



CONGREGATION
TIFEREH ISRAEL

A National Historic Site

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The Shofar

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Affiliated With The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

April 2020/ Nisan-Iyar 5780

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

Shabbat and Holiday Services

Fridays: Erev Shabbat, 7:30 p.m., online only, via Zoom

Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m., online only, via Zoom

Learning at our Shul

Sundays, “The Ethical Life” course, online, dates TBD

Mondays, Hebrew class: online, dates TBD

Shul Events

Wednesday, April 8: First Passover Seder, online only, via Zoom, please RSVP

Thursday, April 9: Second Passover Seder, online only, via Zoom, please RSVP

Book Circle: cancelled; new date, perhaps online, TBD

Lighting Shabbat Candles in April

April 3: 7:05 April 10: 7:12 April 17: 7:20 April 24: 7:27

Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 5: Project Genesis, Peconic Landing, 1:30 p.m., cancelled

Tuesday, April 21: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Tuesday, April 28: Israel Remembrance Day

Wednesday, April 29: Israel Independence Day (1948/5708)

Thursday, July 16: Catch A Star luncheon, TBD

Sunday, Sept. 13: Journal Dinner-Dance, TBD

(Submission deadline for the May 2020 issue of *The Shofar*: April 20)

From The Rabbi...



“It’s Showtime for Humanity.”

Shalom members and friends,

It’s the beginning of spring. In the midst of everything shutting down, the daffodils have just risen from their death to bloom for another life cycle.

This cycle has meaning at this time of coronavirus, and many spiritual Jewish inferences can be drawn. Sometimes, God shakes up the foundations to wake us. The 2020 person, who has everything, is forced to go back to default, to restart. Everything we knew has changed so quickly.

The Biblical term for pandemic is Magefa or Pur’anut. The Talmud tells us, “Every pur’anut comes to wake us up.” (BT Yevamot 63) The element of fear ought to propel us to self-reflection. The preferred outcome is that we move forward from that experience. The word fear in Hebrew — Pachad, comprises the same three letters of Dachaf — to be propelled. We look up to heaven and we pray: “A song for ascents. I turn my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come?” And we answer: “My help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.” (Ps. 121)

What does God want from us? One of the answers is found in the Book of Deuteronomy, where God tells us the reason for pandemics He brings into the world: “Because you would not serve the Lord your God in joy and gladness over the abundance of everything.” (Duet. 28:47) When we have everything and still are not grateful. As an example, the Israelites sojourning in the desert for a time forgot how bad it was for them in Egypt. Despite being cared for by God, the people grew restive and murmured against God and against Moses. “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die in the wilderness? ...we have come to loathe this miserable food.”

In response, God sends seraph serpents against the people. They bite the people, and many of the Israelites die. Then the people come to Moses, realizing they had sinned. God then commands Moses to make a seraph figure and to mount it on a standard. “And if anyone who is bitten looks at it, he shall recover.” (Num. 21:5-9) The Talmud then asks: “Did the serpent kill, or did the serpent bring back to life? Rather, when Israel would look upward and subject their hearts to their Father in heaven, they were healed; and if not, their [flesh] would melt away.” (Mishna RH 3:8) This is the essence of a spiritual virus. Healing it is moving from self-centered to God-centered. The physical death begins with a spiritual death.

In the month between Purim and Pesach, we experience this transition. We come out of the shadows, as the daffodils, to bloom in the spring. We are made well-aware of the spiritual virus that may loom large. The Shabbat before Purim is called Shabbat Zachor — remember. “Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt — how, undeterred by fear of God, he surprised you on the march, when you were famished and weary, and cut down all the stragglers in your rear. Therefore ...you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!” (Duet. 25:17-19)

Amalek is the spirit of the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and it comes back to attack us like a virus, over and over, until we blot it out. In the story of Purim, it’s Haman who is a descendant of Amalek, plotting to destroy us entirely, like a pandemic. And like a pandemic, we are commanded to wash it away from us assiduously. When King Saul does not adhere to this commandment, when he has the opportunity to wipe out Amalek but decides he will not, he loses his kingship. To cure ourselves from a virus, physical or spiritual, we have to separate ourselves.

Samuel had conveyed God’s directive to King Saul: “Now go, attack Amalek, and proscribe all that belongs to him. Spare no one, but kill alike men and women, infants and

sucklings, oxen and sheep, camels and asses! ...But Saul and the troops spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the second-born, the lambs, and all else that was of value. They would not proscribe them; they proscribed only what was cheap and worthless. (1 Samuel 15:3, 9) Since King Saul did not proscribe Amalek entirely, it gave birth later to Haman.

The key to fighting a physical or a spiritual virus is to work together. From Shabbat Zakhor (to remember), we end this period with Shabbat Vayakhel (congregation), the Shabbat before the month of Nissan. We are all one Adam. No matter where this body is attacked, from China, Italy, Iran, Israel, or the US, the whole body, the whole world will suffer. And now, we come together online, we come together by staying apart. Eventually, God will help us understand that we are one Adam: "For then I will make the peoples pure of speech, so that they all invoke the Lord by name and serve him with one accord." (Zephania 3:9) A world of holding hands six feet apart. This could help us correct the horrific history we caused each other — an opportunity in the making. After 5780 years of practice, let's make the third world war against a virus. And they won't learn war anymore. They will convert their swords into plowshares, says the Prophet Isaiah. Pointing the sword towards elements of nature will make it a valuable plowshare. This is showtime for humanity. Pandemics and evil know no border or fence. Now, we must learn to look over the fence and take care of our neighbor. Together, we will make it.

