



CONGREGATION
TIFEREETH ISRAEL

A National Historic Site

The Shofar

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Affiliated With The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

E-Volume 19 Number 4

April 2018/Nisan-Iyar 5778

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Weekly and Holiday Services

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

Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m.

Learning at our Shul

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 Hebrew classes, 4 p.m.

Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19 and 26: Torah classes, 4 p.m.

Shul Events

Sunday, March 25: Judaism and Art opening reception, community room, 2-5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28: Model Seder for GEM and parishioners, community room, 11 a.m.

Friday, March 30: First Passover Seder, 6:30 p.m. (second Seder Saturday, March 31)

Sunday, April 8: Sisterhood brainstorming and brunch, 11 a.m. (RSVP Debra Riva by March 20)

Friday, April 13: Pre-Shabbat commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day and Israeli Independence Day, Debra Riva and Susan Rosenstreich, sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 15: Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 22, Ira Poliakoff, *The Synagogues of Long Island*, community room, 2 p.m.

Friday, May 11: Shabbat dinner, hosted by the Sisterhood

Lighting Shabbat Candles in April

April 6: 7:08; April 13: 7:16; April 20: 7:22; April 27: 7:30

Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 22: Earth Day

(Submission deadline for the May 2018 issue of *The Shofar*: April 20)

From The Rabbi...



“The Sheep and the Goat”

When we sit around the Passover table every year, we don't normally ask ourselves whether this is the shank bone of a sheep or of a goat.

According to the Torah, before the Israelites left Egypt, God commanded, “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; you shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats.” (Exodus 12:5)

The lamb (seh in Hebrew) simply means yearling, one that didn't yet mate. Even though sheep and goats often roam together, and although they look quite similar and bleat the same way, there are significant differences between the two species, which set them clearly apart. The easiest way to distinguish between them is their external appearance. Sheep have wool; goats have hair. Sheep tails hang down whereas goat tails point upwards. A goat is the more slender of the two; a sheep is tubby.

But more importantly, each has a different character. For example, a sheep loves to graze on grass and clover; a goat is a typical browser, feeding on leaves, shrubs, and twigs. A sheep prefers to stay within its flock; goats are curious by nature and are quite independent. Another

The Israelites had to bring a sheep or a goat to acknowledge both. With all the differences between them, they complete each other. When we sit around the Seder table, we all complete each other.

telling difference, perhaps reflective of the differing nature of the two species, is that sheep are entirely domesticated, while wild goats are found in abundance. This suggests that while both animals are beneficial to

mankind, it is with a different symbiotic relationship.

Sheep win credit for being obedient and following their shepherd; goats should be accepted for their independence. After all, it was a curious goat, which strayed near a cliff on the western shore of the Dead Sea, bringing its young Bedouin shepherd, who chased it, to find the cave with the Dead Sea Scrolls in the spring of 1947 — the most important archeological find of all millennia. Interestingly, the parchments themselves are made from goatskin.

What kind of animal are you? When you are a grazing animal, like a sheep, you spend a lot of time with your head down, eating grass, sticking together with other sheep. When you are a browsing animal, like a goat, you often improvise your own trail.

The Torah knew to tell us that leading a people out of Egypt, the shepherd should be aware of the two types of people — those who would naturally follow Moses, and those who would follow Moses, but in their own pathfinder way. We may roam together because God created us this way — some of us sheep-like and some goat-like. Moreover, sometime we are sheep-like and sometime goat-like.

The Israelites had to bring a sheep or a goat to acknowledge both. With all the differences between them, they complete each other. When we sit around the Seder table, we all complete each other.

Wishing you and your family a happy month of Nissan, and a kosher and happy Pesach.

—Rabbi Gadi Capela



wish to thank all the members of Congregation Tifereth Israel for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve you for another three years. May we all continue to complete each other.

From The President...

