



CONGREGATION
TIFERETH ISRAEL
A National Historic Site

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The Shofar

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Affiliated With The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

January 2017/ Tevet-Shevat 5777

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Weekly and Holiday Services

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

Learning at our Shul

(Hebrew class moves to Thursday for the winter.)
Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26: Hebrew at 2:30; Parasha at 4.

Shul Events

Sunday, Jan. 8: Remembrances from Eastern Europe visits: photos and commentary by Debra Riva, Suzan Lipson, Stanley Rubin and Rabbi Gadi, time TBA.
Sunday, Jan. 15: Basically Baroque quartet, concert, community room, 2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15: Board and Congregation meetings, 9 and 10 a.m.

Lighting Shabbat Candles in January

Jan. 6: 4:26 p.m. Jan. 13: 4:33 p.m. Jan. 20: 4:41 p.m. Jan. 27: 4:49 p.m.

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Friday, Jan. 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Feb. 5 through March 3: Rabbi Gadi away
Saturday, February 11: Tu B'Shevat (New Year for the trees)
Monday, February 20: Presidents' Day
Sunday, March 12: Purim

(Submission deadline for the February 2017 issue of *The Shofar*: January 20)
From The Rabbi...



A Trip to History

All I was hoping for was an enjoyable post-High Holidays trip, driving through seven mostly Eastern European countries in three weeks. (Yes, I do find it relaxing.) The idea was to visit the countries, and to see some of the lesser-known sites. I was traveling with a WWII veteran, who is half a century ahead of me. That, of course, is our own gabbai, Stanley Rubin. But instead, what began as an innocent vacation became a deeply emotional and educational trip. After all, would God let a rabbi and a gabbai spend three weeks in Europe without a lesson?

We left New York five days after the American election, and we arrived Europe in the midst of elections in several countries there. All the major newspapers were running photos and articles on their front pages about President Obama and/or President-elect Trump. As it turned out, Obama was visiting Europe and Greece, the cradle of democracy, at the same time that we were traveling in Europe.

We started in Austria, where Stanley's late wife, Eva, was born, and where they had visited many times. We enjoyed the beauty of Vienna and its delicious desserts. From there, we went to Salzburg and the Alps. While in Austria, we realized we were in Europe at an interesting time. Austria was going through a presidential election campaign. The outcome of the election was a slim victory for the Greens, the more liberal party. But as we discovered, that trend does not reflect the general spirit and the pendulum-swing to the right that is occurring throughout Europe. But this, in fact, was just the warm-up for what we experienced next.

It started when we drove to the Czech Republic, where we began to follow the trail of past totalitarian governments and their aftermaths. We arrived in Prague on the evening of Nov. 17. Many streets were blocked to allow the commemoration and celebration of the Lidska Prava — the U.N. Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms that had passed in 1989, accompanying the domino fall of Communism 27 years ago. The main stage and vigil happened to be right in front of our hotel, so we were immediately drawn into the scene.

A vigil to celebrate freedom

Vigils accompany many celebrations of freedom, remembrances of all who had sacrificed their lives in the process. Later, I stood by the carpet of candles with many others who had assembled. We were strangers to each other, but together we experienced the camaraderie of the celebration. What surprised me, though, was the music. The scene was like a page out of '60s America: Jimi Hendrix's "All Along the Watchtower," Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," The Rolling Stones' "Angie," The Beatles' "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," and The Doors' "Light my Fire." There was definitely a lot of fire that night.

On our way north from Prague to Berlin, we stopped at the site of the Theresienstadt concentration camp, the only camp in the territory of the former Czechoslovakia. I had never been to one of the Nazi death camps, but having Holocaust survivors and many stories around me all my life, I didn't think it would have such an impact. But the minute I walked in, I felt the people who were there: I saw their faces, and I shared their melancholy. The Talmud says that when you visit a sick person, you take one 60th of the burden of their sickness. One 60th symbolizes a very small, and at times, negligible portion. But this was a very sick place, and even one 60th was a heavy weight. I walked in as a tourist and left crying.

I felt much like Jacob, who had arrived at "the place" when he was leaving home on the

way to Haran. The commentators debate whether or not Jacob knew this was “the place,” which the Talmud traces back to the binding of Isaac. Since Isaac was Jacob’s father and Abraham was his grandfather, it’s reasonable to believe that he knew of the place and its significance. What he didn’t know was how it would affect him. Having had the profound experience through the dream of the ladder with the angels going up and down from heaven, Jacob cries out: “How full of awe is this place!” (Gen. 28:17). Similar to Jacob, the profound experience of that place we had visited set the course for the rest of our trip.

When we arrived Berlin, we met our good friend, the Lutheran minister Fr. Christophe. With him, we walked along the whole remaining Berlin Wall. I always imagined this wall much higher. After all, it was this wall that for many years separated two sides of the world, each representing a different philosophy of life. It was the fall of the domino-like concrete panels of this wall in September 1989, two months before the Lidska Prava that caused the mental walls to fall like dominos throughout the rest of Eastern Europe. Now, imagine this: a German minister, an Israeli rabbi, and an American WWII veteran walking along the Berlin Wall...