What the world is going through now is a forced Shabbat experience. We should use the time of social distancing and isolation to elevate. A Midrash tells us that after two Shabbatot in a row that all Israel observe together, the third Shabbat is redemption — the arrival of the Messiah. It sounds easy, but our tradition tells us that the time of the Messiah will not be easy for everyone. Another Midrash teaches us that a person who eats the third meal on Shabbat (Seuda Shlisheet) will be protected during those days. What? All we have to do is eat a lot on Shabbat? No. What it means is that a person who practices Shabbat will not suffer being quiet at home for a long period of time. Be still and believe God is holding things together. "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)

As we enter the month of Nissan — meaning the month of "miracle," let's acknowledge that we are in the midst of a miracle. As one of our members told me, "We can't control the wind of life, but we can adjust the sails." (Arnold Gans) We look forward to an especially liberating experience of Passover. We will have life after this break. This is not the end of the world! (Perhaps only as we know it...) Take the precautions, but be calm. Show God that we get it. Let's transform the social distancing into social engagement. Let us be grateful for what has been, and be open to the future. Like the rebirth of the daffodils, we will come back to a new life. But we don't want the world to be the same again. Unity is first — praying that we can all succeed together. It's showtime for humanity!

A healthy month of Nissan and Happy Passover.

—Rabbi Gadi Capela

From The President...



Tifereth Israel has gone tech. Wait. What? Yes, Congregation Tifereth Israel, that quaint little century-old synagogue in backwater Greenport, is now offering Shabbat services online. What's more, by the time you read this, many of us will be joining synagogue meetings, courses and discussion groups through applications such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, and other platforms that support group participation. Do I hear you murmuring, "It's about time?" Do you know what it takes to change the status quo? Have a look at the case study of our synagogue's journey to Techville.

First, we got past restrictions on driving and turning on lights during Shabbat. But the use of communication technology during Shabbat? No way, said one side. Yet the other side saw

reasons for electronically transmitting services to congregants. What about folks who don't drive at night? What about folks who work all day? What about folks who live far away? If we would just get with the times, bring ourselves up to date on all the latest technology, the argument went, we could serve our entire congregation better.

Tradition vs. innovation

Hold on to your horses, the other side retorted. Time-honored, old-fashioned traditions are of great comfort in our rapidly technologizing world. Let's shut out the confusion and instability of the workaday world, and preserve the tranquility of synagogue space, just as our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents wanted us to do. This is the Tug-of-War phase in journeys to change the status quo.

It can't last, one side protested. The other side countered that humans have survived millennia only because they get with the program around them. The program in our time is technology, and we need to get with it. This is the See-Saw Phase. At this point in the journey out of the status quo, each side periodically yields the high ground to the other side's argument. Our Never-Tech side admitted that, well, yes, we should do something for those who don't drive at night. Well, yes, we might think about those amongst us who work late. And yes, perhaps it's time to accommodate out-of-towners who seek the warmth and intimacy of a Tifereth Israel Shabbat. The What-Are-We-Waiting-For side had its backsliding moments, too. Let's see what it costs. Let's see what the new rules are. Let's see what other congregations are doing.

History, historians tell us, happens because of disruption. But you can't disrupt unless conditions are right. You can't shatter the status quo if forces aren't aligned. You can't make a revolution unless you have established your intent. That's the beauty of the Penn Station Phase. While we were hunting around for a road map out of Status Quo, conditions at Tifereth Israel were already changing. Adrienne Greenburg underwrote an overhaul of our electronics. Ann Hurwitz funded a technology-driven course from the Jewish Theological Seminary on Jewish ethics in the modern world. The See-Saw bounce was lessening; both sides were learning to balance the congregation's needs with respect for tradition.

Achieving balance, and then...

And then, CLANG!!! Enter Covid-19. Within three working days, Phil Goldman's Ritual Committee voted to recommend live streaming of Shabbat services; the Board of Directors green-lighted the plan; a notice went out to the Congregation to expect online Shabbat services as of March 20; the Rabbi and office assistant Andrea Blaga worked with tech advisor Steve Benthall and shul member Judy Weiner to vet and choose the best program for the job. On March 19, we tested Zoom, complete with reading prayers from the screen. As I write this message, it is early in the day on March 20. In a few hours, members of the Congregation will be worshipping together, just a screen away from each other. This is a revolution.

So here we are, in our own Penn Station. From this point, we can go in any of many directions. We must first decide which train is ours, and then keep our train on its tracks. If we do our jobs, nothing can stop us.

— Susan Rosenstreich

The Shofar welcomes letters from readers on topics related to synagogue life and to articles contained within the newsletter. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. All letters must be signed, although names can be withheld to protect a writer's privacy on sensitive topics. Letters can be addressed to info@tifereth-israel.com or to mcgotr@optonline.net or sbblazer@hotmail.com/. We look forward to your thoughts and comments.

