



CONGREGATION  
TIFERETH ISRAEL  
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# The Shofar

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Affiliated With The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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## • CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

### *Shabbat and Holiday Services (on Zoom; in-person by reservation)*

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

Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor in 2022: April 23 (Passover); June 6 (Shavuot); Oct. 5 (Yom Kippur); Oct. 17 (Shemini Atzeret)

### *Learning at our Shul*

Mondays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31: Hebrew Class, 5 p.m.

### *Shul Events*

Sunday, Jan. 2: JTS Course "Beyond Dispute" debuts, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., on Zoom

Monday, Jan. 3: Ritual Committee, at 10 a.m. (changed to first Monday of each month only); on Zoom

Monday, Jan. 3: Lunch and Learn; welcome guest presenter Warren Goldstein, Zoom at noon

Sunday, Jan. 16: Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., on Zoom

Sunday, Jan. 16, at sundown, to Monday, Jan. 17, at sundown: Tu B'Shevat

Monday, Jan. 17: A special Lunch and Learn for January: Tu B'Shevat Seder, noon, on Zoom

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Book Circle, 2 p.m., on Zoom

### *Lighting Shabbat Candles in January*

Jan. 7: 4:27   Jan. 14: 4:34   Jan. 21: 4:42   Jan. 28: 4:50

### *Dates to Remember*

Saturday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, Jan. 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Deadline for the February 2022 issue of *The Shofar* is January 20

## From The Rabbi...



### “Boostering a Conversation”

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This African proverb is one of my favorites because it speaks to all of us — families, communities, and countries. It tells us that it takes slowing down to stay together. To wait for the stragglers behind. When the Israelites left Egypt, the stragglers behind were attacked by the Amalekites. Moses and the Israelite camp fought fiercely to defend them and keep them within the camp. They were part of the community.

Slowing down during Covid months provided us an opportunity to reconnect with those with whom we dwell. But when we look at our country today, we face the same choice as in the African proverb. The race to develop the Covid-19 vaccine and to administer it as widely as possible left many people straggling behind, people who are not vaccinated for various reasons. Do we go fast and leave the stragglers, or do we take more time for an explanation, a conversation?

Why are so many vaccine resistant? Some people have real fears and phobias, others religious or political reasons. In the past, vaccines did not seem to raise this much resistance. But this is a new situation within a bigger, unprecedented global episode. We have to recognize it as such, and give room for people to ask questions and decide for themselves. Science is not perfect, and the vaccine is not divine.

Of course, we must exercise social responsibility. Success will be measured by the number of people protected and healthy. Healthy in body and spirit. Healthy mentally and healthy members of society. Mental and spiritual health is primary in Jewish practice. A good example is the issue of abortion. If the fetus threatens the life of the mother, physically or mentally, it is aborted. Similarly, when we recite the Mi-Sheberach prayer for healing, we pray for the spirit and the body. However, in the current debate regarding vaccination, the mental and spiritual aspects seem to be secondary. Naturally, the public square cannot remain silent, but I’m worried about the current conversation, and the seeming imbalance between corporal and spiritual.

How do we then treat people who disagree with us? As Psalm 81 says, God tests us in our conflicts. We can apply pressure on others to comply, as has been done throughout history. If we were to freeze in place at this moment in history, would we find ourselves duplicating scenes in paintings of past wars, like “The Battle of San Romano” by the Florentine painter Paolo Uccello, with bloody bodies and daggered horses all around? Would we look around when it’s all over and see the tearing of families and friendships?

In some cases around the world, dealing with the virus has resulted in taking away fundamental human rights. Although forced vaccination stopped with the Nuremberg Codes, societies can still mandate vaccination in many ways. In Australia, for instance, people are being sent to camps for noncompliance. Recently in Israel, one of the ministers proposed that nonvaccinated people be required to wear a special bracelet. This should ring a bell — the bell of liberty.

A healthy conversation is a Jewish mandate. The two Cherubs on top of the Ark of the Covenant are positioned to face each other, and God speaks from between them. Likewise, the word Messiah in Hebrew — Mashiach — can be read as Masiach, which means “from a conversation.” Healing the conversation is as important as curing the virus.

So, if we want to go far, we need to go together. We may need to slow down, so that when we get to the other side, we are still together with our family, friends, and neighbors who may seem to us as straggling behind. In our effort to create herd immunity, let’s beware of herd mentality. In the process of boosting ourselves against the virus, let’s make sure to always keep boosting our conversations.

Happy and peaceful New Year.

—Rabbi Gadi Capela

*[The Shofar welcomes letters from readers expressing supporting or opposing points of view in response to the rabbi's call for a conversation. Submit to [sarabloom4@gmail.com](mailto:sarabloom4@gmail.com)/.]*

## From The President...



### “The Wave of Connections”

The U.S. is being hit by the fourth wave of coronavirus infections. The Omicron variant is so transmissible that we are now on the “red list” of countries with travel restrictions. Locally, we are getting anxious and hunkering down again after a cautious, albeit brief emergence. I see a startling parallel now to our past pandemic responses as a shul community, but this time we are better prepared.

Our wave of connections is already established. Our foundation is in place. We have the technology to help us move forward: The confidence that comes with our award-winning programming; the success of our three 2021 fundraisers — the online auction, the virtual journal and the High Holiday Matching Gift Campaign — that all exceeded goals; and our new wide-angle view of our spiritual sanctuary as well as our secular world.

We are continuing to build content and community, and our spirit through this contemporary lens is riding high on a wave of established connections. That became eminently clear to me during our final Congregation meeting of 2021, where our efforts to mix the emotional with the intellectual and spiritual needs of our community were showcased in new initiatives: “Beyond Dispute,” our new JTS course facilitated by Rabbi Gadi; the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Project; and the Shehecheyanu Curtain, our communal response to the pandemic displayed in the social hall

I see a generous spirit and sense of well-being accompanied by the comfort of familiarity now emanating from our various shul gatherings. What we have done and what we are doing now as a synagogue capture well our collective experience. That is our success and our legacy.