The Polish ghetto

Next was Poland. The road directly east from Berlin to Warsaw is about a six-hour drive. The Communist architecture is still dominant, sending us back again to the ‘60s. Warsaw’s modernity camouflages the area that was once the largest ghetto; more than 400,000 Jews were crowded into an area there not much larger than one square mile. The remaining witnesses are a plaque, a monument, and a new museum. To think that before WWII, every third resident in Warsaw was Jewish. And now, we were walking on the ground where thousands upon thousands were brutally murdered. When we were looking for the center of the ghetto, I was happy to see a pharmacy identified with Hebrew lettering — Bet Merkahat. This was when I began to realize that in Poland, many businesses maintain a façade of Jewish identity, even incorporating Hebrew writing but, in fact, they are not remotely Jewish. Recently, the Jewish community of Warsaw has been responsible for recovering various Jewish properties and landmarks throughout the country. The big yeshiva in Lublin is one of them. That was our next stop.

In Lublin, we found ourselves hurrying to make it before the Majdanek death camp closed, and we found ourselves glad to have made it in time. Understanding the irony made the visit even more emotional. After a short visit at the camp, we were met by Fr. Mariusz, a Polish Catholic priest and our good friend, who spends summers with the Polish church on the East End of Long Island. He took us to visit Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin, the most famous Yeshiva in Europe, founded by Rabbi Meir Shapiro in 1930. It was Rabbi Shapiro who also came up with the idea of the Daf Yomi — learning one page of Gemara each day and completing all tractates in seven years. Here too, the building was reclaimed and beautifully restored, but the Neshama — the soul — is no longer there. Sadly, a non-kosher restaurant now operates in what used to be one of the most important Jewish institutions of higher learning in the world. We toured the place with a man who was extremely enthusiastic about it. This is clearly a tourist’s destination and a moneymaker for the local population. Nevertheless, it is hard not to feel the sadness of the desolation. The same feeling continued in Krakow, a place that was once the crown jewel of Jewish life and learning, now mostly a relic.

The trajectory that started in Prague continued through Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania. Our attention focused in on the Jewish history there, and the trail of destruction and depression of the human spirit that Nazism and Communism left behind — dictators robbing the masses of their rights and freedom. And then, in the last days of our trip, Fidel Castro died and, with him, a whole era. The announcement of his death felt like the last chapter in the course we were taking through Europe, and what can happen when totalitarian states do not acknowledge the individual person and individual liberty. They seek to make the world in their own images and likenesses. When the state becomes the religion and the leader becomes the god, the pathway to killing

dissenting millions is short. The Nazi regime did not invent the labor and death camps; it borrowed the idea from Communist regimes. Perhaps this was the big lesson we were supposed to learn, a lesson I once saw on a sticker: "Ignore your rights and they'll go away!"

A Hanukkah message

As we celebrate Hanukkah this year, let's have this message in mind. In the words of my friend and colleague, Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, who was chosen to light the Hanukkah with President and Mrs. Obama in the White House this year, "Hanukkah is a festival that teaches us that it is always darkest before the dawn, and it is not foolish or naive to hold onto hope. ... Hanukkah also teaches us about the necessity of rebellion. The Maccabees refused to accept tyranny, and they were willing to sacrifice everything in order to retain their integrity as faithful Jews. They knew the injustice of dictatorship, and the danger of one human sovereign undermining the primacy of our laws. As Jews, our faith is rooted in a legal system based on the foundational belief that all human beings are created equal, and created equally in the Divine image. We know that the values and the example we inherited from the Maccabees are not so different from the legacy we inherited from the mothers and fathers of the American Revolution — those who fought for religious freedom in order to achieve the promise of a democratic republic that is free from tyranny. ... as Jews we know the spiritual is political and the political is spiritual."

Chag urim sameach and Happy New Year.

—Rabbi Gadi Capela

From The President...



As we approach the New Year, I'd like to use the occasion to comment on one of our major accomplishments in 2016, and also to look ahead to related opportunities in 2017. During 2016, the shul added seven new member families to our rolls, which is an extraordinary achievement considering our relatively small size. Consider also that we added eight new member families in 2015. All of our new members are most welcome, and we encourage each of you to participate in shul activities.

On the third Sunday of each month, our synagogue's Congregation meeting is held in the community room at 10 a.m. Let me make an appeal to all members, new and long-standing, to attend as many meetings as you can in the coming year. These meetings are often lively, always informative, and they provide members with insights into how the shul functions, and how each committee contributes to the operation. Congregation meetings are excellent opportunities for members to identify areas in which they might want to participate.

As we enter the New Year, our Nominating Committee, chaired by Adrienne Greenberg, will reach out to the membership to determine interest in possible positions on the synagogue's Board of Directors, and service on one or more of our standing committees, which are listed in our monthly newsletter, *The Shofar*. The next Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, at 10 a.m. I hope to see many of you there.