To the editors:

Some of my favorite times with Stanley Rubin had to do with his responses to questions about history, language, Judaism and Christianity, and North Fork families. The Pogrom at Kishinev, Archduke Ferdinand's last words, the roots of the Cyrillic language were among the great range of topics I asked him about. Remarkably, he was able to answer so easily and readily, always eager to share his knowledge. And, then there were the jokes.

Through a difficult last few years, I never heard a word of complaint. When asked how he was, his default response was predictably, "In my usual good health." I will miss his knowledge, spirit and humor.

—Miriam Gabriel

• SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

The Shofar joins the membership in welcoming Margot Perman and Jürgen Riehle as new members of our shul. We look forward to greeting you, and to participating with you in our spiritual, educational and social programs and activities.

Shul Introduces Two Tech Initiatives For Members And Friends

A ShulCloud message from shul president Susan Rosenstreich informed members that although the synagogue is closed as a measure to thwart the spread of coronavirus and keep congregants safe, efforts to maintain connection to shul rituals and activities are under way. To that end, two new initiatives debuted in March.

Online Shabbat

As shul president Susan Rosenstreich's message this month reveals, sometimes it takes a revolutionary event to bring about a revolution. The event, of course, is the global jolt of coronavirus and its devastatingly disruptive consequences on all of our lives. The ensuing revolution is the shul's compelling response to the gloom felt by many of us, suddenly bereft of the shul community.

With everlasting thanks and gratitude to the tech-savvy in our shul, particularly Andrea Blaga, Steve Benthal, Judith Weiner, and Rabbi Gadi, and with the wizardry of a computer application called Zoom, the shul reopened on Friday, March 20, at 7:41 p.m., with 24 members and friends joined in an historic event — the first online Shabbat service at Congregation Tifereth Israel.

On the 19th, members received an email with instructions on how to participate. Andrea had simplified the procedure for Zoom first-timers and also the technologically-lame among us. Many of us rehearsed the so-called "meeting" on Thursday afternoon, in preparation for the real thing on the 20th.

On Shabbat, March 20, Rabbi Gadi, who "hosted the meeting" (the Zoom program's language), signed in at 7 and, one by one, members "entered the meeting." Each was acknowledged with hand waves, "hello's" and "welcome's" from those already assembled. It

was a convivial, chatty group, until finally Steve Benthall said, “Let’s quiet down and let the rabbi start the service.”

We listened. We sang. We recited. We enjoyed seeing and interacting with each other, virtually. After several weeks of a shuttered shul, we rejoiced in celebrating Shabbat together. It was a fun, spirited and communal event, followed similarly the following morning at 9:30.

Admittedly, a few warts and wrinkles — no prayer books, many of us relying on familiar passages and songs committed to memory, some background noise, some inconsistencies among the laptops, desktops, phones and tablets — but, as Rabbi Gadi pointed out, “The virus that would separate us, has brought us together. Welcome to the future.”

Joining Rabbi Gadi at the first online Shabbat service at our shul were Steve Benthall, Andrea Blaga, Sara Bloom, Tom Byrne and Veronica Kaliski, Alan and Rochelle Garmise, Miriam Gabriel and Adrienne Greenberg, Roberta Garris, Ann Hurwitz, Miriam Kaplan, Bill Packard, Joanna Paulsen, Deborah Pittorino, Susan and Saul Rosenstreich, Madelyn Rothman, Sally (a guest), Carol Seigel, Michael and Cookie Slade, Irma Strimban, and Judy Weiner. The verdict: Remarkable!

Once again, on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, and until it is safe for us to reconvene in our own sanctuary, Rabbi Gadi will host the second series of online Shabbat services at Congregation Tifereth Israel. To join, check your email for instructions, or call Andrea at the shul, 631-477-0232 or email her at ctigreenport@gmail.com/.

With health and safety of prime concern since the potential spread of the coronavirus has shuttered schools, businesses and even our shul, Zoom and similar programs are maintaining connections vital to business and individual wellbeing. In addition to Shabbat services, the shul plans to use the program to arrange board and congregation meetings, committee meetings, and other ways to keep in touch with members...such as the shul’s new Shul Schmooze column.

Shul Schmooze

Coming soon to your email inbox is the first issue of a new shul publication. Please welcome Shul Schmooze. Nu, nu, what’s that all about?

Shul Schmooze is a new online column for shul members, who are invited to contribute to the column — maybe a poem, a joke, a recipe, a photo, or just a message that you are here, saying “Hello” to everyone out there. The idea behind Shul Schmooze is to provide an antidote to the social distancing, self-quarantine, isolation and aloneness many of us may be feeling in this time of coronavirus.

Like other new technological developments initiated in March, Shul Schmooze is the brainchild of shul member Judith Weiner and our office assistant, Andrea Blaga. Email your contributions to the column by contacting Andrea at ctigreenport@gmail.com/. What’s going on with you? Let’s schmooze.

Want To Pay Shul Fees Online With A Credit Card? Now You Can

For years — yes, years — members and friends of the shul have been asking, “Do you take credit cards?” Well, no — not until now. Thanks to the efforts of Financial Secretary Judith Weiner, who initiated the new system with the support of the shul’s Board of Directors and the help of our office assistant, Andrea Blaga, those interested now have the option to pay online with a credit card. This means that membership dues, tickets to shul events, and charitable and memorial donations, for instance, are more easily dispatched. Payments by check are still welcome, of course.

