a home for the aged, where her parents worked. Living there until she left for college, she learned firsthand how to comfort and communicate with older adults.

When she died on Dec. 24 at her home in Jasper, OR, at the age of 91, she had devoted her entire career to finding ways to comfort disoriented older people and their caregivers. Her method calls for caregivers to empathize with disoriented individuals in an effort to reduce their stress and support their dignity, rather than try to impose reality on them.

Charles Fried

Charles Fried, a conservative legal scholar who as President Ronald Reagan's solicitor general argued against abortion rights and affirmative action before the Supreme Court — but who later rejected the conservative legal movement's rightward march, calling the current high court "reactionary" — died on Jan. 23 at his home in Cambridge, MA. He was 88.

In 2021, as the high court's Republican-appointed supermajority looked likely to reverse *Roe*, Mr. Fried wrote in an opinion column for *The New York Times*, "To overturn *Roe* now would be an act of constitutional vandalism." His reasoning was that a 1992 case, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, had more firmly established the right to abortion than when he opposed it for the Reagan White House.

He became an outspoken critic of the Roberts Court over its rulings limiting voting rights, labor unions, campaign finance reform, and its refusal to limit blatant partisan gerrymandering, believing in change that is incremental and not radical.

Mr. Fried spent nearly 60 years on the Harvard Law School faculty.

Vera Klement

Vera Klement, a Holocaust survivor who was known for paintings that combined elements of Abstract Expressionism and figurative art, died on Oct. 20 in Evanston, IL. She was 93.

"Abstract Expressionism suited me, I suppose, as far as a worldview: the notion of being at risk, on the edge, existential," she told *The Chicago Tribune*. "And I think that has remained with me. It was the basis of my way of looking at art as heroic and tragic."

“She retired in 2019, had been making fewer paintings,” said Max Shapey, her son. “She hadn’t run out of ideas. But she looked at her last painting, ‘Carpeted,’ an Abstract Expressionist painting of a flying carpet, and she said ‘I’ve said everything I want to.’”

Alvin Moscow

Alvin Moscow, who wrote a best-selling account of the sinking of the ocean liner Andrea Doria in 1956, then collaborated on the memoirs of several public figures, including Richard M. Nixon soon after he lost the 1960 presidential election to John F. Kennedy, died on Feb. 6 in North Las Vegas. He was 98.

In all, 56 people died in the collision of the two ships. In *Collision Course: The Andrea Doria and the Stockholm*, Mr. Moscow described the dramatic last moments of the Italian ship.

Berish Strauch

Berish Strauch, a plastic surgeon whose pioneering procedures to reattach or replace vital body parts included one of the first toe-to-thumb transplants, died on Dec. 24 in Greenwich, CT. He was 90.

As the longtime chief of reconstructive surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, Dr. Strauch devised many of the surgical procedures and technologies that are now considered commonplace. After a New York City firefighter lost his thumb in 1976, Dr. Strauch tried to reattach it. When that proved impossible, he suggested something more radical: taking one of the man’s big toes and sewing it in place of the severed digit. Not only did the surgery work, but within a few months, the firefighter was back on the job.

Howard Golden

Howard Golden, who as Brooklyn borough president for a quarter-century pressed to strengthen the borough economically, and defended it against slights real or perceived in the years before it experienced a gentrifying revival, died on Jan. 24 at his home in the Kensington section of Brooklyn. He was 98.

Mr. Golden’s career in politics developed as he moved up in Brooklyn’s Democratic party. He was a city councilman from Borough Park for seven years before being chosen to fill the borough president’s post temporarily when it became vacant on Jan. 3, 1977. He won election to his first full term later that year. His 25-year run ended on Dec. 31, 2001.

Mr. Golden remained a lifelong champion of Brooklyn, his pride in the borough unshakable. In a speech in 2000, he said, “There are two kinds of people in this world — those that come from Brooklyn, and those that wish they did.”

Arno A. Penzias

Arno A. Penzias, whose astronomical probes confirmed what became known as the Big Bang theory, died on Jan. 22 in San Francisco. He was 90.

Dr. Penzias shared the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics with Robert Woodrow Wilson for their discovery in 1964 of cosmic microwave background radiation, remnants of an explosion that gave birth to the universe some 14 billion years ago, now the accepted explanation for the origin of the universe.

Dr. Penzias was born in Munich in 1932. In 1939, he and his brother, Gunter, were put on a train as part of the Kindertransport, the British rescue effort that brought some 10,000 children to England. The family reunited in New York in 1940.

Dr. Penzias’s path to stumbling onto the answer to one of humanity’s most central questions started when he joined Bell Laboratories as a member of its radio research group in Holmdel. There he saw the potential of AT&T’s new satellite communications antenna, a giant radio telescope known as the Holmdel Horn, as a tool for cosmological observation.

Lawrence Langer

Lawrence L. Langer, a literary scholar who found the Holocaust an event so vast and evil that it defies moral framing, died on Jan. 29 at his home in Wellesley, MA. He was 94.

Across some 15 books and monographs, Dr. Langer insisted on an interpretation of the Holocaust as a moral black hole. Reason, Humanism and Enlightenment values had no function in the concentration camps, he said.

At Simmons College, he created what is believed to be the country's first academic course on literature and the Holocaust. He also set to work on his first book, *The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination*, which was a finalist for the 1976 National Book Award, and is today considered a founding text in the field of Holocaust studies.

Robie Harris

Robie Harris, a children's book author and former teacher whose writing about sexuality made her among the most banned authors in America, died on Jan. 6 in Manhattan. She was 83.