At 2 p.m. on that Jan. 15 Sunday, the shul will host a concert in the Great Music Sunday series. Basically Baroque, a quartet of local professional musicians, will perform works by Handel, Vivaldi, Stamitz, Goldberg and Haydn. Members of the quartet are Linda Betjeman, keyboard; Dan Skebeikis, violin; Jeannie Woelker, cello; and shul member Bill Packard, flute. The group is quite popular throughout the area, and I'm sure you will enjoy the program, which is offered by our shul at no charge. I encourage members and friends to attend.

Rochelle and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

—Alan Garmise

• SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

Please join *The Shofar* and the membership in welcoming Judith Kaufman Weiner of Mattituck, and Burke and Frances Liburt of Orient to our congregation. We look forward to meeting you.

Attention: Those Who Have Served In The Military

Shul member Aaron Novick would like to point out to new members the military services plaque in our shul that identifies those in the congregation who have served in the armed forces. Gathering the names for the plaque was a Men's Club project several years ago, and Aaron would like to add the names of new members as well as members of long standing, who have not yet provide information about their military service.

There is no charge to have your name added to the plaque. The Men's Club underwrites the cost of the individual leaves for each serviceperson. Those interested should contact Aaron Novick by calling 631-734-6952.

Basically Baroque To Perform In 'Great Music Sunday' Series



Basically Baroque, a quartet of local professional musicians, popular with North Fork audiences, will perform in the third annual Great Music Sunday concert, to be held in the community room of our shul on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. There is no charge for the concert, but a free-will offering would be appreciated.

The Great Music Sunday series, a popular cultural offering on the North Fork, brings professionally trained musicians to local audiences. This year's program features works

by Handel, Vivaldi, Stamitz, Goldberg and Haydn, and will be followed by a lively question and answer session, giving audience members an opportunity to get to know the performers as musicians and to learn how music has influenced their lives.

The members of the quartet met here on the North Fork in 1995 through their shared interest in classical music of the Baroque period, and have been performing together since that time. The quartet's appearances are eagerly anticipated events with local audiences. Members of the quartet are Linda Betjeman, keyboard; Bill Packard, flute; Dan Skebeikis, violin; and Jeannie Woelker, cello.

The Great Music Sunday series was initiated three years ago by shul member Joan Prager, who arranged appearances by Juilliard students for the first two concerts. This year, she invited shul member Bill Packard to perform with his Basically Baroque group.

For more information about the concert, please call the synagogue at 631-477-0232.

—Katharine Shroeder photo

Lotsa Latkes Light Up Shul's Hanukkah Party

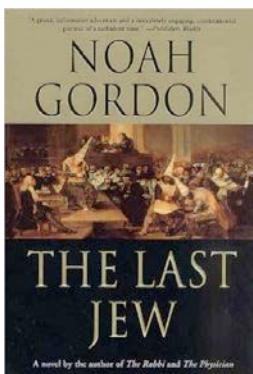
Greenport was ablaze on Dec. 25 this year, as Christians and Jews together celebrated the traditional December holidays, which in a rare confluence of events occurred on the same day. Jews ushered in Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, on Dec. 24, and shared the lights of Christmas on Dec. 25, the first full day of the eight days of Hanukkah.

Members and friends of the shul gathered in Mitchell Park for the lighting of the public menorah on Christmas night, sharing the park with the official Christmas tree, decorated and lighted for the occasion. Shul president Alan Garmise welcomed everyone, Town dignitaries spoke, and Rabbi Gadi led everyone in songs and prayers, then invited all participants to the shul for latkes and dessert.

Weeks prior to the Hanukkah party, the latke-makers were hard at work in the shul's kitchen. From 60 pounds of potatoes, 20 pounds of onions, 7 dozen eggs, 4 packages of bread crumbs, a gallon or more olive oil, and salt and pepper to taste, they produced maybe 400 or so latkes, Hanukkah's culinary headliner, amid the chitchat and socializing that make these group projects fun. Heading the kitchen contingent was Joan Prager, pivoting from her position as shul treasurer to lead an army of potato peelers, ingredient mixers and batter fryers to a treasury of tasty pancakes, snapped up at the party with a rousing "a tam g'naden" from the fressers. Thank you, Joan, and thank you to the many Hanukkah helpers — Roberta Garris, Elaine Goldman, Micah Kaplan, Larry Kotik, Jesse Reece, Carol Seigel, Paula Shengold, and Nancy Torcio — for making this year's celebration (35 expected; 75 served) deliciously memorable. SMBloom photos



The Book Circle To Explore A Noah Gordon Historical Novel



The next Book Circle meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 3:30 p.m., at Debra Riva's house in Greenport. The group will read *The Last Jew* by Noah Gordon. Known for his novels on Jewish cultural history, Gordon this time takes readers back to the time of the Spanish Inquisition, when Jews were expelled from the country. The story follows a resourceful and courageous young man, determined to remain in his home country, faithful to his religion.