Here’s how to do it. Two new tabs on the shul’s website (tiferethisraelgreenport.org) can facilitate secure credit card payments. Prospective members can click on the “Become a

Member” tab at the top of the home page, fill out the form, type in a credit card number, and click “submit.” To make a contribution, visit the website, and click on the “Donate” tab, fill out the form that details the reason for your donation, type in your credit card number, and click “submit.” Online payments are easy, efficient, and a savings of 55 cents for first-class postage.

The shul’s popular website welcomes many visitors each month, including members, friends, friends of friends, and vacationers seeking to observe Shabbat and ritual holidays. We hope all will find the new “Donate” and “Become a Member” tabs timely conveniences.

A New Passover Experience: You Are Invited To Zoom In



It’s a first for our shul: a Zoom Seder. Following the success of our first Zoom Shabbat (see page 5), we’re looking forward to our first Zoom Seders. As you already know, owing to the continuing spread of the Coronavirus, shul president Susan Rosenstreich and her board of directors made a wise decision to cancel the ecumenical Seder for GEM (Greenport Ecumenical Ministry) members and parishioners, as well as the two Passover

Seders that had been planned at our shul. But to help us continue the tradition of our families and friends joining together to welcome the Passover holiday, you are invited to Zoom in for one or both Seders on Wednesday and Thursday, April 8 and 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Gadi Capela will lead the ceremonial portion of the Seders. The Haggadah to be used by the rabbi will be emailed to all participants in advance of the Seders.

To fully enjoy the experience, it is recommended you have a cup of wine and your own Seder plate at hand with your Zoom-ready electronic device (computer, phone or tablet). For instructions on readying your device, you can contact Andrea Blaga at the shul.

The significance of the Passover Seder

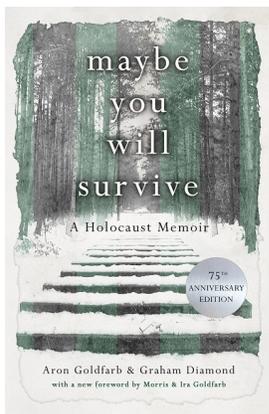
This year, Passover begins just two days before the Christian holiday of Good Friday, which falls on April 10. This concurrence adds significance for some observers of both faiths; the night before Jesus was crucified by the Romans, his last meal was a Seder.

The ceremonial portion of the Passover observance retells the story of the Exodus in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Jews throughout the world have celebrated Passover for more than 3,000 years, and yet the story of religious freedom is as meaningful today as it was during the time of the Pharaohs.

Reading the Haggadah, whether via Zoom or in the quiet of one’s home, can be spiritually uplifting. The Haggadah tells the story, explains the symbols, addresses the issue of slavery, reflects on the beauty of freedom, and expresses gratitude to God for life’s many blessings. Among the symbolic foods called for in the Haggadah are haroset to symbolize the mortar the Jewish slaves made for bricks in Egypt; matza to remind us of the hastily prepared, unrisen bread made by the Jews as they fled Egypt across the desert; a roasted lamb bone that represents the sacrifice that spared the Jewish children from God’s plague; and saltwater and horseradish which represent tears shed by enslaved people and the bitterness of captivity. But with parsley and eggs, we celebrate rebirth and hope for the future.

Please let the shul know your plans. Email Andrea at ctigreenport@gmail.com with your email address, and number of those who will be Zooming in for the first and second Seders. Your donation of from \$5 to \$25 will be appreciated. May we be together at a Passover Seder this year and next — at our shul or by Zooming in.

Shul Member's Holocaust Book Reissued On 75th Liberation Year



Lume Books, London, has reissued a memoir by Aron Goldfarb, as told to shul member Graham Diamond, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. In a new foreword, the anniversary edition includes reflections on Goldfarb's life and legacy from his sons, Morris and Ira.

Maybe You Will Survive tells the story of 15-year-old Aron Goldfarb's escape from the Holocaust after the Nazis invaded his home in Poland. Not only was he able to escape from his imprisonment in Pionki labor camp, but he and his brother then overcame unbelievable odds to survive seven grueling months hidden together in self-made, underground bunkers until the end of the war — directly under the noses of the SS

officers who were hunting them.

"Working on the project with Aron Goldfarb was an experience I'll never forget," Graham Diamond said. "I taped Aron and took copious notes. Tears came to Aron's eyes as he spoke about his childhood, his father, his mother, his brothers, his town, his world. My job was to make it come alive, to make him and what he shared as real as possible. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given."

The anniversary edition is due to publish worldwide on April 20.

An Urgent Message From CAST

Shul members responding to the Long-Range Planning Committee's recent survey indicated a desire for greater involvement in CAST (Community Action Southold Town). Many of us regularly donate clothing, household items, food, etc. for distribution to those in need.

How else can we help? Shul president Susan Rosenstreich and shul member Veronica Kaliski recently met with Cathy Demeroto, executive director of the organization, and a number of ideas were suggested. One of those ideas requires immediate attention, and all of us can help.

CAST clients are in great need of personal care items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, deodorant (for men and women), shampoo and hair conditioner, feminine hygiene products, baby diapers and baby wipes, razors and shaving cream, toilet tissue and facial tissues, paper towels and napkins, personal soaps and laundry detergent, Band-Aids and topical disinfectant. Please place your donations in the "Personal items for CAST" basket in the shul's vestibule.