— Judith K. Weiner

## • A LETTER TO THE EDITORS •

### TO THE EDITORS:

Our shul’s Sisterhood and Men’s Club are co-sponsoring the Yellow Candle Project to commemorate Yom HaShoah. Each family in our congregation will receive a yellow candle to light at home on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. Knowing that Jews worldwide are lighting candles at the same time can be a moving experience of remembrance.

The Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Project was initiated in North America in 1980 by the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs in cooperation with the Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism. Participation has increased each year to its now global reach. We are hoping the participation of Congregation Tifereth Israel will become an annual event.

Candles will be delivered to members who live locally, and mailed to all others, early in April so that we can light our candles together, perhaps on Zoom. The candle packages will include a prayer to recite, a letter from Rabbi Gadi, a letter from the Sisterhood and Men’s Club, and the name of a Holocaust survivor. There is no charge for the candle; all voluntary contributions will be donated to The Blue Card organization that supports Holocaust survivors, many who struggle to afford adequate food and healthcare.

We invite all shul members to join us in this meaningful project of togetherness and remembrance.

—Adrienne Greenberg, president of the Sisterhood

—Tom Byrne, president of the Men’s Club

## • SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

### **Covid Variant Omicron Escalates; Shul Limits Sanctuary Attendance**

Moving quickly to protect members from Omicron, the Covid variant now escalating in Suffolk County, the shul's Board of Directors has agreed to keep the synagogue open but is limiting in-person sanctuary attendance for all services and events to 5 people. In this way, streaming on Zoom will continue to offer worshippers the sacred backdrop of our sanctuary with Rabbi Gadi in the pulpit without exposing our vulnerable population to the risk of disease. The new restriction went into effect for Shabbat services on Friday, Dec. 24, and will continue through Saturday, Feb. 1, at which time the situation will be re-evaluated.

This decision was reached after consultation with medical professionals and after protracted discussion at the Dec. 19 Board of Directors meeting.

Those wishing to attend in person must be vaccinated and masked, and must sign up in advance by emailing our office assistant at [ctigreenport@gmail.com](mailto:ctigreenport@gmail.com)/. You will be notified if space is available. Although Suffolk County is not yet requiring booster shots, they are strongly recommended for in-person participation.

The Board of Directors thanks the congregation for patience as we endeavor to provide meaningful spiritual experiences without risk.

### **Other News From The Dec. 19 Board Of Directors/Congregation Meetings**

At the Dec. 19 Board of Directors and Congregation meetings, the following items were reported:

- Treasurer Alan Garmise reported that 90 participants had contributed to this year's High Holiday Matching Gift campaign. The generosity of members and friends has resulted in a successful campaign that has exceeded the goal, he said, noting that fundraising for the year, which included the JDD virtual silent auction, the JDD virtual journal, and the High Holiday Matchings Gift Campaign, has put the synagogue in a good position to meet its operational expenses and programming needs.
- Susan Rosenstreich, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee, which includes Miriam Gabriel and Rochelle Garmise, will continue to prepare a slate of officers to present to the congregation in May 2022. Voting on the slate will take place at the annual Congregation meeting in June.
- Alan Garmise, chair of the Negotiating Committee, reported that letters of intent to negotiate a contract had been exchanged between Rabbi Gadi Capela and the committee, which includes Sara Bloom and Judith K. Weiner. The rabbi's current contract expires Dec. 31, 2022.
- The president reported that technology updates in the sanctuary have facilitated improved sound and picture quality for those attending services in-person and also on Zoom. The president also reported that she had represented our shul at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's General Assembly meeting.

### **'Lunch and Learn' Continues Jan. 3, And First Monday Of Every Month**

You are invited to Zoom at noon on Monday, Jan. 3, to join guest presenter Warren Goldstein for a thoughtful program based on his personal experiences in an unusual interfaith marriage. Warren Goldstein is the Jewish spouse of the Rev. Donna Schaper, pastor of the Orient Congregational Church. Aspects of his talk will include efforts to honor both religious traditions, the b'nai mitzvot of their children, the religious education of their grandchildren, the family name issue from Luria to Goldstein, and interfaith life today.

Warren Goldstein is professor of history emeritus at the University of Hartford, the author or co-author of six books, and a widely published essayist.

Join Lunch and Learn on the first Monday of every month for programs that inspire and amaze.

[At a special Zoom at noon Lunch and Learn on Monday, Jan. 17, Rabbi Gadi will host a Tu B'Shevat Seder.



## Shul Members And Guests Gather To Welcome Annual Festival Of Lights



On a crisp November night, shul members and guests welcomed Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. At a gathering in the sanctuary, Rabbi Gadi led the congregation in traditional blessings and songs and welcomed families new to the synagogue's membership roster. Then, members and guests walked together east on Front Street to Mitchell Park for the lighting of the public menorah.



Both venues were well attended, with congregants eager to return to the togetherness of the holiday, denied the previous year, owing to the risks of Covid. But this year, with all attendees vaccinated and masked in the sanctuary, Hanukkah revelers were protected.



Fortified with jelly doughnuts (sufganiyot) ordered by Adrienne Greenberg and delivered to the shul by Joanna Paulsen, everyone gathered in the park, where Greenport Mayor George W. Hubbard and shul president Judith K. Weiner welcomed the crowd and joined Rabbi Gadi, who led the lighting ceremony.

Photos documenting the joyous, Nov. 28 events were submitted by Sara Bloom, Adrienne Greenberg, and Ellen Jaffe.