Yes, we know everyone is tired of the boots, down jackets, shovels, and that white stuff that has been a near constant companion this month of March. But with the Passover holiday arriving any day now, we remember that glorious spring is near. This special time of the year with its message of nature’s renewal and growth speaks to us also of our release from bondage and persecution, and to our freedom and the promise of nationhood. In a few weeks, we will eagerly emerge from our indoor personae to once again greet our neighbors, gardens, wildlife, and all that the beautiful East End of Long Island has to offer us come spring.

Maybe the weather and the uncertainty of travel have kept you away from services and events, but we hope to see all of our local and commuting congregants back again at services, meetings and classes. It has been a long and difficult season, but 2018 — that number that contains the letters of the Hebrew word “life” — remind us that we can overcome most challenges to celebrate life.

On March 18, 40 shul members came to a special congregation meeting to vote yay or nay to extend Rabbi Gadi’s contract. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the contract extension, and this continuity bodes well for our shul. Consider also that these members braved a frigid March morning to cast their votes. Isn’t that the most meaningful expression of freedom over bondage — the ultimate message of Passover?

We congratulate Rabbi Gadi on his contract renewal and wish him a fruitful three more years.

—Adrienne Greenberg

• SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

The Shofar joins the congregation in welcoming Irma Strimban of Cutchogue as a member of our shul. Irma has been an important part of the Judaism and Art group, and will be participating in the group’s art show to debut on March 25. We look forward to greeting you at services and events.

‘Judaism And Art’ Group Mounts Exhibit On Jewish Themes

Eight Jewish working artists in the Judaism and Art group are sharing the results of their search for deeper understanding, insight, and connection to Judaism through art in a multimedia exhibit titled “Who Art Thou?” The exhibit honors the late North Fork illustrator/sculptor Robert Strimban, a member of the group, who died unexpectedly before his contribution was complete. The show will be on view in the community room of our shul from the opening reception on Sunday, March 25, from 2 to 5 p.m., through May 20. All are welcome. [No sales on Shabbat.]

The show features the unfinished paper sculpture by Robert Strimban titled, “The Rabbi.” Strimban’s work joins an assemblage of sculpture, painting, photography and quilting that explore spirituality and Judaism through diverse methods: Meryl Spiegel adds dimension to her photography by incorporating spirits drawn by hand. Painter Judith Weiner renders the ascendance of the soul through spatial environments. Painters Saul Rosenstreich and Debra Riva

Pictured, from left, Judy Weiner, Debra Riva, Cookie Slade and Roberta Garris mount their work in preparation for the opening. Photos by Suzan Lipson and Debra Riva



...high abstract splashes of color. Cookie Slade displays her clay artwork, including a Star of David, during the opening. ...ations, discussions, and

Three North Fork Congregations Sponsor Book And Author Program On The History Of Long Island’s Synagogues, April 22

After WWII, thousands of Jewish soldiers returned from the war, looking for a life in the suburbs. In 1946, to accommodate the new arrivals on Long Island, Rabbi Elias Solomon called a meeting of Conservative rabbis to map out a plan. The group came up with a scheme to provide a synagogue at every railroad stop along the south shore of Long Island, from Valley Stream to Patchogue. Once Reform Judaism took hold in the later decades of the 20th century, Central Synagogue of Nassau County and Beth El in Great Neck each grew more than 1,000 families strong. More recently, the growth of the Chabad movement has spurred an increase of Orthodox Judaism. Synagogues to accommodate the three branches of Judaism — Orthodox, Conservative and Reform — continue to flourish.

The public is invited to learn about these and other compelling stories of Jewish history in a book and author program with Ira Poliakoff, the writer and researcher of *Synagogues of Long Island*, just published by The History Press. The program is sponsored by three North Fork synagogues — Congregation Tifereth Israel, the North Fork Reform Synagogue, and Temple Israel of Riverhead — and will be held in the community room of our shul on Sunday, April 22, at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend at no charge. Light refreshments will be offered.

The author has studied the histories of nearly 300 synagogues in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, some that once thrived and others that continue to prosper. His research is documented by dozens of photographs and also copies of rare documents of development and incorporation.