Previous sessions of the Book Circle have included *Dancing Arabs* by Sayed Kashua, *The Lost Wife* by Alyson Richman, *Jewish Journeys* by Jeremy Leigh, *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* by Michael Chabon, *Seyder Tkhines*, *Children of the Ghetto* by Israel Zangwill, *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar, *Rabbis and Wives* by Chaim Grade, *FDR and the Jews* by Richard Breitman and Allan J. Lichtman, *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idlibi, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, *Restoring Abrahamic Faith* by James D. Tabor, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* by Sarit Yishai-Levi, *The Road From Morocco* by Wafa Hallam, *The Hill Top* By Assaf Gavron, *My Promised Land* by Ari Shavit, *Mystery Midrash: An Anthology of Jewish Mystery & Detective Fiction*, edited by Lawrence W. Raphael, and *The Saturday Morning Murder* by Batya Gur.

The Book Circle meets monthly to explore works by Jewish writers on Jewish themes. For more information, call Suzi Rosenstreich at 516-987-3390.

News From The December 18 Congregation Meeting

- Shul president Alan Garmise reported that a dish of latkes made for the shul's Hanukkah party will be delivered to members who are ill and unable to attend.
- Micah Kaplan reported that repair work and renovations to the rabbi's house, including siding, insulation, air-conditioning and improved drainage, are nearly complete. Ahead are incidental kitchen repairs and painting, all to maintain the asset.
- Membership chairman Phil Goldman reported that 77 families are now members of the shul.
- Daughters of Israel co-president Adrienne Greenberg is seeking challah bakers among the membership for a program on the history of this traditional loaf and the techniques to prepare it.
- According to Phil Goldman, chair of the audio-visual committee, the shul now has the appropriate technology to allow one or more members to "Skype in" for meetings and classes.
- Among the items in his monthly report, Rabbi Gadi announced that Jeroen Bours is donating 36 volumes of an Artscroll Torah for synagogue and classroom use. He also reminded members that the shul will celebrate the conversion of Suzan Lipson at the Friday evening oneg and Saturday morning service on Jan. 6 and 7. Also coming up that Sunday, Jan. 8, Debra Riva, Suzan Lipson, Stanley Rubin and Rabbi Gadi will share experiences from their trips to Eastern Europe. Time: TBA.

FYI • FYI • FYI •

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: What Is That?

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is a global memorial day on Jan. 27 that commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. It recognizes the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated six million Jewish people, two million Romani people, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled people, and 9,000 homosexual men by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 on Nov. 1, 2005 during the 42nd plenary session.

Resolution 60/7 establishing Jan. 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day urges every member nation of the U.N. to honor the memory of Holocaust victims, and encourages the development of educational programs about Holocaust history to help prevent future acts of genocide. It rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an event, and condemns all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief. It also calls for actively preserving the Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration camps, forced labor camps and prisons.

Commemorations in this country are held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and in Israel at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Resolution 60/7 was an initiative of the State of Israel. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel Silvan Shalom was the head of the delegation of Israel to the U.N.

Holocaust-Separated Cousins Meet For First Time At Yad Vashem

[By Deborah Fineblum/Jewish News Service
to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day]



When Fania Bilkay and her son Evgeni stepped up to her desk, Sima Velkovich, a staffer in the archives division of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, was winding down what appeared to be an ordinary work shift. But suddenly, she was pulled into the center of a complex family drama. During a recent tour of Poland intended to help her explore her roots, Fania Bilkay had visited a Warsaw synagogue where she discovered a form on Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names that counted her father and his

family among those killed by the Nazis.

"Why is he listed as murdered?" she asked regarding her father Nisan Band, who had survived the Holocaust and died of natural causes in 1983, although he did lose three children during the war. Nisan Band had always told his daughter and her brother, Gennadi, that their five aunts as well as their entire families were wiped out in the Holocaust. What Fania Bilkay didn't know that day in Warsaw was that by disputing the recorded evidence of the "murder" of her father, she was about to begin a journey that would unite her with relatives she had never

known existed. The family reunion took place in Jerusalem on Dec. 13.

Connecting the dots

As it turns out, the document that falsely reported Nisan Band's death was signed by Symcha Borenstein, the husband of Nisan Band's sister, Jenta. Symcha registered his brother-in-law and his family as among the murdered — something he had every reason to believe was true.

Although siblings Jenta and Nisan both died after the Holocaust, each believing that he and she were the only remaining members of their immediate family, their surviving children are now united thanks to some clever sleuthing by Yad Vashem researchers.

In a tear-filled scene Dec. 13 at Yad Vashem, sisters Henia Borenstein Moskowitz and Ryvka Borenstein Patchnik were introduced to their first cousins, Gennadi Band, Fania Bilkay, and Fania's son Evgeni.

"If someone on the phone told you that you have first cousins who want to meet you, you could be suspicious," said Lital Beer, director of Yad Vashem's Reference and Information Services. "But the sisters — Henia and Ryvka — were very open and excited. Their meeting was so moving. They brought family photos to share and discovered, to their amazement, that they've all been living all these years near Tel Aviv."

"Thanks to Yad Vashem, we discovered we are not alone," said Henia Moskowitz.