## JTS Course Offered Online Only, Consistent With Limits In Sanctuary

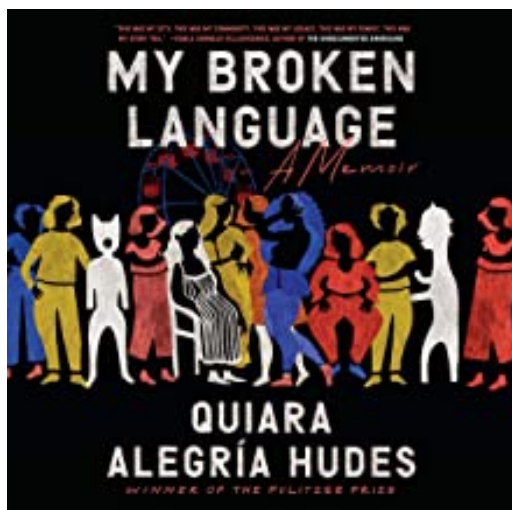
The new JTS course, originally advertised as a hybrid, will be offered now on Zoom only, in keeping with the shul's recently imposed limitation on the number of people allowed in the sanctuary for individual services and events. In fact, most of those who have signed up for the course chose the Zoom option rather than the in-person option, said Ann Hurwitz, administrator of the Marshall S. Hurwitz Fund For Special Programs and Projects, the sponsor of the JTS courses for our shul. Limits on the number of people in the sanctuary at one time were imposed when Covid's Omicron variant surfaced in our area.

"Beyond Dispute: Debates That Shape Jewish Life" will debut on Sunday, Jan. 2, and continue on Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The course, developed by the Jewish Theological Seminary and facilitated by Rabbi Gadi, probes questions at the heart of Jewish life.

The course is programmed for 11 sessions, with a short break after the first five before the remaining sessions are scheduled. Each session will begin with a short video by a JTS faculty member whose experience mirrors the topic. Relevant source materials distributed by JTS to each registered participant (or downloaded) prior to the start of the course will suggest areas for study and discussion.

For questions, email the shul at [ctigreenport@gmail.com](mailto:ctigreenport@gmail.com) and leave a message for Ann Hurwitz.

## Book Circle Explores Memoir Set In A Barrio, By Quiara Alegría Hudes



The Book Circle will meet again on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 2:30 p.m., on Zoom, to discuss *My Broken Language*, a memoir by Quiara Alegría Hudes, which tells a coming-of-age story with her sprawling Puerto Rican family against the backdrop of a Philadelphia barrio. It is a story of home, memory and belonging narrated by a girl who fought to become an artist so she could capture the world she loved in all its wild and delicate beauty.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, whose father is Jewish and her mother Puerto Rican, earlier developed the screenplay for Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*.

The book circle meets monthly to explore works about Jews and by Jewish writers. For information, email the shul at [ctigreenport@gmail.com](mailto:ctigreenport@gmail.com) with a message for Susan Rosenstreich, coordinator of the group.

## Oculus: Eye On The Arts/A Communal Activity

As we reflect on the Covid challenges of the past year, we are reminded of the Shehecheyanu blessing (who has sustained us), the traditional prayer of thanks for bringing us to this moment. In that spirit comes the Shehecheyanu Curtain, a Judaism and the Arts group project to encourage each of us to reflect on our Covid experience and, perhaps, our reordered priorities.

All shul members — from youngsters to seniors — are invited to express their Covid thoughts and observations in paintings, drawings, calligraphy, collage, poetry, storytelling, photography, handwork, etc. Each submission will be displayed on a 20'-by-6' canvas now mounted on the south wall of the community room. This kind of activity, sometimes called mural art, will echo the life of our shul family community. As each submission is mounted on the Shehecheyanu Curtain, a thoughtful picture of our communal response to a global emergency will emerge. The J&A group invites your contributions to the Shehecheyanu Curtain.

For more information, email Saul Rosenstreich at the shul at [ctigreenport@gmail.com](mailto:ctigreenport@gmail.com).

## • FYI FYI FYI •

## At Sundown On Jan. 16, Tu B'Shevat Arrives: What's It All About?



Named for the 15th day of the month of Shevat, the holiday of Tu B'Shevat will arrive this year at sundown on Jan. 16, 2022., and be celebrated until sundown on Jan. 17. The holiday is known as the New Year of the Trees. Although it's hard to believe here in the northeast that we would choose to celebrate trees in the dead of winter. But in the Middle East, it's actually the beginning of spring. The first almond blossoms have opened, and the sap in the trees is beginning to rise. It's traditional, then, at Tu B'Shevat to eat fruits from Israel: figs, dates, grapes, olives and pomegranates, also grains and spices. We also recite the Shehecheyanu (a prayer for experiencing something new) because these delicacies have not been seen here for many months. Tu B'Shevat is seen as a time to celebrate nature and to affirm our relationship to the earth.

So, how should we observe Tu B'Shevat? You might enjoy a brisk walk with friends or family. Or plant a tree, weather permitting, or sow some seeds for a spring crop or to feed the birds who winter here. You might pledge to create a garden come spring, or volunteer to help with gardening at the shul. Last year, on Tu B'Shevat, Rabbi Gadi conducted a traditional Tu B'Shevat seder at a Lunch and Learn Zoom session. We learned through songs, prayers and readings about different aspects of the fruit trees.

However you choose to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, this holiday is an opportunity to savor and appreciate the bounty of this world, and to give thanks for all the ways that trees provide us with food, shelter, beauty, air, and valuable life lessons. —Text excerpted and adapted from a Hillel Foundation publication

## **For International Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Personal Story**

Shul member Elizabeth Senigaglia submitted this story to *The Shofar*. “The story is especially dear to me,” she said. “When we first started sharing stories, Anna and I realized we had the same birth date — but with a huge difference. When I was born, she was 15 years old, and had been in the camp for more than a year.