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Purim Party

From groggers to hamantaschen, the Purim Party excelled. Andrea Braga and Debra Riva photos

Members Fill The Pulpit During Rabbi Gadi's Vacation

Debra Riva, president of the shul's Sisterhood group, and Suzan Lipson, a member of the organization, led Shabbat services on March 9 and 10, filling the pulpit in the absence of Rabbi Gadi, who was in Israel. A minyan was present for Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturday Shacharit services, and a full Torah service was held with seven aliyot awarded for the last parasha in Exodus.

Jesse Reece removed the Torah from the Ark, and Menachem Kastner read the portion of the week in addition to giving an impromptu d-var Torah. Eileen Santora provided the Kiddush lunch, which was followed by lively conversation.

In a statement to *The Shofar*, the Sisterhood president said, "Thanks again to all who attended and stepped up to make this a wonderful lay-led Shabbat. A special thank you to Sisterhood members Carol Seigel, Roberta Garris, Suzi Rosenstreich, Joan Prager, Gayle Kaplan, Judith Weiner and Sherry Shaw. Without their attendance and support, we would not have had a minyan and a full service. Chazak, chazak v'neit chazek!" (Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another!)

Jesse Reece led Friday services on Feb. 23 and March 2. Susan Rosenstreich led the Saturday, March 3 service.

News From The March 18 Board And Congregation Meetings

- The congregation voted overwhelmingly to extend Rabbi Gadi's contract for another three years, beginning Aug. 30, 2018. All other business at the congregation meeting was tabled.
- At the conclusion of the congregation meeting, Micah Kaplan presented Part 2 of a program on the migration of Jews to Long Island. Everyone was invited to the brunch buffet sponsored by the Men's Club.
- Sonia Spar, serving a second term as a member of the shul's Board of Trustees, has resigned from the board, citing personal reasons.
- Debra Riva, president of the Sisterhood, announced that the organization would host the next Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 11. More information as the date nears.
- Debra Riva, co-chair with Elaine Goldman of the 2018 Journal Dinner-Dance released the names of this year's honorees: for the community, Southold Town Justice William Price; for the synagogue, Paul and Pamela Birman. The JDD will be held on Sunday, Sept. 16.
- Final preparations are underway for the art show mounted in the shul's community room by artists in the Judaism and Art group. Opening reception: Sunday, March 25, from 2 to 5 p.m., sponsored by the Men's Club. The show will run through May 20.

• FYI • FYI • FYI •

A Matza Story Leavened With Devotion

As you sit at the table, spreading butter on matza purchased at your local market, where shelves overflowed with Passover foods, condiments and treats, you might ponder the following article, excerpted from an essay by Dovid Margolin for Chabad.org/.

In spite of all the obstacles created by the regime, for tens if not hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, matza on Passover was a not-to-be-breached imperative.

They came from all over Moscow. In the 1950s and '60s, beginning about a month before Passover, they would get together an *elektrichika* streetcar and travel an hour or more to the Bolshevo station on the outskirts of the city, lugging suitcases or large woven bags — anything big enough to hold a carton of matza without raising the suspicion of informers or the official enforcers of Soviet anti-Jewish oppression. Of those who came more or less imperatively to the Bolshevo home of Aharon Chazan, some purchased his round handmade *shmurah* matza, others the square and less expensive hand-cranked “machine” kind.

In spite of all the obstacles created by the regime, for tens if not hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, matza on Passover was a not-to-be-breached imperative.

The history of matza in the Soviet Union is complex. As with other aspects of religious observance, the state never explicitly prohibited its production or consumption. But finding it was not always easy or straightforward. During the Communist regime’s early decades, hundreds of tons were produced annually in state-owned bakeries. Although a moneymaker for the regime, and widely available, its Jewish consumers could still face

fallout for purchasing it, especially if they were members of the Communist party. But in the late 1950s, a renewed clampdown on religion initiated by Nikita Khrushchev caused a scarcity, and matza became harder to procure legally. It was then that Aharon Chazan constructed his special matza oven, hidden away inside the freestanding Russian stove that heated his home.