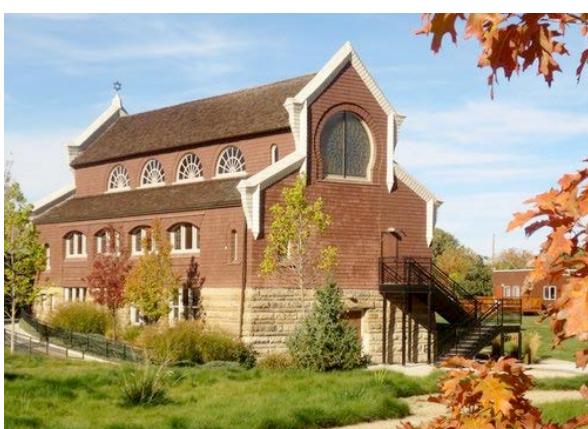
The work at Yad Vashem continues

To date, Yad Vashem has identified 4.6 million of the 6 million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. It's an ongoing task that chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev calls "a mission to uncover the names of those who have no one to remember them." Holocaust survivor Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel and current chair of the Yad Vashem Council, pointed out that the obligation is to complete the database of names. "The candle is about to be extinguished," he said. "The number of people with Auschwitz numbers tattooed on their arms grows ever smaller; it's necessary that all this information be concentrated in one single database with 6 million names to be remembered."

For the Band and Borenstein families, Dec. 13 was less about remembering and more about celebrating. When Yad Vashem staffers offered the Borenstein sisters a ride home after the Dec. 13 reunion, they politely declined because their newfound cousin Evgeni Bilkay insisted on driving them. The five of them squeezed into the car together as a family.

[Photo: Holocaust-separated relatives Ryvka Borenstein Patchnik, left, and Fania Bilkay embrace for the first time at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on Dec. 13. Yad Vashem/Karina Pasternak photo]

A Historic Synagogue...In Boise, Idaho?



Sometimes you can find the most splendid synagogues in places you'd least expect. Take Boise, Idaho, for instance. There, at 11 N. Latah Street, just a five-minute drive from downtown Boise, sits the oldest continuously in-use synagogue west of the Mississippi River. In fact, Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel is the centerpiece of a surprisingly robust Jewish community.

The synagogue was built in 1895, when there were only about 25 Jewish families in Boise. Many had emigrated from Germany and worked as merchants, farmers and ranchers.

One of the original members of Beth Israel — as it was known at the time — was Moses

Alexander, who became the Mayor of Boise, and later was the first practicing Jewish governor in the country. He served two terms, from 1915 to 1919. Today, more than 120 years later, his grandson, Nathan Alexander, is still a member of the congregation.

Two synagogue memberships merge

For several decades, Boise had two synagogues. After WWII, with the arrival of more Jewish families, Congregation Ahavath Israel was built. The two congregations merged in 1987. Both buildings continued to be used, one as an education center and the other for religious services.

By the end of the 20th century, the congregation had grown to more than 200 families and needed to expand. Due to a lack of land available where the existing building was located, the congregation decided to move the original synagogue to a new site, about three miles away, on Latah Street. Today, the synagogue sits on a landscaped campus that includes a 100-student religious school, a social hall, a library and administrative offices for the synagogue's full-time rabbi and other staff.

The interior of the synagogue still features the original wood columns and stained-glass windows. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

—Dan Fellner
Jewish News Service

Hillel Gets Record \$38 Million Gift

The Atlanta-based Marcus Foundation announced on Dec. 5 that it would donate \$38 million over five years to Hillel International, which was founded to nurture Jewish college students' commitment to Judaism and Israel. It is the largest gift ever given to the largest Jewish student organization in the world.

The foundation, established by Home Depot founder Bernard Marcus and his wife Billi, made the gift to launch Hillel's "Talent Grant" initiative to hire, retain and train Hillel leaders.

"These grants will not just transform Hillel, but transform the Jewish world," said Eric Fingerhut, the former Democratic Ohio congressman and current Hillel president and CEO.

Hillel, an organization on more than 550 college campuses in North America and 56 campuses abroad, holds Shabbat and holiday services, and organizes volunteer and educational programs for Jewish students.

Jews and Muslims Feel Threatened By Rise In Hate Crimes



According to a front-page article by Laurie Goodstein in the Dec. 6 *New York Times*, American Muslims and Jews are banding together in an alliance of solidarity against hate crimes. Although both groups, among other minorities, have been targets in the past, a new wave of hate crimes has followed the election victory of Donald J. Trump, whose campaign may have emboldened the alt-right movement of white supremacists and other hate groups, the article said.

Nearly 500 Muslim and Jewish women, many wearing head scarves and skullcaps, gathered on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Drew University in

Madison, NJ, in what organizers said was the largest such meeting ever held in the United States. It was the third annual conference of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a grass-roots group that now claims 50 chapters in more than 20- states. The first conference two years ago drew only 100 people.

The Sisterhood is one of several groups expanding their work on Muslim-Jewish relations, including the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and the Anti-Defamation League. The most prominent new initiative is a Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council whose co-chairmen are Fortune 500 chief executives. The council, which was forming as Trump's campaign was gaining steam, includes both Democrats and Republicans. It was created by leaders of the American Jewish Committee and the Islamic Society of North America.