“The uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto is one of the most well documented acts of Jewish resistance in modern Jewish history. Conversely, an equally significant act of rebellion and, in some ways more heroic, was the revolt of the Sonderkommando (units of Jewish slave laborers forced to burn corpses of gas chamber victims) in Crematorium IV in Birkenau. On Oct. 7, 1944, under a blue and cloudless sky, the most remarkable uprising within a Nazi extermination camp took place when the Sonderkommando succeeded in sabotaging a crematorium and igniting a rebellion.

“I first heard the story in 1980, told to me by my beloved friend and colleague, Anna Rosenthal, an eyewitness to the uprising. Anna was a 14-year-old Jewish girl, born in Preshov, Slovakia, when she was deported to Auschwitz on March 25, 1942. She was part of the first transport of 997 young Jewish girls to be entered into the slave labor force at the recently completed complex of Auschwitz II, known as Birkenau.

“The following narrative represents the way Anna related the events to me. The awareness that it could have been any of us is never far from my thoughts.”

### **Remembering Four heroines of the Auschwitz Sonderkommando Revolt**

On Oct. 7, 1944, the Sonderkommando assigned to Crematorium IV, having learned they were to be killed, revolted against the SS. The uprising was not a spontaneous outburst of anger against the SS, but was a carefully thought-out plan that overcame incredible logistical odds.

The key players were a group of young Jewish women, among them, Ester Wajcblum, Ala Gärtner, and Regina Safirsztain, who for months had been smuggling small amounts of gunpowder from an ammunitions factory within the Auschwitz complex to men and women in the camp's resistance movement. The girls wrapped the gunpowder in bits of cloth or paper, hid the small packages on their bodies, and passed them along the chain to Róza Robota, a leader of the movement. Sonderkommando used the gunpowder to create makeshift bombs and grenades. Preparations came to a head on Oct. 7, when one of the prisoners walked calmly up to a Nazi officer and struck him with a hammer.

Chaos followed. The SS were attacked by prisoners with knives, hammers and explosives. Some prisoners cut the barbed wire, hoping to flee into the woods. Three SS men were killed, another dozen injured. Inevitably, the Nazis crushed the revolt: The escaped men were captured and executed; nearly 250 prisoners died in the fighting, and guards killed an additional 200 once the uprising was suppressed.

Shortly after the event and its aftermath, the SS identified the four women instrumental in supplying the explosives: Ester, Ala, Regina and Róza. Tortured for several weeks, the girls were hanged on Jan. 6, 1945: Two were hanged at the morning roll call, two at evening roll call, in the



women's camp, an example for all to witness. As they were dying, the women shouted "Revenge." Three weeks later, Auschwitz Birkenau was liberated by the advancing Red Army.

"The revolt at Birkenau was born of years of enslavement, degradation, frustration and hopelessness. There was nothing at all to lose. What must be remembered today is the courage of the girls and the dignity of their deaths. They have been memorialized in a monument at Yad Vashem. It is for us, the living, to pass on their story as I had promised Anna I would — so that this, too, will become part of our more than 3,000 years of collective Jewish history."

—Elizabeth Senigaglia

## **An 11-Year-Old Girl Finds Rare 2,000-Year-Old Coin In Jerusalem**



A rare 2,000-year-old coin was found by an 11-year-old girl in Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority said. The coin was likely minted by a priest who had joined the Jewish rebels in the revolt against the Romans, shortly before the Temple was destroyed.

"This is a rare find, since out of many thousands of coins discovered to date in archaeological excavations, only about 30 of those coins are made of silver, from the period of the Great Revolt," said Dr. Robert Kool, head of the IAA Coin Department.

The coin is made of pure silver and weighs about 14 grams. On one side, it features a cup and the inscription "Israeli shekel" and "second year" —

referring to the second year of the revolt (67-68 CE). On the other side, another inscription reads "Holy Jerusalem" in ancient Hebrew script and is accompanied by another word, which according to the experts refers to the headquarters of the High Priest in the Temple.

"When I got to Emek Tzurim, I thought there must be simple coins in the buckets, but I did not think I would find a coin myself, and certainly not such a rare coin from pure silver, said 11-year-old Liel Krutokop from Petah Tikva, who came with her family to do archaeological sifting at the City of David.

## **State Of Pennsylvania Pledges \$6.6 million To Transform Synagogue Site**

The state of Pennsylvania has pledged \$6.6 million toward the redevelopment of Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, where a gunman killed 11 people in 2018 in the nation's deadliest attack on Jews. The state funding will help "transform this site that has been marked by horror...into one full of hope, remembrance and education," Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, said at a news conference with Gov. Tom Wolf.

Tree of Life has already selected architect Daniel Libeskind to redesign the sprawling synagogue complex. Libeskind did the master plan for New York's World Trade Center after the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. The design is still taking shape, but the campus will include a memorial, worship and education spaces, and a wing for the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania's pledge comes from the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

The defendant in the synagogue massacre awaits trial on more than 60 federal charges. Prosecutors are seeking a death sentence for 49-year-old Robert Bowers, who has pleaded not guilty. Authorities say Bowers opened fire during worship services inside the Tree of Life in October 2018, killing eight men and three women and wounding seven others before police tracked him down and shot him. The former truck driver expressed hatred of Jews before and during the rampage, authorities said.



## Obama Presidential Center Will Name Auditorium To Honor Elie Wiesel



The auditorium at the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago will be named after Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, as part of an effort to honor “civil rights and social justice leaders whose significant contributions to society have advanced justice and equality in America,” the Obama Foundation has announced.

In 2009, Obama and Wiesel, accompanied by then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel, visited the Buchenwald concentration camp, where Wiesel was imprisoned during the final months of the

war. The two men shared a warm relationship, the foundation said.