“We baked at night, and all of us children took part,” says Rabbi Avraham Chazan, who remembers the ritual from his childhood. “We made round matza for ourselves and for a few other Hasidic families in Moscow, and square for everyone else. We used to deliver matza to the many elderly people who couldn’t undertake the journey.”

In the secretive atmosphere of the time, the children knew many of those who frequented the Chazans’ home. One of those was Velvl Bogomolny. Rivkah Bogomolny recalls the eve of Passover 1963 when her father failed to come home. In the middle of the night, she and her two sisters were awakened by banging on the door. Having arrested their father, the KGB had now come to search the house. Her father had been arrested on charges of profiteering from the illegal sale of matza. Carrying the unleavened bread for delivery, he had flagged down a taxi. The driver was a KGB agent, and the list of 18 addresses found in Bogomolny’s pocket would later be presented in evidence at his trial. He was sentenced to a year in prison. He said he did what he did so the Jews of Moscow could have matza on Pesach.

The case raised a flurry of attention, and was widely reported in the West. In Washington, Senator Jacob Javits of New York vigorously denounced the verdict on the Senate floor. As Passover 1964 neared, Bogomolny’s wife included matza in a care package for her husband; the prison wardens passed along everything in the parcel except the matza. For the eight days of the festival, Bogomolny subsisted on cubes of sugar supplied by a compassionate fellow prisoner.

What induced so many Jews all over the Soviet Union to go to such lengths to secure matza? These were not just synagogue goers, who consisted mainly of the pious and elderly. When it came to obtaining matza, all distinctions fell away; even those unschooled in Jewish religious practice harbored intense feelings in this one area.

Those same intense feelings may be what drove Aharon Chazan to risk imprisonment or worse for preparing and distributing matza. Those intense feelings may be the reason Velvl Bogomolny was willing to suffer a heavy penalty for providing matza. And those intense

feelings may be what annually inspired hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to ask each other: “Do you know where I can find matza this year?”

ADL Says Anti-Semitic Incidents Soared By 57 Percent In 2017

The Anti-Defamation League reported a 57-percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. last year, the highest tally that the Jewish civil rights group has counted in more than two decades. The New York City-based organization found 1,986 anti-Semitic incidents last year, up from 1,267 in 2016. That’s the highest total since 1994, and the largest single-year increase since the group began collecting this data in 1979.

The ADL said the sharp rise includes 952 vandalism incidents, an increase of 86 percent from 2016. The group also counted 1,015 incidents of harassment, including 163 bomb threats against Jewish institutions. Anti-Semitic incidents at schools and on college campuses nearly doubled for the second year in a row, with 457 such incidents reported in non-Jewish schools last year, the ADL said.

ADL national director and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said the “alarming” increase appears to be fueled by emboldened far-right extremists as well as the “divisive state of our national discourse.” Greenblatt told the Associated Press, “Less civility has led to more intolerance.”

Prince William To Make First-Ever Official Royal Visit To Israel

The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, will make an official trip to Israel this summer, the first-ever by a member of the British royal family. The trip is part of a tour of the region, which will include visits to Israel, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Kensington Palace said. The visit is at the request of Her Majesty’s government, and has been welcomed by the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian authorities.

“We welcome the announcement of Prince William’s visit to Israel,” said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “This is an historic visit, the first of its kind, and he will be welcomed here with great affection. I have instructed the Foreign Ministry Director General to coordinate the preparations for the visit to ensure its success.”

Prince Charles has visited Israel on unofficial trips, attending the funerals of both Shimon Peres in 2016 and Yitzhak Rabin in 1994. His father, Prince Philip, also visited Israel in 1994 to attend a ceremony commemorating his mother, Alice of Battenberg, who is buried on Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives.

Tenement Museum Adds New Exhibition Space

Manhattan’s Tenement Museum offers a trip back in time to when the Lower East Side was a melting pot of working-class immigrants, struggling to make better lives with limited means. Founded in a squalid 1864 tenement building at 97 Orchard Street in 1988, the museum has become a staple for school trips and history buffs, with its apartments painstakingly restored to what they were when occupied in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by poor families from Italy, Germany and Ireland.