Other opportunities to help the CAST mission will be announced soon, but this need is critical. Please join us in this Congregation effort. For more information, call the shul at 631-477-0232 and leave a message for the president.

Gift Shop Stocks New Seder Plates and Fun Matza Aprons And Sets



Hold on to your yarmulkes, the first Passover Seder is on Wednesday, April 8. For those brave souls making Seder at home, the shul's Gift Shop has attractive new Seder plates to accommodate the ceremonial dishes, one of them with a matching matza plate. The set would make a lovely addition to your Seder table, or a meaningful gift for your host.

The Gift Shop has also stocked those fun Passover aprons in a matza pattern. Whether you choose the apron alone or the set that includes an apron, pot holder and oven mitt, your gift will amuse and delight your Seder host, or add to the festivities in your own home.

For these and other Judaica items, call the shul at 631-477-0232 and leave a message for Sara Bloom.

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Oculus: Eye On Art

This month's Oculus selection is a sculpture, titled "Samurai," by Graham Diamond, a member of the shul's Judaism and Art group. The medium is buff clay that has been glazed and twice fired. The artist has acknowledged a particular interest in Japanese culture, philosophy, history and the centuries-long military influence of the Samurai warriors. Samurai, Diamond said, known particularly for their courage and expertise with weapons, were also educated, cultured, and often were writers and artists, such as this Samurai, who is holding a brush.

Photo by Graham Diamond

Holocaust Film ‘Persian Lessons’ To be Released in The U.S.

The distribution and production company Cohen Media Group has acquired North American rights to the Holocaust-era drama “Persian Lessons” and plans to release the film in late 2020, according to an article in *Variety*.

Set in 1942, the film is about a Belgian Jew in a German concentration camp who claims to be Persian to avoid being executed. The prisoner tries to save himself by agreeing to teach Farsi, a language he does not know and subsequently makes up, to a Nazi officer who hopes to open a restaurant in Iran after the war.

The film, based on the story “Erfindung Einer Sprache” by Wolfgang Kohlhaase, was first written in Russian, then translated into English and eventually into German. The film had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival on Feb. 22.

The Dairy Restaurant: A Milekhdikey Story For Fressers



Here’s hoping the book is as good as the review. Ever on the lookout for a fun read for *Shofar* readers, what should appear in a recent Dwight Garner review in *The New York Times* but Ben Katchor’s *The Dairy Restaurant*.

Katchor’s new book is a love song to the American dairy restaurant that flourished in the Lower East Side in the late 1800’s. Here, Katchor offers descriptions of the milekhdikey cuisine and an homage to potato knishes, borscht, cheese kreplekh, kasha varnishkes, pirogen, blintzes, and poppy seed cakes. While the restaurants have mostly vanished, their cultural and culinary history have not. As part of the fun, Katchor lists the famous and infamous who frequented these establishments, such as, yes, Leon Trotsky

for one, also Edward G. Robinson, Franz Kafka, Emma Goldman, Theodore Bikel, Arthur Miller, Bert Lahr, Frank Zappa, Leonard Bernstein, and blacklisted screenwriters who came to salve their souls.

\$5.4 Million To Pittsburgh Synagogue Families And Others

The \$5.45 million that has been donated to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh following the October 2018 shooting that killed 11 worshippers — the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history — will be given to survivors, first responders, congregations and families of the victims.

The victims’ families will receive more than \$3 million; those who were in the building during the shooting and survived will get \$215,162; and those who were on the premises will be given \$23,905. About \$1.3 million will be allocated towards rebuilding or restoring the synagogue. Two of the congregations in the building, Dor Hadash and New Light, will each receive more than \$240,000. Another \$200,000 will be given in honor of the first responders, and about \$234,000 will be donated towards memorialization.

An independent panel determined how the donations from around the world should be allocated. “No amount of money can fully compensate for loss of life, serious wounds, and congregation damage,” the panel said in its report. Nevertheless, the panel said “...it hopes that these payments will serve as a comforting reminder of the expression of compassion that came from thousands of people around the world.”



The world's largest library — the Library of Congress in Washington, DC — will house a version of the Talmud, translated from Hebrew to English by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz. The religious work entered the library in a March 5 ceremony. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) noted that Rabbi Steinsaltz “is the first person since Medieval times to have completed a full translation and commentary on the Babylonian Talmud.” Pictured, Rabbi Menachem Even-Israel, the son of Rabbi Steinsaltz, presents the first volume of the Steinsaltz Talmud to Rep. Engel. Photo: The Aleph Society

• JEWS IN THE NEWS •

Natan Sharansky

The Genesis Prize Foundation has announced Israeli politician and human rights activist Natan Sharansky will be honored as the 2020 laureate. Hollywood couple Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones will co-host the Genesis Prize ceremony in Jerusalem on June 18, at Jerusalem's International Convention Center.

The foundation is also planning to honor Michael Douglas's father, Kirk Douglas, who died Feb. 5. “We are honored to have the opportunity to host the ceremony honoring a true Jewish hero, Natan Sharansky,” Michael Douglas said in a statement. “Coming to Jerusalem is also important for our family as a way to honor the memory of my father. He adored Israel and had a special connection to Jerusalem. His Jewish faith and passion for his heritage have been guiding lights for me, passed down to my children.”