Her best-known book, *It's perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies Growing Up, and Sexual Health* (1994) with its explicit illustrations, has been pulled from library shelves all over the country. Detractors called it pornography; supporters said it is a frank and honest guide to sexuality for children and teenagers. It has sold more than a million copies, and has been translated into 27 languages. In all, she wrote more than 30 children's books, but *Normal* drew the most attention.

Rabbi Matisyahu Salomon

Rabbi Matisyahu Salomon, a spiritual counselor at America's largest yeshivas who spearheaded a crusade to warn observant Jews of the risks posed by the internet, died on Jan. 2 in Lakewood, NY. He was 86.

Rabbi Salomon was dean of students during his three decades at Beth Medrash Govaha, a religious school in Lakewood with an enrollment of more than 9,000 students, where he guided thousands of young men in ethical and pious conduct.

A decade ago, he led a campaign to warn observant Jews that new technologies were threatening observance of the laws, traditions and principles that are the backbone of their Ultra-Orthodox faith, beguiling pious Jews with videos, images and temporal content that would distract them from their family life, daily religious obligations, and pursuits like Torah study. In 2012, a rally in support of the concept packed Citi Field with 20,000 believers.

Anthony Epstein

Anthony Epstein, a British pathologist whose chance attendance at a lecture on childhood tumors in Africa began years of scientific sleuthing that, with his colleague Yvonne Barr, led to the discovery of the virus known now as Epstein-Barr, and opened expansive research into its links to cancers and other ailments, died on Feb. 6 at his home in London. He was 102.

Dr. Epstein's work in the 1960s to isolate the virus — a type of herpes — set the foundation for sweeping studies into viral and biological triggers for cancers, such as Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple sclerosis, lupus and, most recently, so-called long covid.

In 1991, at Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England, Dr. Epstein was discussing the events leading to the Epstein-Barr discovery with Dr. Denis Burkitt, who had discovered a mysterious tumor in African children and had delivered the lecture that had so intrigued Dr. Epstein. "It was a series of accidents, really," Dr. Epstein said. "Lucky quirks."

"But you have to have two things," said Dr. Burkitt. "You have to have the accidents, and you have to have the mind that can interpret them and look behind them and see their meaning."

Rabbi Jules Harlow

Rabbi Jules Harlow, who brought poetry and music to the style of prayer in Conservative Judaism, died on Feb. 12. He was 92.

Rabbi Harlow's major works — prayer books for daily, Sabbath, festival and High Holy Days use — became the standards for worship in Conservative synagogues in North America. Several of his books sold well over 100,000 copies each, according to the Rabbinical Assembly, which published them.

Rabbi Harlow aspired to make the prayer book accessible to those who did not speak Hebrew, translating into English the rhyme and meter of the original Hebrew into *Siddur Sim Shalom*.

[*Siddur Sim Shalom* is the prayer book used at our synagogue here in Greenport.]

Marc Pachter

Marc Pachter, who transformed the National Portrait Gallery in Washington from a collection primarily of solemn paintings of old white men into a more up-to-date museum that now includes illustrations and interviews with diverse living luminaries, died on Feb. 17 while vacationing in Bangkok. He was 80.

As director of the Portrait Gallery from 2000 to 2007, Mr. Pachter presided over a \$300 million renovation that reimagined the museum while maintaining its artistic integrity.

Birthdays In March

1: Joseph Nadel

13: Noam Spar

25: Elizabeth Friedmann; Saul Rosenstreich

Anniversary in March

15: Tom Byrne and Veronica Kaliski

Refuah Shlemah

Paul Birman

Menachem Bloom

Martin Ehrenreich

Alan Garmise

Alice Nadel

Ellen Wiederlight

Hal Neimark

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/.

Yahrzeits in March

1: Stephen E. Goldberg; Rhoda Kahn; Arlene Marvin

2: Samuel Levine; Alice M. Ross; Jacob Schneider

3: Gabriel Fortgang

4: Rosemarie Birman

6: Ida Gutterman; Samuel Katz; Joseph Liburt; Louis Revere; Yeta Richter; Helen Rosenfeld

9: Mazeltov Safer; Sheila Schatzberg

12: Albert M. Israel; Sarah Slotkin

13: Harry Katz; Minnie B. Revere

14: Celia Feigen

16: Jennie Kessler

17: Abraham J. Nissenfeld; Irma Beverly Ribka
 18: Emanuel Garmise; Kurt Seligson
 19: Samuel David Glickman; Benjamin Schnitzer
 20: Dora Ann Helderman; Lottie Sherrin Schultz
 21: Samuel L. Schwartz
 22: Norman Blaustein
 23: Laura Merson; Emery I. Wells
 24: Egon Adler; Morris Kaplan; Ellen Marcus
 25: Mortimer Lahm
 26: Jerry Bloom
 28: Nathan Burch
 29: Fannie Kaplan Dlugas; Jack Eskell; Eva Goldin
 30: Rose Fierer; Bernard Glick

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.

• MONEY MATTERS •

Contributions in February

Lynne Dillon
 David Judlowitz
 Judith K. Weiner
 Gordon and Deborah Henry
 Francis Dubois and Paul Jeselsohn
 Ari and Jennifer Paul
 Matthew and Allison Nathel
 Marc and Caren Demel
 Elaine Goldman
 Jack Weiskott and Roberta Garriss
 Harold and Peninah Neimark

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 or Caren Demel at carengail@gmail.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 •

<u>Event</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</u>
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.org 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

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, Adrienne 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.

[Address questions and comments about content in this newsletter to ctigreenport@gmail.com]