Construction of the center, located in Jackson Park on Chicago’s South Side, began in August 2021.

— Chicago Architecture Center photo

### • JEWS IN THE NEWS •

#### *Michael Steinhardt*

Michael Steinhardt, a billionaire philanthropist for Jewish causes, has agreed to surrender stolen antiquities valued at \$70 million and to never again acquire antiquities, according to an agreement filed Dec. 6 in Manhattan Supreme Court. In return, Steinhardt, co-founder of Birthright, an organization that sends young Jews on free trips to Israel, will not face criminal charges for illegally smuggling the items.

Steinhardt, 81, is not the only billionaire to have faced scrutiny over antiquities trafficking. So too has Steve Green, the evangelical founder of the craft store Hobby Lobby, who amassed 40,000 artifacts from the Middle East for the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Green helped launch the museum and is a major benefactor.

Steinhardt has funded some of the most prestigious Jewish nonprofits. He and Charles Bronfman, a billionaire heir to the Seagram liquor fortune, co-founded Birthright Israel, which has sent more than 700,000 young Jews on free trips to Israel. Steinhardt also financed a network of Hebrew charter schools, and a natural history museum in Tel Aviv that bears his name. A gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is named for him, and he has given millions to New York University, which named its Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development after him.

Steinhardt said in a prepared statement issued by his attorneys that the items “wrongfully taken by others will be returned to their native countries,” The Associated Press reported.

### • OBITUARIES •

*The Shofar* joins the membership in mourning the death of Ricky (Renee) Fenster on Dec. 15, 2021. Ricky will be remembered fondly by many in our congregation as a welcoming presence and the wife of Rabbi Myron Fenster, who served our congregation for several years before he retired from the pulpit.

Condolences may be sent to Rabbi Fenster and family at 2 Reed Drive, Roslyn, NY, 11576.

## ***Stephen Sondheim***

Stephen Sondheim, one of Broadway history's songwriting titans, whose music and lyrics reset the artistic standard for the American stage musical, died Nov. 26 at his home in Roxbury, CT. He was 91.

An intellectually rigorous artist who perpetually sought new creative paths, Mr. Sondheim was the theater's most revered and influential composer-lyricist of the last half of the 20th century. His work melded words and music in a way that enhanced them both, *The New York Times* said. From his earliest successes in the late 1950s, when he wrote the lyrics for "West Side Story" and "Gypsy," through the 1990s, when he wrote the music and lyrics for "Assassins" and "Passion," he was a relentlessly innovative theatrical force.

The first Broadway show for which Mr. Sondheim wrote both the words and music, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," won a Tony Award for best musical and ran for more than two years. In the 1970s and '80s, his most productive period, he turned out a series of strikingly original and varied works, including "Company" (1970), "Follies" (1971), "A Little Night Music" (1973), "Pacific Overtures" (1976), "Sweeney Todd" (1979), "Merrily We Roll Along" (1981), "Sunday in the Park With George" (1984), and "Into the Woods" (1987).

He wrote soliloquies, conversational duets and chatty trios and quartets. For "Night Music," he wrote two sarabands, two mazurkas, a polonaise, an etude and a gigue. Overall he wrote both the music and the lyrics for a dozen Broadway shows, plus compendium revues like "Side by Side by Sondheim," "Putting It Together," and the autobiographical "Sondheim on Sondheim." Five of them won Tony Awards for best musical, and six won for best original score.

In addition to his theater work, Mr. Sondheim wrote occasional music for films. Six cast albums from his shows won Grammy Awards, and "Send In the Clowns" won the Grammy for song of the year in 1975.

## ***Zena Stein***

Dr. Zena Stein, a South African-born epidemiologist whose influential work encompassed the effects of famine on children, the health of entire communities afflicted by poverty, and the impact of the AIDS crisis on women in Africa, died on Nov. 7 at her home in Coatesville, PA. She was 99.

Dr. Stein's research focused closely on Women's health at a time when the bulk of scientific study spotlighted men. She was also well known for her research on child development and on mental illness. She and her husband, Dr. Mervyn Susser, worked as a team and conducted hundreds of studies, many of which shaped the field of epidemiology and community health care. Dr. Stein is listed as the author or co-author of 270 academic articles and several books.

Dr. Stein later turned her attention to the effects of the H.I.V./AIDS crisis on women, who made up a minority of patients and were often overlooked. In 1987, she co-founded the H.I.V. Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University. The center embarked on the first major effort to draw attention to women living with AIDS. It is now one of the largest centers of its kind in the world.

## ***Noah Gordon***

Noah Gordon, an American author whose novels about history, medicine and Jewish identity transformed him into a literary luminary abroad, died on Nov. 22 at his home in Dedham, MA. He was 95.

Mr. Gordon's debut novel, *The Rabbi* (1965), the first of eight novels, dealt with the title character's marriage to a minister's daughter. It made *The New York Times*'s best-seller list for 26 weeks. His work has been published in 38 countries.

"Each morning, I go to my computer in anticipation of the emails I receive from readers in many countries," Mr. Gordon wrote on his website. "I am grateful to every reader for enabling me to spend my life as a scribbler of tales."

## ***Sylvère Lotringer***

Sylvère Lotringer, who popularized French critical theory in the United States, helped inspire the “Matrix” movie series, hosted conferences for counterculture celebrities, lent his name to a character in an acclaimed novel (*I Love Dick* by Chris Kraus) and a television series based on it, provoked rants on Fox News and founded an influential publishing house — all while trying to outrun memories of a childhood spent on the precipice of antisemitic disaster — died Nov. 8 at his home outside Ensenada, Mexico, in Baja California. He was 83.