A recent expansion by Perkins Eastman, featured in the March 2018 issue of *Architectural Record*, provides details of a separate, five-story historic building at 103 Orchard — purchased by the museum in 2007 — to allow more space for exhibitions.

Throughout the renovation, the design team kept what they could of the building's decrepit state, leaving decaying layers of plaster, mortar, brick and paint to connect visitors' experiences to those of tenants past. New finishes were kept to a minimum to make the architectural intervention less noticeable.

For Perkins Eastman principal Nick Leahy, the project was an exercise in discovering and interpreting clues to the past, he said. "It has caused me to look at things differently. If I see a ghost of a doorway, I wonder why it's like that, and what was there before. It's really about finding out what's extraordinary in the ordinary."

Leonard Bernstein Featured in Museum Exhibit

In October 1979, Leonard Bernstein received a fan letter from a high school humanities teacher. Helen Morgan wrote to the celebrity composer-conductor-pianist in hopes he could share the theme that guided his compositions — something she could pass along to her students for inspiration.

"There is far more than one 'central theme' within my body of works," Bernstein wrote in reply. "But if I had to choose one, perhaps the most significant, it would be our search for a solution to the 20th century crisis of faith."

Bernstein's lifelong effort to find that solution through music is a moving, and sometimes surprising, display at Philadelphia's National Museum of American Jewish History in its new exhibit, "Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music." Bernstein thrilled millions around the world with his compositions, his theatrical works like "West Side Story" and his over-the-top conducting style before his death in 1990 at age 72. But the focus here is on a lesser-known side of Bernstein: the second-generation American Jew who inspired social progress on and off the stage. His efforts at breaking down racial barriers in casting "On the Town," and addressing racial tensions in "West Side Story" are among the stories told through interactive exhibits, listening stations and video presentations. Also on display are personal items like Bernstein's piano, conducting suit, and baton. The display runs to Sept. 2.

• JEWS IN THE NEWS •

Aly Raisman

Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman has sued the United States Olympic Committee and U.S.A. Gymnastics, the sport's governing body, saying they should have prevented the former team doctor, Lawrence G. Nassar, from sexually abusing her and other athletes.

Ms. Raisman, 23, won gold medals at the past two Summer Olympics, where she served as team captain. She is seeking a jury trial for "sexual molestation, sexual abuse and harassment" by Dr. Nassar during trips abroad and in the United States that the lawsuit said the defendants could have prevented. The suit also alleges that up to 500- other unnamed individuals could have intervened. The abuse occurred during competitions and training at events where the organizations were responsible for Ms. Raisman's safety and making sure that protocols were followed, the lawsuit said.

In November 2017, Dr. Nassar pleaded guilty to sexually abusing seven girls. At sentencing hearings in January, more than 150 girls and women, including Ms. Raisman, described being sexually abused for years while in his care.

The United States Olympic Committee and U.S.A. Gymnastics' handling of the sexual abuse scandal has drawn sharp criticism, and has led to resignations of top officials in both organizations.

Sonia Spar

Shul member Sonia Spar, a member of the Southold Anti-Bias Task Force, was the featured speaker at a program sponsored by the North Fork Reform Synagogue on Sunday, March 18, at the Cutchogue Library. Spar's talk, "Tikkun Olam and America: A Nation of Immigrants," was part of the synagogue's Social Justice Lecture Series.

The talk focused on the 800,000 so-called Dreamers, those brought to this country illegally as young children, now living in limbo for fear they will be sent back to their countries of origin.

Sonia Spar has worked in the fields of Jewish civil rights and human relations.

James Levine

On Monday, March 12, the Metropolitan Opera officially fired its former music director, James Levine, after the institution discovered evidence of his acts of sexual abuse and harassment.