The Genesis prize honors “extraordinary individuals for their outstanding professional achievements, contributions to humanity, commitment to Jewish values and Israel.” Michael Douglas was awarded the \$1 million Genesis Prize in 2015.

Woody Allen

A memoir by Woody Allen was canceled by the Hachette Book Group after approximately 75 staff members staged a walk-out protest. The protest came after Ronan Farrow, Allen's son with Mia Farrow, cut ties with the publisher over its decision to publish Allen, who has for years

faced allegations from Dylan Farrow, his daughter with Mia Farrow and sister of Ronan Farrow that he sexually abused her when she was seven.

The memoir, titled *A Propos of Nothing*, originally scheduled for sale in April 2020, is an account of Woody Allen's personal life and also his professional life. All rights have been returned to the author.



You may not know the name Nasrin Kadri, but if you follow pop music at all, you will. In an opinion piece by Matti Friedman for *The New York Times*, he wrote, "Who is the ultimate Israeli of 2020, the personification of the country's soul? The correct answer is Nasrin Kadri, an apparition in a glittering crystal minidress rising from beneath the stage to as burst of strobes and smoke and 9,000 teenagers shrieking "Nasreeeen!" at a concert in Tel Aviv. She is an Arab girl from Nazareth, a Muslim who converted to Judaism, claimed and adored by both cultures as a once-in-a-generation talent, a singer of Mizrahi pop, and the acknowledged queen of the Israeli pop scene. Photo: Dan Balilty, *New York Times*.

Harvey Weinstein

Harvey Weinstein was convicted Feb. 24 at his sexual assault trial, found guilty of a criminal sex act at his apartment in 2006, and third-degree rape of a woman in 2013. The jury found him not guilty on the most serious charge, predatory sexual assault, that could have resulted in a life sentence. The verdict followed weeks of often harrowing and excruciatingly graphic testimony from a string of accusers, who told of rapes, forced oral sex, groping, masturbation, and lewd propositions. The conviction was seen as a long-overdue reckoning for Weinstein after years of whispers about his behavior that gave rise to #MeToo, the global movement to encourage women to come forward and hold powerful men accountable for their sexual misconduct. The jury of seven men and five women took five days to find him guilty.

The New York Times and *The New Yorker* exposed his alleged misconduct in stories that would win the Pulitzer Prize.

On March 11, Weinstein was sentenced to 20 years for criminal sexual act in the first degree and three years for rape in the third degree against two women in New York, the sentences to be served consecutively. He was also sentenced to 10 years of post-release supervision for both charges.

Weinstein also faces charges in Los Angeles, where allegations against him came from more than 90 women, including actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek and Uma Thurman.

Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis

Mathematicians Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis share this year's Abel Prize, the mathematics equivalent of a Nobel. Furstenberg, 84, of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Margulis, 74, of Yale University, are retired professors.

The citation for the prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, lauds the two mathematicians "for pioneering the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics." The two will split the award money of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner, or more than \$700,000.

This year's Abel winners were trailblazers. François Labourie, a mathematician at the University of Côte d'Azur in France who served on the Abel committee, said that most mathematicians in the middle of the 20th century did not think much of probability, which was at the bottom in the hierarchy of mathematics, below number theory, algebra and differential geometry. "But Dr. Furstenberg and Dr. Margulis found ways to show how its methods could solve abstract problems," Dr. Labourie said. "They were some of the first persons to show that probabilistic methods are central to mathematics."

Lizabeth Cohen

Lizabeth Cohen, the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies at Harvard University, has won the Bancroft Prize in American history and diplomacy. The 2020 honor is for her book, *Saving America's Cities: Ed Logue and the Struggle to Renew Urban America in the Suburban Age*.

Cohen's work, published in October by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, probes the life of Yale-educated lawyer Ed Logue, whose career as a city planner helped reshape and revive a number of declining American cities, including Boston, New Haven, and New York in the decades after WWII. This is Cohen's second Bancroft Prize.

Bancroft winners are judged by the "scope, depth of research, and richness of interpretation they present," according to a statement by Columbia University, which administers the prize, which includes an award of \$10,000.

• OBITUARIES •

Philip Leder

Philip Leder, a biologist who helped decipher the genetic code and discovered a genetic cause of cancer, died Feb. 2 at his home in Chestnut Hill, MA. He was 85.

Dr. Leder helped accomplish the final step in deciphering the genetic code early in his career. He went on to help unravel the genetic mechanisms behind the great diversity of antibody molecules. He then discovered that the mismanagement of a gene that guides the growth of cells was a major cause of cancer.

In an interview for a 1994 book, *The God I Believe In: Conversations About Judaism*, the author, Joshua O. Haberman, asked him if he believed in the hope of a Messiah. Dr. Leder replied, "I do have faith that, as we come to understand ourselves more as beings, as individuals, as genetically programmed organisms, this knowledge will contribute to bettering the human condition. That's my Messianic faith, in a way."

Lawrence Tesler

Lawrence Tesler, a pioneering computer scientist who helped make it easier for users to interact with computers, whether cutting and pasting text or selecting text by dragging a cursor through it, died Feb. 23 at his home in Portola Valley, CA. He was 74.