Hate crimes on the rise in New York City

Hate crimes in New York City have risen in the weeks since Donald J. Trump won the presidential election, a noticeable spike that encompasses ethnic minorities, Jews, Muslims and the LGBT community. The Police Department's Hate Crime Task Force has reported 43 episodes as possible hate crimes since Election Day, more than double the number reported for the same period last year. The incidents range from vicious graffiti to physical violence.

New Legislation Facilitates Recovery of Holocaust-Stolen Art

In one of its final acts before disbanding for the Christmas holiday, the U.S. Congress approved legislation that would make it easier to reclaim art confiscated during WWII. The unanimous vote was the culmination of a bipartisan effort to help victims whose art was taken by the Nazis.

The measure loosens the statute of limitations on claims for the return of looted art. Survivors and their families would have six years to make a claim, after identifying pieces taken from them and proving their right to them. With many of the works now in museums or private collections, survivors' families have faced legal entanglements as they try to recover art taken more than 70 years ago and protected by statutes of limitations based on when the art was stolen, not when it was identified.

• JEWS IN THE NEWS •

Howard Schultz

Howard Schultz, who as CEO of Starbucks built the coffee company into a global empire, is stepping down as its chief executive, the company said. Schultz, 63, will become the company's executive chairman, and the current president and COO, Kevin Johnson, will become CEO. The changes will take place on April 3, Starbucks said.

Schultz joined Starbucks in 1982 as director of operations and marketing when the company had only four stores. Under his stewardship, the coffee-roasting firm has grown to 25,000 stores in 75 countries.

Manuel Valls

French President Francois Hollande has announced that he will not seek another term, clearing the path for a presidential bid by his pro-Israel prime minister, Manuel Valls.

Valls is seen as a hardliner on law-and-order issues within his left-wing Socialist Party. He is seen as the favorite to be the presidential candidate for the Socialists in the second and final round of voting, which is scheduled for May 7.

Valls is married to a Jewish woman. His strong statements in favor of Israel and French Jewry have allowed him to consolidate considerable popularity and support among French Jews. He has linked his pro-Jewish views to his Jewish wife, the violinist Anne Gravoin, saying that his marriage has connected him “in an eternal way” to Israel and the Jewish people.

Gayle Sassoon

On March 21, 2015, a fire in Brooklyn claimed the lives of seven of the eight Sassoon children. Their mother, Gayle, like many Orthodox women forbidden by Jewish law to turn on a stove on the Sabbath, plugged in an electric hotplate on Erev Shabbat that malfunctioned and sparked the fire while the household slept. Mrs. Sassoon and her daughter Siporah, 15, survived.

Now, Gayle Sassoon is raising funds to create a family center in honor of her children, on the site of their razed house. The proposed center has been designed with seven pillars representing her seven children lost and a large atrium dedicated to Siporah. The center is to contain men’s and women’s learning centers, a library, and other initiatives.

Robert A.M. Stern

The American Institute of Architects and the Association of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture named Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, as the 2017 winner of the AIA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architecture Education, the highest honor given to educators in architecture.

Stern was been dean of the Yale School of Architecture from 1998 to June 2016. Previously, he was a professor in the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He was also director of Columbia's Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture from 1984 to 1988. In 1977, Stern founded Robert A.M. Stern Architects, known as RAMSA. Some of his firm's major works include New York City's 15 Central Park West and 20 East End Avenue, and the Comcast Center skyscraper in Philadelphia.

Daniel Libeskind



The architect Daniel Libeskind, who developed the ground zero master plan in New York and the Jewish Museum Berlin, has unveiled his design for a Dutch national Holocaust memorial in Amsterdam, to be laser-etched with the names of some 103,000 Jewish, Roma and Sinti residents of the Netherlands, who were killed by the Nazis during WWII.

The memorial will be erected in the center of the historic Jewish Cultural Quarter of Amsterdam on the east side of the old city, which contains the Jewish Historical Museum and the Hollandsche Schouwburg, a former

theater that was used as a Jewish deportation center. The memorial has been approved by the city's landmarks board, the *New York Times* said.

David Friedman



President-elect Donald Trump has nominated his adviser and long-time friend David Friedman to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Israel. The 57-year-old bankruptcy attorney, a Hebrew speaker, served with Jason Dov Greenblatt on Trump's Israel advisory committee during the campaign, becoming one of his main representatives to the Jewish community and Jewish media. Friedman has been aligned with Israel's far right, questioning the need for a two-state solution, and likening left-leaning Jews in America to the Jews who aided the Nazis in the Holocaust.

In a statement, Friedman said he was "deeply honored and humbled" that Trump selected him to represent the U.S. in Israel, and that he aimed to "strengthen the bond between our two countries and advance the cause of peace within the region, looking forward to doing this from the U.S. embassy in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem." It was a further indication of the incoming President's apparent resolve to follow through on his campaign pledge to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The nomination is opposed by the National Jewish Democratic Council, Americans for Peace Now, and other left-leaning Jewish groups, *The New York Times* reported. The Republican Jewish Coalition responded with "exuberant approval," *The Times* said.

• OBITUARIES •

The Shofar joins the membership in mourning the death of long-time shul member Marshall Hurwitz, who died this month after a long illness. Our condolences to his wife, Ann, and their family.