When claims of abuse surfaced in December 2017, Levine was suspended by the Met, and an investigation was initiated. In a statement, the Met said that the probe found that Levine "engaged in sexually abusive and harassing conduct toward vulnerable artists in the early stages of their careers." The Met said further that 70 people had been interviewed, and that "it would be inappropriate and impossible for Mr. Levine to continue to work at the Met."

James Levine had been the music director for the Met for 40 years prior to 2016, when he retired from that position because of ill health. He continued at the Met as music director emeritus. Mr. Levine's successor, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, will take on his new role next season, two years ahead of schedule.

Levine sues the Met

On Friday, March 16, the *New York Times* reported that James Levine had filed a lawsuit in State Supreme Court against the Metropolitan Opera for breach of contract and defamation. The lawsuit states that Mr. Levine "has clearly and unequivocally denied any wrongdoing in connection with those allegations," and paints his firing as a result of an effort by the Met's general manager, Peter Gelb, "to oust Levine from the Met and completely erase his legacy from the organization."

Gal Gadot

Superstar Gal Gadot, the Israeli *Wonder Woman* actress, has entered into a lucrative deal with Reebok Sportswear that is reported to be worth \$10 million. The manufacturer of athletic apparel has called Gadot "a worldwide symbol of confidence, defiant courage, and strength." Gadot said on the Reebok website: "The things that make us better are when we're pushing ourselves, or when we're more worried about others than we are about ourselves."

Sheldon Adelson and Dr. Miriam Adelson

Sheldon Adelson and Dr. Miriam Adelson announced a \$13 million gift to support the Israeli American Council at its 10th annual Los Angeles gala. The gift was donated in the wake of the couple's more than \$50 million in previous donations to the organization. According to an IAC press release, the support will continue the Adelsons' bold vision to "build and engage a coast-

to-coast Israeli-American community that strengthens the American Jewish community and the State of Israel.”

• OBITUARIES •

The Shofar extends sympathy to Ron and Anne Smith and their children on the death of Ron’s mother, Judith Smith. A private funeral and burial were held Friday, March 1, at Old Montefiore Cemetery in Queens. Rabbi Howard Diamond, a close friend of the Smith family and a former rabbi at Congregation Tifereth Israel, conducted the service. Many in our congregation will remember the Smith family, who were active in our shul for many years.

Sala Kirschner

An obituary by Joseph Berger that appeared in the March 14 issue of *The New York Times*, tells the story of Sala Kirschner. His words are reprinted, in part, below:

Worried that she might die during cardiac surgery without passing on a secret she had concealed for 50 years, Sala Kirschner in 1991 handed her daughter, Ann, a battered red cardboard box from an outdated children’s game. “These are my letters from the war,” she said.

Inside was an extraordinary cache of 350 letters, postcards and photographs from family and friends that she had squirreled away from the eyes of Nazi guards as an inmate in seven forced-labor camps over five years, starting when she was just 16. [The Germans wanted the world to believe the camps were work sites, and in her first camp years, she was allowed to send and receive mail.]

The yellowed, tattered letters — in Yiddish, Polish and German — offered intimate if doleful glimpses of the disintegration of Jewish life before and during WWII in Mrs. Kirschner’s hometown, Sosnowiec, in southwestern Poland, whose Jewish population was confined to a ghetto before 35,000 of them were deported to Auschwitz.

Mrs. Kirschner kept the letters hidden from her children because she was afraid her story — her parents were gassed at Auschwitz, and four siblings were killed in the war — would wound them emotionally. “I wanted to raise them in a normal way and not have them take on the burden of their mother,” she said. The trove eventually reached the public. The letters and a diary Mrs. Kirschner kept for a few months were put on exhibit at the New York Public Library in 2006. They became the subject of a book, *Sala’s Gift: My Mother’s Holocaust Story* (2006) by her daughter, Ann Kirschner, a professor at the City University of New York.

Sala Kirschner died at 94 on March 7 in Manhattan, at the home of her daughter.