Mr. Tesler worked at a number of Silicon Valley's most important companies, including Apple under Steve Jobs. But it was as a young researcher for Xerox at its Palo Alto Research Center in the 1970s that he did his most significant work: helping to develop today's style of computer interaction based on a graphical desktop metaphor and a mouse. Mr. Tesler was passionate about simplifying interaction with computers, the *New York Times* said.

Michael Hertz

Michael Hertz, the graphic designer who helped make the New York City subway system legible for more than four million riders a day, died Feb. 18, at Nassau University Medical Center. He was 87.

In 1979, Hertz's firm, Michael Hertz Associates, debuted a new map for the New York City subway. The map replaced Italian artist Massimo Vignelli's abstract design from 1972, which was seen to have sacrificed accuracy for aesthetics, and prompted a flood of complaints from straphangers. Hertz and his team's answer was to orient the map around recognizable landmarks like Central Park, and evoke the real geography and neighborhoods of the five boroughs.

While Hertz's firm's design has undergone revisions since 1979, including by Hertz himself in 1998, the template remains in place. "All New Yorkers carry some image of Mike's subway map in their heads," said Chuck Gordanier, the chief of marketing and advertising for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

James Lipton

James Lipton, who as host of the Bravo series, "Inside the Actors Studio," delighted television audiences with his perceptive interviews with celebrity actors, died March 2 at his home in Manhattan. He was 93.

Mr. Lipton was a knowledgeable interviewer, who focused on craft while avoiding gossip, winning the trust of his famous guests as well as an international audience. During his 23-season run, the show became a coveted stop for writers, directors and performers, who would give some of their longest and most unguarded interviews to Mr. Lipton. Among the 275 or so

stars he interviewed were Alex Baldwin, Neil Simon, Sally Field, Dennis Hopper, Sidney Lumet and so many others.

Famously, he completed each episode by asking his guests a series of questions employed by the French television host Bernard Pivot — What is your favorite curse word? What is your favorite word? What is the profession you wouldn't have wanted to practice? If God exists, what would you like to hear him say upon your arrival at heaven's door? For some, it was a favorite part of the show.

Editor's note: Some years ago, returning from a Thanksgiving dinner at our niece's house in Connecticut, we spotted James Lipton aboard the Bridgeport to Port Jefferson ferry. As huge fans of his program, we struck up a conversation with him, about his program, the state of theater in general, and the actors who make it live. The conversation was memorable on many levels, particularly his keen understanding of his interviewees as well as his audience. He said he felt that the popularity of his program was not that he interviewed famous people, but that famous people were also just people, and truly wanted to reveal that about themselves. It was that aspect of the interview that most engaged him as well as his audience, he said.

Speaking personally regarding the Bernard Pivot question about a favorite word, the best response, without question, was given by Paul Newman. While most of Mr. Lipton's guests were suggesting words like, "peace," "beautiful," "love," and the like, Paul Newman broke up the audience as well as James Lipton. His favorite word? "Lunch." (SMB)

Eva Szekely

Eva Szekely, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who later became an Olympics multiple award-winning swimmer, died Feb. 29. She was 92.

Fascist militants in Hungary took her away at age 17 and put her into a labor camp. She escaped by jumping onto a passing streetcar during a forced march through the city. She returned to her family, who were living in a two-room safe house, where she remained until liberated.

Throughout her career Szekely broke six world records, won 44 national titles, took home a gold in the 200-meter breaststroke at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, and earned a silver in the same race at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

In 2004, Szekely was named one of Hungary's "Athletes of the Nation."

Alan Turner

Alan Turner, who drew on Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism in acclaimed paintings and drawings that could be humorous, disturbing or poignant, died Feb. 8 at his loft in Lower Manhattan. He was 76.

Mr. Turner's art was widely exhibited and wide ranging. In the late 1970s, he produced mesmerizing paintings of trees. Then came works featuring humanoid figures and faces, with body parts distorted or bizarrely placed. In recent years, spurred by cardboard shelters in the homeless encampments along the Tiber River that he saw on his frequent trips to Rome, he developed a series, mostly in graphite, that explored boxes that harbor people, pets or even memories.

In an interview with Dan Nadel, who curated a Parker Gallery show of his works and interviewed him for the catalogue in 2017, Mr. Turner said that unconscious and barely conscious influences went into creating his art, and into appreciating it.

Elinor Ross

Elinor Ross, born Elinor Marilyn Rosenthal, a soprano who made a dramatic Metropolitan Opera debut in 1970 as a last-minute replacement in the title role of “Turandot,” died March 6 in Manhattan. She was 93.

After a performance of “Aida,” she awoke the next day with a condition called Bell’s Palsy — a paralysis of the muscles in the face — which curtailed her career. After her illness struck, Ms. Ross had surgery and eventually was able to give occasional concerts.