Irving Fradkin

Dr. Irving Fradkin, an optometrist, died on Nov. 19 at his home in Fall River, MA. He was 95. In 1958, Dr. Fradkin was concerned that his young patients in Fall River were not planning to attend college because they couldn't afford it. He reasoned that if every household in the town gave just one dollar, every graduating high school senior could be sent to college. The idea gave birth to Dollars for Scholars, a campaign that delivered \$5,000 in its first year to 24 local high school seniors. Nearly 60 years later, the program has evolved into Scholarship America, an organization that has overseen the distribution of \$3.5 billion to more than 2.2 million students.

In 1988, when Dr. Fradkin suffered a heart attack, the emergency room supervisor told him not to worry. After all, she told him, she had gotten through nursing school with his program's help.

Adolf Burger

Adolf Burger, believed to be the last surviving concentration camp prisoner forced to make counterfeit pound notes in a Nazi plan to undermine Britain's economy, died Dec. 6 at his home in Prague. He was 99.

Burger, a printer, was selected along with about 140 other prisoners to work in Block 19 at Sachsenhausen, where the presses ran virtually nonstop, printing pounds, British postage stamps and passports. Burger said he was ordered to print the money, so he did. If he didn't, he would have been shot. His first wife, Gisella, died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

His memoir, *The Devil's Workshop*, published in 1983, was turned into a film, "The Counterfeiters," which won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film of 2007.

Henry J. Heimlich

Dr. Henry J. Heimlich, the thoracic surgeon who developed and crusaded for the antichoking technique that has been credited with saving an estimated 100,000 lives, died Dec. 17 at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, after suffering a heart attack. He was 96.

Dr. Heimlich's "maneuver" saves choking victims with a bear hug and abdominal thrusts to eject a throat obstruction. Since its inception in 1974, it has become a national safety icon, taught in schools, portrayed in movies, displayed on restaurant posters, and endorsed by medical authorities.

While best known for his namesake maneuver, Dr. Heimlich developed and held patents on a score of medical innovations and devices, including mechanical aids for chest surgery that were widely used in the Vietnam War, procedures for treating chronic lung disease, and methods for helping stroke victims relearn to swallow.

• COMMEMORATIONS •

Yahrzeits In January

- 1: Goldie S. Friedman
- 2: Joseph Adelson
- 4: Chuck Kahn
- 6: Joseph Baulsir; Leo Levine
- 7: Michael Lepawski
- 8: Kate Finkelstein; Sally Silberger; Dr. Nathaniel M. Sperling
- 10: Olive Spence Friedmann; Paul Panepinto
- 11: Louis S. "Bill" Sachs
- 12: Max Katz; Sarah Weiskott
- 13: Max Birman
- 15: Lillian Silberberg
- 16: Arnold Jaffe; Dr. Melvin Shengold
- 18: Jean Birman; Dr. Arthur Goldin; Jennie Levinson
- 10: Rose Wasserman
- 20: Abe Laufe
- 22: Ida Sausmer
- 23: Toivo Jarvi

- 24: Marcia B. Block; Martha Levin
 25: Herman Millman; Stanley Sydney
 26: Norma Good; Nedjat Lazar; Steven Newman; Alvin Robins
 29: Monir Lazar; Benjamin Lipman; Ralph J. Michelson and brothers Morris, Lewis,
 Conrad, Herbert and Morton
 30: Annie Bush; Rebecca Edelstein; Louis Felder; Anna Neimark
 31: Helen Newman

Birthdays in January

- 2: Holly Byrne
 3: Seth Greenseid
 4: Stanley Kaplan
 8: Alan Weinstein
 20: Sara Bloom; Carly Teperman
 22: Jo Ann Blumberg
 24: Veronica Byrne
 25: Craig Millman
 27: Peri Sausmer

Anniversaries in January

- 5: Stephen Brumberg and Carol Ingall

Spreading Sunshine

Rain or shine, a Sunshine Card brightens the day for recipients. Remember friends, family, and fellow shul members on joyous occasions, and wish them well when illness and sadness strike. Please make your contribution payable to the Daughters of Israel, and send to P.O. Box 659, Greenport, NY 11944. To send a Sunshine Card, call Thelma Novick at 734-6952.

Refuah Shlemah

- Jed Clauss
 Victor Friedman
 Arlene Marvin
 Thelma Novick
 Judith Schneider
 Gloria Waxler
 Michael Murphy
 Ann Hurwitz
 Bill Pittorino
 Jane Sachs
 Jody Levin