Oskar Gröning

Oskar Gröning, a onetime corporal in Hitler’s Waffen SS, who became known as the bookkeeper of Auschwitz, one of the last Germans to face war-crime charges arising from the Holocaust, has died. He was 96.

In a case that turned on the interplay of moral responsibility, criminal guilt and the consequences of complicity, Mr. Gröning insisted that he had played no more than a back-office role in the management of funds confiscated from Jews at Auschwitz.

According to an account in the *New York Times*, on the first day of his trial, Mr. Gröning addressed the judge, Franz Kompisch, saying, “It is beyond question that I am morally complicit. This moral guilt I acknowledge here before the victims with regret and humility.” Later that

same year, he told *Der Spiegel*, “Guilt really has to do with actions, and because I believe that I was not an active perpetrator, I don’t believe that I am guilty.” He was sentenced to a jail term of four years.

Rabbi Mordechai Hager

Rabbi Mordechai Hager, the reserved but strong-willed leader of one of the nation’s largest Hasidic sects, who settled many of his followers in a relatively bucolic upstate enclave to escape New York City’s temptations and decadence, died March 16 in Manhattan. He was 95.

Rabbi Hager was the leader of the American branch of the Viznitz, which is believed to number roughly 5,000 families or 30,000 people, about 5,300 of them now living in Kaser, the village he founded, which became an independent municipality in 1990

Rabbi Hager’s Hasidim venerated him for his deep knowledge of the Talmud. It was said that he studied its volumes and commentaries 18 hours a day, and when diabetes left him blind about 10 years ago, he had teams of volunteers read the rabbinical legal debates to him.

• **COMMEMORATIONS** •

Yahrzeits In April

- 1: Dorothea Seranne Nissan
- 2: Herman Ballen
- 3: Yafa L. Melamud
- 4: Joseph Lipman
- 5: Rose Levinson Goldsmith; Benjamin Forman; Irving Levin
- 6: Edward Moch
- 8: Ella Bush Lipton; Linda Livni; Milton Reece
- 9: Miny Bloch; Florence Cohen
- 10: Bess Fineberg Brown; Raphael Owen; Barney Kaplan
- 11: Joanna Lieberthal; Harold Reisman
- 12: Joseph Nelson Finkelstein; Samuel Joseph Glickman; Howard Katzenberg
- 14: Paula Kampler; Essie Levine; Martin Ullman
- 15: Minnie Schlefstein; Regina Sturmdorf
- 16: I. Jack Lewis; Israel Schlefstein
- 17: Pauline Friedman
- 18: Jennie Fineberg; Nathaniel Harris; Zelma Gandell Krasnow
- 19: William Brown; Louis Levinson; Tena R. Rubinsky
- 20: Arie L. Melamud; Joyce Vinson
- 21: Muriel Kaplan; Robert I. Kaplan; Gustav Mouzakitis
- 22: Dora Sharp
- 24: Miriam Mandel; Alan Sarafconn; Edythe S. Winters
- 25: Sarah Gertrude Taylor
- 26: Henry Nadel
- 28: Isaac Goldin; Anna Levinson Rosoff; Morris Stollar
- 29: Harold Friedberg; Hannah Weisz
- 30: Jenny Bush; Abe Cohen; Hubert Kaliski

Birthdays in April

- 8: Eric Friedmann
- 9: Jennifer Morris

15: Mimi Bloom; Sy Brittman; Carol Ingall
20: Helen Weinstein
26: Isaac Kaplan
28: Thelma Novick; Adam Weinstein
30: Susan Meshover

Anniversary in April

16: Victor and Leah Friedman

Attention members: When is your birthday? Your anniversary? *The Shofar* would like to know. If you have not seen your name in these columns in the past year, please forward the information to sbblazer@hotmail.com so that the shul family can join your family and friends with good wishes.

Spreading Sunshine

In times of triumph and celebration as well as those of sadness and turmoil, a card to a family member or friend is a welcome expression of sunshine and your love.