By background a Parisian Jew and by trade a tenured academic in the Columbia University French department with a specialty in abstruse philosophy, Professor Lotringer somehow charmed his way into a classically American career consisting of successive 15-minute bursts of fame, *The New York Times* said.

## ***Abraham Schumer***

Abraham Schumer, the father of Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) died Nov. 24 in a Long Island hospital after recently undergoing surgery for heart problems. He was 98.

At a news conference, Senator Schumer told the story of his own birth on Thanksgiving Day 1950. “What they used to do in those days — there was none of this spouse in the delivery room, touchy feely — they sent the husbands down to a room; they paced and smoked cigars and waited for the blessed event,” Schumer said, according to the *New York Daily News*. At some point, his father decided to step out of the hospital to watch the Thanksgiving Day Parade, which was happening just a few blocks away. Abraham Schumer didn’t make it back to the hospital until some five hours after the baby was actually born, “creating the first fight my parents had over me,” Schumer said. “They’ve been happily married for 72 years.”

## ***Sylvia Weinstock***



Sylvia Weinstock, who took the art of baking to new heights with her 10-foot-tall wedding cakes and their garlands of hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of handpainted sugar flowers, died Nov. 22 at her home in Manhattan. She was 91.

Mrs. Weinstock was best known for her elaborate wedding cakes, with flowers cascading down over multiple tiers of buttercream frosting. But she also baked novelty cakes in the shape of cars or dogs or other beloved items for birthdays and other special occasions.

Her clientele included Whitney Houston, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, LeBron James, Robert De Niro, Oprah Winfrey, Martha Stewart, the Clintons, the Trumps, and various Kennedys and Kardashians.

## ***Philip Heymann***

Philip B. Heymann, who served four Democratic presidents over six decades, mostly in the Justice Department, and who helped prosecute major investigations including Watergate and the Abscam bribery sting operation, died Nov. 30 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89.

Mr. Heymann served in the Kennedy, Johnson, Carter and Clinton administrations in a series of political appointments. His last role was as deputy attorney general, the second in command, in the Clinton Justice Department under Attorney General Janet Reno.

In a 2019 interview for this obituary, his daughter had asked him what he wanted to be remembered for. “He said, ‘Speaking truth to power,’” she said. “He believed in government service. And even though he held positions of consequence, he saw himself as a civil servant. He believed that we all contribute to our government.”

## ***Susan Rosenblatt***

Susan Rosenblatt, who with her husband and law partner, Stanley Rosenblatt, took on Big Tobacco in a Florida case that seemed an absurd mismatch for their small firm. Yet the result was a \$144.8 billion jury award in favor of people sickened by cigarettes. She died on Nov. 14 in Houston, at age 70.

In the headline-making tobacco case and in other prominent lawsuits, Stanley Rosenblatt did much of the in-court presenting and after-court news conferencing. But it was Ms. Rosenblatt's legal scholarship — the research she did, the briefs she wrote — that provided the ammunition that made their successes possible, *The New York Times* said.

## ***Fred Hiatt***

Fred Hiatt, the longtime editorial page editor of *The Washington Post*, who used his position atop one of the nation's most visible and influential opinion platforms to support justice and human rights, died Dec. 6 at a hospital in Manhattan. He was 66.

Mr. Hiatt, a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in editorial writing, led The Post's opinion section for more than two decades. In that time, he expanded the staff from about a dozen people to more than 80, broadening its reach and its ranks to include not only seasoned journalists, but also younger, up-and-coming writers, videographers, bloggers and designers.

Mr. Hiatt was best known in recent years, perhaps, for leading the newspaper's outraged response to the 2018 abduction and murder of one of its Saudi contributors, Jamal Khashoggi, and also his view that Donald J. Trump was unfit to be president of the United States. In 2016, before the general election was underway and long before Mr. Trump was twice impeached, Mr. Hiatt wrote that Mr. Trump's "contempt for constitutional norms might reveal the nation's two-century-old experiment in checks and balances to be more fragile than we knew." He was a Pulitzer finalist for his editorials about Mr. Trump.

## ***Henry Orenstein***

Henry Orenstein, a Holocaust survivor who went on to invent the Transformers toys and became a major donor to Jewish and Israeli causes, died Dec. 14. He was 98.

Orenstein became a best-selling toymaker with his Transformers line, which he first created in the early 1980s. He brought the idea to Hasbro, which first produced the toys in 1984. The toys would become one of the most successful action figures in history, spawning TV shows, movies and merchandise worth billions of dollars.

He followed up on that success with numerous other inventions and more than 100 patents before becoming a star poker player and being inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame in 2008. He said he was attracted to the game for the way it hinged on calling bluffs and weighing odds.

## ***Allan Rechtschaffen***

Allan Rechtschaffen, a sleep researcher at the University of Chicago died on Nov. 29 at his home in Chicago. He was 93.

Dr. Rechtschaffen tested the effects of sleep deprivation, studied dreaming, narcolepsy, napping and insomnia, and standardized the measurement of sleep stages. REM and other aspects of sleep became the focus of his career. In 1958, he was named director of the university's sleep research laboratory, where his experiments on animals and humans over the next 41 years helped him define a challenge that he described this way: "If sleep doesn't serve an absolutely vital function, it is the biggest mistake evolution ever made."

Even after his retirement in 2001, he continued to search for the reason people sleep. "The question of the function of sleep has not been solved," he said. "We have a lot of leads about what the function of sleep might be. But we haven't nailed it down. A third of our lives still remains for the most part a mystery."



## ***Shirley Zussman***

Shirley Zussman, a sex therapist who was trained by William H. Masters and Virginia E. Johnson, the researchers who demystified the mechanics of sex, died Dec. 4 at her home in Manhattan. She was 107.

