

# The Shofar

CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL

*A National Historic Site*

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Volume 3 Number 2

Shevat-Adar 5786/February 2026

## ***Shabbat and Holiday Services (Hybrid)***

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

Saturdays: Shabbat, 9:30 a.m.

## ***Shul Events***

- Sunday, Feb. 1: Women's Tu B'Shevat Seder, led by Rabbi Suzan Lipson, 2 p.m., in person, in the community room at the shul
- Monday, Feb. 2: Ritual Committee at 10 a.m.; Pastoral Committee at 11 a.m., on Zoom
- Sunday, Feb. 15: Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., on Zoom
- Thursday, Feb. 19: Book Circle at 3:30 p.m., on Zoom

## ***Guest Rabbis in February (Bring friends)***

- Feb. 6-7: Rabbi Debra Cantor
- Feb. 13-14: Arthur Riegel
- Feb. 20-21: Rabbi Howard Diamond
- Feb. 27-28: Rabbi Jaymee Alpert

## ***Lighting Shabbat Candles in February***

Feb. 6: 5:01 Feb. 13: 5:10 Feb. 20: 5:18 Feb. 27: 5:27

## ***Dates To Remember***

Saturday, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Monday, Feb. 16: Presidents' Day

Monday, March 2: Purim

Wednesday, April 1: First Passover Seder

Deadline for the March 2026 issue of *The Shofar*: February 20

## From The President...



Dear members and friends,

I am not a rabbi. At times like this, I wish I had at hand the depth of a Rabbi's holy insight and the eloquence of a Rabbi's spiritual vocabulary. With those special gifts, the better to express the joy and gratitude I feel at this moment, thoughts bestowed upon me by a simple act — a keystroke on my computer.

Those of you who attend Saturday morning services may have become familiar with the names read week after week of those inscribed on the shul's Mi Sheberach list — a record of friends and family members struggling with illness, challenges, and worrisome conditions that we pray God will alleviate. As caring friends and family members add names from time to time, the list identifies them for HaShem to recognize and, with our hopeful prayers, to intervene, purging further suffering and concern for their wellbeing.

On my mind today, however, is a name not added to the list, but one that I removed — not to mourn the person bearing that name, but to rejoice in the healing that has taken place.

I first heard about young Leah Tomaszewski from her grandmother, who is one of the participants in my memoir-writing class. We fellow writers had celebrated with Mary Ellen when Leah was born, only to learn not so long later that this beautiful child had been diagnosed with cancer, struggling to stay alive. What could we do? How could we help?

We rationalized that this was a situation in which Leah's future depended largely on the skills of her doctors and the support of her parents and extended family. But what about God, I thought. Would not God look favorably on this child? Maybe if I asked... I added her name to the Mi Sheberach list at our shul, and focused my thoughts on her as her name was read aloud every week, year after year...

Over time, as Leah's health wavered from worse to better and again to worse, I wondered what prayer could really do? Does it honestly help those in pain, or is this more of a panacea for me, satisfying my need, my longing to do something... anything for Leah and her family.

Meanwhile, this brave youngster began a series of chemotherapy treatments. Mary Ellen said that throughout the ordeal, Leah constantly surprised her family, never losing her confidence as she lived her days as a kid who was bald.

A few days ago, I received a holiday letter from Mary Ellen, detailing the projects that keep her and Tom engaged in home, community and, of course, family. Among notes about the grandchildren — Madison, Shawn, Leah, Eli, Tobias and Otis — came this: "For two-and-a-half years," she wrote, "Leah's childhood had been interrupted as she endured grueling treatments and four surgeries. Now beautifully healthy and active, 2025 marked a second year for Leah being chemo-free." Then she added, "It is rare for our whole family to be together. But in mid-December, there we were, the 14 of us in Delaware, together, for Leah's bat mitzvah."

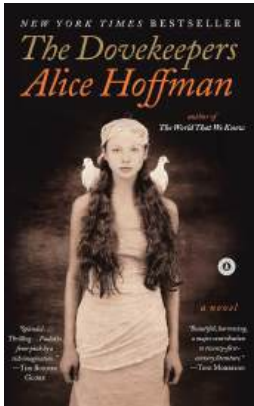
The very same day I read Mary Ellen's holiday letter, I went to my computer, called up the Mi Sheberach list and, smiling through tears, and with a firm hand and a single keystroke, deleted Leah's name from the list. Not that she might not need God's attention at other times in her life, but with gratitude for this goodness, HaShem can turn to those who, for now, need him more.

Is there truly power in prayer, as has been said? Surely skill and emotional support have healed this courageous young woman. Yet, can it be that something miraculous had guided their hands. I believe so. I believe that prayer may have paved God's path to Leah.

—Sara Bloom

## • SHUL NEWS AND NOTES •

### Book Circle Explores Four Brave Women In Historical Fiction Account



*The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman is a fictional retelling of the Siege of Masada (70-73 CE) through the eyes of four resilient women — Yael, Revka, Asisa and Shirah — who find refuge there, each bearing secrets and past traumas. When the Romans besiege the fortress, only two women and five children survive the brutality and loss, leading to the tragic historical outcome.

The members of the Book Circle will meet on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 3:30 p.m., on Zoom, to explore the lives of women — how they survived and how the experience affected them.

The Book Circle meets monthly to examine the work of Jewish authors writing on Jewish themes. For more information, email [ctigreenport@gmail.com](mailto:ctigreenport@gmail.com) with a message for Susan Rosenstreich, coordinator of the group.