Yes, you can purchase a card created by Hallmark. But better still, you can purchase a card from the shul's Sisterhood by calling Thelma Novick at 631-734-6952, who will write a personal message on a card, indicating your feelings and that a donation to the Sisterhood has been made in the recipient's honor. Thelma, who has been in charge of this service for decades — yes, decades — can help you write the perfect message to convey your thoughts. She's had a lot of experience.

Your sunshine card serves double duty: a personal message to the recipient, and a donation to the Sisterhood, whose work supports our shul.

Refuah Shlemah

Jed Clauss
Victor Friedman
Arlene Marvin
Thelma Novick
Judith Schneider
Gloria Waxler
Michael Murphy
Bill Pittorino
Jane Sachs
Jody Levin
Bruce Bloom
Daniel Slatkin
Philip Goldman
Sidney Waxler

• MONEY MATTERS •

Donations in March

Lois Anderson
John and Emily Breese
John and Valerie Kramer
Harold and Peninah Neimark
Joseph and Jacqueline Pottgen
Jeffrey and Mary Baldwin
Ruth Ann Phaff
R. Gregory Cukor
Jan Nicholson
Miriam Gabriel and Adrienne Greenberg
Robert Katcher
Carol Seigel
Dennis Chalkin and Hillary Kelbick
Stephen and Susan Meshover
Mark and Ellen Levin Wiederlight
Harris Levine, DDS and Marilyn Bayer
Stanley and Roberta Kaplan

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.

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

<u>Event</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</u>
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

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

Adrienne Greenberg: President

Susan Rosenstreich: Vice President

Philip Goldman: Treasurer

Joan Prager: Financial Secretary

Miriam Gabriel: Recording Secretary

Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary

Sara Bloom and Judith Weiner: Members at Large

Debra Riva: Sisterhood Representative

Z. Micah Kaplan, MD: Men's Club Representative

The Sisterhood

Debra Riva, President

Nancy Torchio, Vice President

Eileen Santora: Treasurer

Jennie Adler, Secretary

Gloria Waxler, Advisor

The Men's Club

Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, President
Aaron Novick: Vice President
TBA: Secretary/Treasurer

The Shofar

Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

Shul Committees

Andrew Levin Park
 Sy Brittman, caretaker

Audio-Visual
 Phil Goldman, chair
 Adam Spar

Beautification
 Debra Riva, chair
 Jesse Reece, Carol Seigel

Building and Grounds
 Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, chair
 Ron Adler, Miriam Gabriel, Phil Goldman, Jesse Reece, Adam Spar

Bylaws
 Aaron Novick, chair
 Alan Garmise, Phil Goldman, Joanna Paulsen, Judith Weiner

Calendar
 Elaine Goldman, chair

Cultural Arts
 Debra Riva, chair
 Saul Rosenstreich, Sonia Spar, Judith Weiner

E-Communications/Web Site
 Sonia Spar, chair

Finance
 Phil Goldman, chair
 Alan Garmise, Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, Joan Prager, Michael Simon, Judith Weiner

Gift Shop
 Sara Bloom, chair

Journal Dinner-Dance
 Elaine Goldman and Debra Riva, co-chairs

Membership
 Phil Goldman, chair
 Sara Bloom, Miriam Gabriel

Nominating
 Susan Rosenstreich, chair

Pastoral
 Elaine Goldman, chair
 Rabbi Gadi Capela, Miriam Gabriel, Carol Seigel

Plaques
 Stanley Rubin, chair
 Jesse Reece

Public Relations

Alan Garmise, chair
Bruce Bloom, Sara Bloom, Jeroen Bours, Robin Bours

Ritual

Phil Goldman, chair
Rabbi Gadi Capela, Alan Garmise, Stephen Meshover, Aaron Novick, Jesse Reece,
Debra Riva, Susan Rosenstreich, Stanley Rubin, Carol Seigel

Telephone/Sunshine

Thelma Novick, chair

Vegetable Garden

Elaine Goldman, chair
Eileen Santora

Yahrzeit:

Stanley Rubin, chair,
Miriam Gabriel

Note: The president is a nonvoting member of all shul committees.