Shirley Zussman and her husband Leon trained at the Masters and Johnson Institute, and by the mid-'70s were co-directors of the Human Sexuality Center at Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center.

"Shirley was a pioneer in sex therapy and an excellent role model," said Ruth Westheimer, who was a program director at Planned Parenthood and studying sexuality at Columbia University when she took a course in sex therapy taught by Dr. Zussman and her husband at their Long Island clinic. It was the first experience with the discipline for Dr. Westheimer, the buoyant Holocaust survivor and sexologist who later became a familiar face on television. "They were trailblazers, because she was a therapist and her husband was a gynecologist, and that validated the work," she said.

"Men and women want intimacy," Dr. Zussman said. "They want closeness. They want understanding. They want comfort. And they want somebody who really cares about them beyond going to bed with them. And I think people are always seeking that in every generation."

### **Birthdays in January**

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

### **Anniversaries in January**

- 5: Carol Ingall and Stephan Brumberg

Please share your celebrations with the shul family. Forward the month and day of your birthdays and anniversaries and those of your immediate family to Sara Bloom at [sbblazer@hotmail.com](mailto:sbblazer@hotmail.com)

### **Yahrzeits in January**

- 1: Norma Good; Nedjat Lazar; Steven Newman; Alvin Robins; William Sausmer
- 3: Nathan Forman; Rose Katz Grossman; Julius Levine; Mel Morrell
- 4: Jed Clauss; Monir Lazar; Benjamin Lipman;
- 4: Ralph Michelson and his brothers (Morris, Lewis, Conrad, Herbert and Morton)  
Annie Bush, Louis Felder; Rebecca Edelstein; Anna Neimark
- 6: Helen Newman
- 7: Clara Nissenfeld
- 8: Adrien Felder; Herbert R. Mandel
- 9: Bella Schwartz
- 11: Morris Budofsky; Evelyn Rosenbaum
- 12: Earl Victor Freedman; Avraham ben Mordechai
- 13: David J. Brown; Jeffrey Doss; Gladys Feinberg; Yehuda L. Levinson; Joan Slade
- 14: Rebecca Revere

- 15: Anna Posner  
16: Tillie Chrobersky; Dorothy Kaplan  
17:; Jack Dalven  
18: Mazal ha Levi  
19: Oscar Goldin; Mordechai ben Arye; Donna Nadel; Rev. David Orlansky  
20: Adele Blanche Lustig; Samuel Joseph Pelovitz  
21: Stanley Rubin; Abraham Slotkin  
22: Evelyn Reece  
23: Sophia P. Ballen; Samuel Neimark  
24: Bessie Goldin  
25: Kate Kalter; Nettie Rosenstein; Bernyce “Bunny” Simon  
27: Gertrude Ogur; Bernard Solomon  
28: Audrey Rothman; Lore Seligson  
29: Harris Wilitzkin  
30: Sophie Berson; Ida Kaplan; Michael Payne  
31: Jerome Lipman; Leah Gertrude Sachs

### **Refuah Shlemah**

Jane Sachs  
Ellen Wiederlight  
Paul Birman and Pamela Birman  
Martin Ehrenreich  
Hedy Campeas  
Menachem Bloom

## **• MONEY MATTERS •**

### **Donations in January**

Adrienne Greenberg  
Rachel Murphy  
Ellen B. Berman, MD  
Veronica Kaliski  
Elizabeth Holtzman  
Sara Bloom  
Jack Weiskott and Roberta Garriss  
Barry and Rena Wiseman  
Marsha Lipsitz  
Ann Hurwitz  
Harry and Ana Katz  
Ellen Jaffe  
David Judlowitz  
Joyce Greenwald  
Rabbi Charles Simon  
Stephen and Susan Meshover  
Stanley and Roberta Kaplan  
Julie Levi and Richard Blau  
Joanna Paulsen  
Drs. Jonathan and Devi Ellant

Alan and Rochelle Garmise  
Emanuel Bloom and Elizabeth Levi Senigaglia  
Miriam Gabriel  
Robert Brown and Suri Lan-Brown  
Peter Krasnow and Christine Cerny  
Rabbi Charles Simon  
Ellen Berman Buchbinder, MD  
Robert Katcher

## **Advertisers in the 2021 Virtual Journal**

Paul and Pamela Birman  
New York Cancer and Bloom Specialists  
Ken and Nancy Stein  
Stony Brook/Eastern Long Island Hospital  
Sara Bloom  
Ann Hurwitz  
Cywiak & Co., LLP, CPAs  
Alan and Rochelle Garmise  
Joseph M. Duva, MD, FACG  
Bloom Family  
Joan Prager  
Miriam Gabriel and Adrienne Greenberg  
Judith K. Weiner  
Levin Family  
Harris and Zarin families  
Martin Ehrenreich  
Bill Packard and Charles Ihlenfeld  
Peconic Landing  
North Fork Woodworks  
Philip and Elaine Goldman  
Tom and Betty Doolan  
Joyce Pitkin  
San Simeon by the Sound  
Francis Dubois and Paul Jeselsohn  
Peter Gisolfi Associates  
Ellen Jaffe, Elana Sydney, and Ella  
Arthur Riegel  
Elizabeth Shaw Adams  
Bruce Goldin  
Horton Mathie  
Larry Kotik and Tim Mueller  
Brady Klein Weissman  
Mullen Motors  
Greenporter Hotel  
Micah Kaplan, MD, and Gayle Kaplan  
Country Time Cycle  
Kevin Marin  
Albano Dental  
Michael and Lynn Simon