• **COMMEMORATIONS** •

Yahrzeits In April

- 2: Irwin Seigel; Harvey Simpson
- 3: Ethel Kahn
- 7: Zelig Kaplan
- 8: Louis Kelbick; Frances Meshover; Hana Shaw
- 9: Mervin J. Goldin; Anna Katz
- 10: Dorothea Serrane
- 11: Herman Ballen
- 12: Yafa L. Melamud; Sasha Victory
- 13: Bertram Feinberg; Joseph Lipman
- 14: Benjamin Forman; Rose Levinson Goldsmith; Irving Levin
- 15: Edward Moch
- 17: Ella Bush Lipton; Milton Reece
- 18: Miny Bloch; William Pittorino; Getzel Shaw
- 19: Bess Fineberg; Florence Cohen; Raphael Owen Hurwitz; Barney Kaplan
- 20: Joanna Lieberthal; Harold Reisman
- 21: Samuel Joseph Glickman; Joseph Nelson Finkelstein
- 22: Carole Feinberg
- 23: Paula Kampler; Essie Levine
- 24: Caryn Foster; Minnie Schlefstein; Regina Sturmdorf
- 25: I. Jack Lewis; Israel Schlefstein
- 26: Pauline Friedman
- 27: Jennie Fineberg; Nathaniel Harris
- 28: William Brown; Tena R. Rubinsky
- 29: Arie L. Melamud; Joyce Vinson
- 30: Robert Doss; Muriel Kaplan; Robert I. Kaplan; Howard Katzenberg;
Beatrice Lipman; Gus Mouzakitis

Birthdays in April

- 8: Eric Friedmann
- 9: Jennifer Morris
- 15: Mimi Bloom; Seymour Britzman; Carol Ingall
- 20: Helen Weinstein
- 26: Isaac Kaplan
- 28: Thelma Novick; Adam Weinstein
- 30: Susan Meshover

An Anniversary in April

6: Paul and Pamela Birman

Refuah Shlemah

Jane Sachs
Jody Levin
Philip Goldman
Paul Birman
Thelma Novick
Sy Britzman

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.

• MONEY MATTERS •

Donations in March

Philip and Elaine Goldman
David Berson
Alan and Rochelle Garmise
Lawrence Levy
Harold and Peninah Neimark
Drs. Saul and Susan Rosenstreich
Sylvia Pafenyk
Sara Bloom
Stephan Brumberg and Carol Ingall
Martin Ehrenreich
Jeffrey and Michelle Hettleman
Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, and Gayle Kaplan
Stanley and Roberta Kaplan
Harry and Ana Katz
Thelma Novick
Joan Prager
Southold Gardens Property Owners Association
Miriam Gabriel

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.
- **Marshall S. Hurwitz Fund for Special Programs and Projects:** supports cultural endeavors for the shul and community.

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 death, 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, Bar/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

<u>Commemoratives</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</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	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 Paul Nadel: 631-734-8519

Board of Directors

Susan Rosenstreich: President

Madelyn Rothman: Vice President

Alan Garmise: Treasurer

Judith Weiner: Financial Secretary

Sara Bloom: Recording Secretary

Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary

Hedvah Campeas-Cohen, Martin Ehrenreich; Miriam Gabriel: Members at Large

Adrienne Greenberg: Sisterhood Representative

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

The Sisterhood

Adrienne Greenberg: President

Joanna Paulsen: Vice President

Roberta Garris: Secretary; Eileen Santora: Treasurer

The Men's Club

Z. Micah Kaplan, MD: President

Jesse Reece: Vice President

Philip Goldman: Treasurer

The Shofar

Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

Shul Committees

Andrew Levin Park

Sy Brittman, caretaker

Adrienne Greenberg, Veronica Kaliski

Advertising

Alan Garmise, chair

Audio-Visual

Phil Goldman, chair
Adrienne Greenberg

Beautification/Building and Grounds

Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, chair
Miriam Gabriel, Phil Goldman, Adrienne Greenberg, Jesse Reece

Bylaws

Joanna Paulsen, chair
Alan Garmise, Phil Goldman, Adrienne Greenberg

Calendar

Elaine Goldman, chair

E-Communications/Website

Andrea Blaga

Education

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Miriam Gabriel, Ann Hurwitz, Madelyn Rothman, Paula Shengold,
Irma Strimban

Finance

Judith Weiner, chair
Alan Garmise, Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, Joan Prager, Corinne Slade, Nancy Torchio

Fundraising:

Judith Weiner, chair
Alan Garmise, Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, Susan Rosenstreich, Sherry Shaw, Nancy Torchio

Garden

Adrienne Greenberg, chair
Veronica Kaliski

Gift Shop

Sara Bloom, chair

Information Technology

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

Journal Dinner-Dance

Madelyn Rothman, chair
Sara Bloom, Tom Byrne and Veronica Kaliski, Graham Diamond, Elaine Goldman,
Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, and Gayle Kaplan, Joanna Paulsen, Judith Weiner

Judaism and Art

Saul Rosenstreich, chair
Rabbi Gadi Capela, Roberta Garris, Phil Goldman, June Shatkin, Corinne Slade, Irma
Strimban, Dan Torchio, Judith Weiner

Long Range Planning:

Alan Garmise, chair
Miriam Gabriel, Adrienne Greenberg, Judith Weiner

Membership

Phil Goldman, chair

Nominating

TBA

Pastoral

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

Plaques

Adrienne Greenberg

Public Relations

Alan Garmise, chair

Sara Bloom

Ritual

Phil Goldman, chair

Rabbi Gadi Capela, Alan Garmise, Adrienne Greenberg, Sherry Shaw

Security:

Phil Goldman, chair

Miriam Gabriel, Z. Micah Kaplan, MD, Paul Nadel, Joan Prager, Nancy Torchio,

Judith Weiner

Telephone/Sunshine

Thelma Novick, chair

Yahrzeits:

Miriam Gabriel, chair

Shul president Susan Rosenstreich is an ex officio member of all shul committees.