• MONEY MATTERS •

Donations in December

- Michael and Rachel Murphy
 Phyllis Elsky

Harriet Abraham
Drs. Saul and Suzie Rosenstreich
Adrienne Greenberg
Dr. Z.Micah Kaplan and Gayle Kaplan
Peter Krasnow and Christine Cerny
Diana Whitsit
Stephen Brumberg and Carol Ingall
Dr. Thomas Byrne and Veronica Kaliski
Charles Bogen
Joan Prager
Alan and Rochelle Garmise
Dr. Stephen Winters
Max and Marilyn Britvan
H. Lee and JoAnn Blumberg
Martin Ehrenreich
Elizabeth Holtzman
Roslyn Polonecki
Audrey Rothman
Carol Seigel
Paula Shengold
Mark Solomon
Judith Weiner
Paul and Alice Nadel
Mark and Ellen Wiederlight
Harry and Ana Katz
Jacqueline Klein
Roberta Katcher
Michael and June Shatken
Aaron and Thelma Novick
Sy Brittman
Stephen and Susan Meshover
Arnold and Myra Gans
Philip and Elaine Goldman
Deborah Pittorino
Bruce and Sara Bloom
Michael Ferber
Marian Friedmann
David Judlowitz

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, Rimmonim, breastplates, curtains, reader's table covers, 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

Invest In Our Shul

- **Bequest:** Make a gift to the shul with an inclusion in your will.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity:** A cash or appreciated stock gift provides fixed income for life.
- **Life Insurance Policy:** Contribute a fully-paid or new policy with the shul as owner.
- **Life Estate:** Donate real estate through a grant deed, and use the property for life.
- **Charitable Remainder Unitrust:** This investment allows the contributor a tax deduction and an income for life. Upon the death of the contributor, the balance in the trust goes to the charity. For information, contact Financial Secretary Z. Micah Kaplan, MD.

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:** nameplate is placed on the back of a seat in the sanctuary.
Cost: \$200 members; \$250 nonmembers.

Schedule of Synagogue Fees

Membership Per Year

Family	\$850
Individual	\$550

Event	Members	Nonmembers
Wedding, Bat/Bat Mitzvah, Baby Naming*	\$450	\$900
Sanctuary Only	No charge	\$300
Community Room Only	\$25 per hour	\$50 per hour
Community Room, Kitchen and Park	\$300	\$600
Rabbi's classes	No charge	No charge
Commemoratives	Members	Nonmembers
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	No charge	No charge

*Fee includes use of the sanctuary, community room, kosher kitchen, and Andrew Levin Park. Setup and cleanup fees will be paid by the individual or group renting the facilities. Renters of our facilities must submit an agreement 10 days prior to the event.

** A seat plate designee must be a member or a deceased member of the synagogue.

• WHO'S WHO AT OUR SHUL •

Rabbi Gadi Capela: 631-477-6940
Gabbai Stanley Rubin: 631-765-6848

Board of Directors
Alan Garmise: President
Z. Micah Kaplan: Vice President
Joan Prager: Treasurer
Philip Goldman: Financial Secretary
Debra Riva: Recording Secretary
Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary
Sara Bloom, Miriam Gabriel, Sonia Spar: Members at Large
Adrienne Greenberg and Eileen Santora: Daughters of Israel Representatives
Jesse Reece: Men's Club Representative

The Daughters of Israel
Adrienne Greenberg and Eileen Santora, Co-Presidents
Gloria Waxler: Treasurer
Thelma Novick: Corresponding Secretary
Rochelle Garmise: Recording Secretary

The Men's Club
Jesse Reece: President
Aaron Novick: Vice President
David Judlowitz: Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Byrne and Jed Clauss: Program Chairmen

The Shofar
Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

Shul Committees

Audio-Visual

Phil Goldman, chair
Adam Spar, Adrienne Greenberg

Beautification

Adrienne Greenberg, Phil Goldman, Eileen Santora, Adam Spar

Building and Grounds

Micah Kaplan, chair
Ron Adler, Miriam Gabriel, Phil Goldman, Adrienne Greenberg, Jesse Reece,
Adam Spar

Bylaws

Aaron Novick, chair
Phil Goldman, Adrienne Greenberg, David Judlowitz, Joanna Paulsen, Joan Prager

Calendar

Elaine Goldman, chair

Cultural Arts

Debra Riva, chair
Saul Rosenstreich, Sonia Spar

E-Communications/Web Site

Adrienne Greenberg, chair

Sonia Spar

Finance

Phil Goldman, chair

Alan Garmise, Adrienne Greenberg, David Judlowitz, Micah Kaplan, Joan Prager

Gift Shop

Sara Bloom

Journal Dinner-Dance

Elaine Goldman and Debra Riva, co-chairs

Membership

Phil Goldman, chair

Sara Bloom, Miriam Gabriel

Nominating

Adrienne Greenberg, chair

David Judlowitz

Pastoral

Elaine Goldman, chair

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Miriam Gabriel, Carol Seigel

Plaques

Stanley Rubin, chair

Adrienne Greenberg, Jesse Reece

Public Relations

Alan Garmise, chair

Bruce Bloom, Sara Bloom

Ritual

Phil Goldman, chair

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Adrienne Greenberg, Stephen Meshover, Aaron Novick, Jesse

Reece, Debra Riva, Susan Rosenstreich, Stanley Rubin, Carol Seigel

Telephone/Sunshine

Thelma Novick, chair

Vegetable Garden

Adrienne Greenberg, Eileen Santora, co-chairs

Yahrzeit:

Stanley Rubin, chair,

Miriam Gabriel

Note: President Alan Garmise is a nonvoting member of all committee.