Menachem Bloom and Elizabeth Senigaglia  
Suffolk Security Systems  
Jonathan, Alexandra and Victoria Sperling  
Tom Byrne and Veronica Kaliski  
Stephen and Susan Meshover  
Daniel and Nancy Torchio  
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Nadel Family  
Stephen Brumberg and Carol Ingall  
Paula Shengold  
Joseph and Beth Brittman  
Karen and James Speyer  
Carol Levin  
Saul and Susan Rosenstreich  
Devi, Jon, Bram and Haley Ellant  
Costner Heppner Funeral Home  
LGM Brand Communications, Consulting  
Frank and Phyllis Bocian  
Braun Seafood Co.  
Graham Diamond/Hedy Campeas  
Shirley Gabriner  
Maria Lourdes S. Alcasid-Escano, MD  
Deborah White and The Scarsdale Inquirer  
Port of Egypt Marine  
Burt's Reliable  
Irma Strimban  
Rabbi Gadi Capela  
North Fork Optical Center, Ltd.  
Jack Weiskott and Roberta Garriss  
Greenport IGA  
East End Geriatric & Adult Medicine, PLLC  
Andy's  
Townsend Manor Inn  
Starlight Auto Body  
NYU Langone Health/East End Cardiology  
Southold Dental Associates  
Rothman Family  
Sterling Dental  
Hal and Nina Neimark

Fred and Ilene Adler  
Ornamental Plantings  
Clarke's Garden & Home, Ltd.

Morgan Stanley/Val T. Franklin, CRPC  
Robert and Judith Goldman  
The Levin Girls and Families  
Carol Seigel

## Share Your Thoughtfulness With A Sisterhood Sunshine Card



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

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

by

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

You can mail your donation to the Sisterhood (P.O. Box 659, Greenport, NY, 11944) or go to the shul's "donate tab" on our website ([www.tiferethisraelgreenport.org](http://www.tiferethisraelgreenport.org)), where you can use a credit card for payment.

### Dedicated Funds

- **Capital Improvement:** covers major additions and repairs to our building and grounds.
- **Archive/Library:** supports new books for our library, plus archival materials.
- **Education:** provides supplies/materials for the Hebrew School and adult education classes.
- **Ritual Materials:** replaces prayer books, tallit, kippah, Torah mantles, etc.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** allows the rabbi to provide help when he is asked.
- **Financial Assistance Fund:** supports those in need in Southold Town.
- **Harold Winters Fund For the Hebrew School:** supports Jewish education.
- **Paul S. Birman Technology Fund:** supports updates and new communication programs.
- **Marshall S. Hurwitz Fund for Special Programs and Projects:** supports cultural endeavors 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:** seat nameplate in sanctuary. Cost: \$200 members; \$250 nonmembers.

## **• SCHEDULE OF SYNAGOGUE FEES •**

### **Membership Per Year**

Family: \$850; Individual: \$550

<b>Event</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Nonmembers</b>
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

<b>Commemoratives</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Nonmembers</b>
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**

Judith K. Weiner: President  
Sara Bloom: Vice President  
Alan Garmise: Treasurer  
Susan Rosenstreich: Financial Secretary  
Joanna Paulsen: Recording Secretary

Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary  
Miriam Gabriel, Ann Hurwitz, Madelyn Rothman: Members at Large  
Adrianne Greenberg: Sisterhood President  
Thomas Byrne: Men's Club President

The Sisterhood

Adrianne Greenberg: President  
Joanna Paulsen: Vice President  
Roberta Garris: Secretary

The Men's Club

Thomas Byrne, President  
Paul Jeselsohn: Vice President

The Shofar

Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

Shul Committees

Andrew Levin Park/Garden

Adrianne Greenberg, chair  
Veronica Kaliski

Advertising

Alan Garmise, chair

Audio-Visual

Phil Goldman, chair  
Adrianne Greenberg

Beautification/Buildings and Grounds

Adrianne Greenberg, chair  
Miriam Gabriel, Phil Goldman

Bylaws

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

Calendar

Elaine Goldman, chair

E-Communications/Website

Andrea Blaga

Education

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

Finance

Susan Rosenstreich, chair  
Alan Garmise, Nancy Torchio

Fundraising:

Judith K. Weiner, chair  
Alan Garmise, Nancy Torchio

Gift Shop

Sara Bloom, chair

Information Technology

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

Journal and Auction

Madelyn Rothman, chair, Silent Auction; Judith K. Weiner, chair, Journal Committee  
Sara Bloom, Tom Byrne, Alan Garmise, Rochelle Garmise, Elaine Goldman,  
Adrianne Greenberg

Judaism and Art

Saul Rosenstreich, chair  
Sara Bloom, Rabbi Gadi Capela, Hedy Campeas, Graham Diamond, Francis Dubois,  
Ann Hurwitz, Ellen Jaffe, Irma Strimban, Dan Torchio, Judith K. Weiner

Long Range Planning

Alan Garmise, chair  
Miriam Gabriel, Adrianne Greenberg, Susan Rosenstreich

Membership

Judith K. Weiner, chair  
Elizabeth Adams, Sara Bloom, Suri Lan-Brown, Madelyn Rothman, Chuck Simon,  
Irma Strimban

Nominating

Susan Rosenstreich, chair  
Miriam Gabriel, Rochelle Garmise

Pastoral

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

Plaques

Adrianne Greenberg

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Alan Garmise, chair  
Sara Bloom

Rabbi Contract Negotiating Committee

Alan Garmise, chair  
Sara Bloom, Judith Weiner

Ritual

Paul Nadel, chair  
Rabbi Gadi Capela, Hedy Campeas, Alan Garmise, Phil Goldman, Adrianne  
Greenberg, Madelyn Rothman, Carol Seigel

Security

Phil Goldman, chair  
Miriam Gabriel, Paul Nadel, Nancy Torchio,

Telephone/Sunshine

Sisterhood

Tikkun Olam

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

Yahrzeits

Miriam Gabriel, chair

Shul president Judith K. Weiner is an ex officio member of all shul committees.