## • FYI FYI FYI •

### Last Israeli Hostage From Oct. 7 Attack Is Returned From Gaza



The body of Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, the last Israeli still unaccounted for after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, was returned from Gaza, ending more than two years of waiting. Gvili, a 24-year-old police officer killed while defending Kibbutz Alumim, was brought home for burial 843 days after he was taken captive.

“The first to go, the last to leave,” his mother posted on Facebook. “Our hero.”

Israel is now expected to reopen the Rafah crossing, Gaza’s border with Egypt and its key outlet to the outside world, the next phase of the ceasefire.

A banner of Ran Gvili is seen at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv.

Photo by Jack Guez/AFP via Getty Images.

### After 82 years, Jewish WWII Pilot Morton Sher Laid To Rest At Home



A Jewish American fighter pilot, whose plane was shot down in the Chinese theater during World War II, was given a proper burial 82 years after his plane went down, according to the United States Department of Defense. The remains of Lt. Morton Sher were buried in Greenville, SC, on Dec. 14 on what would have been his 105th birthday.

Sher was a member of the pilot group known as the “Flying Tigers,” formed to protect China from Japanese invasion following the assault on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He was piloting a P-40 Warhawk when he was shot down by Japanese bombers on Aug. 9, 1943. His mother Celia received Sher’s Purple Heart that same year.

Two attempts were made to locate his remains, in 2012 and 2019, but neither was successful. A breakthrough came in 2024, when a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency excavated a crash site in the province where Sher’s plane fell; DNA analysis confirmed the match.

## Language Course Reviving Moroccan Jewish Culture, Bridging Divides



Growing up in Fez, Morocco, Yona Elfassi was always aware of the history of the city, a center of culture and home to great minds, including Maimonides. Only about 2,500 Jews remain in the country; about a million Moroccan Jews make up one of Israel's largest ethnic groups. Elfassi, a sociologist, now teaches a hybrid course in Darija, the Moroccan Arabic dialect, to allow diaspora Moroccan Jews to connect with their ancestors through language and culture. Classes, social gatherings and celebrations take place in Be'er Sheva, Israel, some Moroccans traveling to Israel for the events. "Bringing people together is peace-building, Elfassi says.

### FYI:

- Fewer than 200,000 Holocaust survivors — half in Israel — are still alive worldwide, according to data released by the *Times of Israel*. The number is down from about 220,000 only one year ago. New York is home to the largest population of Holocaust survivors outside of Israel, with an estimated 14,000 to 15,000 living in the metropolitan area.
- Ilana Kantorowicz Shalem, 81, is one of the youngest living survivors of the Holocaust. She was born at Bergen-Belsen, 30 days before the concentration camp was liberated.
- Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, the parents of slain hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin, would tape the number of days over their hearts until all hostages were home, a practice now ended.
- A new exhibit mounted by the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, titled "And that's True Too: The Life and Work of Lore Segal," opened on Jan. 22. Segal, who was raised in England by a foster mother, having arrived on the Kindertransport, died in 2024 at the age of 96. Her work includes an autobiographical novel, *Other People's Houses*, decades of stories in *The New Yorker*, and a children's book, *Tell Me a Mitzi*.

## • JEWS IN THE NEWS •

### *Julie Menin*

Julie Menin is the first Jew to be elected speaker of the New York City Council, the second-most powerful government position in America's largest city. Mainstream Jewish leaders see Menin as a check on New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and a potential guardrail on his actions, according to *The Forward*.

*Just for fun...*

## **The Mysterious Case of Barbra Streisand and the Missing Half-Pound of Sturgeon**

By Len Berk

The whole story of Barbra Streisand and the sturgeon began a few months ago on a Thursday when I was at my regular spot at the fish counter. A pleasant, attractive woman ordered a pound of Nova and, before Slim, my sharp slicing knife, and I started our journey through the salmon, she said, “I’m buying this for Barbra Streisand.”

I was skeptical, so I asked her what her relationship was with Barbra. She told me her name was Christine and that she had edited Barbra’s autobiography. Well, that made me look up and take notice. She must be genuine, I thought, who would make up such a story?

As I sliced, I heard Barbra in my head singing “You’ll Never Walk Alone” and lost all track of time. I threw the lox I had sliced up on the scale with flair; one pound it was. While I continued to work, an idea popped into my head. I spotted a succulent block of sturgeon in the showcase of fish and thought, “I’m going to cut as perfect a slice as I can, wrap it carefully in tissue paper and place it neatly in the Zabar’s wrapping on top of the pound of Nova.” I didn’t disclose what I was doing because I wanted it to be a lovely surprise — if she happened to like sturgeon, that is.

Two Thursdays later, when I arrived at work, I found a small square envelope sitting on my board face-up. It read “For Len.” Inside was a folded card on which was printed in raised gold letters “BARBRA STREISAND.” I opened the card, looked inside and found a handwritten note: “*Dear Len, What a lovely gift! Did you know how much I love sturgeon? Thank you. It was delicious!*” She signed it “Barbra” in a nice, swirly signature.

That night at home, I just couldn’t get it out of my mind: I actually had a handwritten note from Barbra Streisand. How many people could say that? Now that I knew she liked sturgeon, I decided I would personally send her a pound as a gift. But then I stopped. “You don’t know her,” I said to myself. “It would be inappropriate and silly. I went back and forth until I gave up, watched *Yentl* instead, then went to sleep.

That night, I had a dream. Barbra was in Zabar’s, walking up and down the aisles, smiling, going through each department, carefully selecting items when, suddenly, she noticed that her shopping cart was full. At that moment, she found herself standing opposite me at the fish counter.

“Welcome to the heart of the store, Ms. Streisand,” I said. She smiled, I smiled back. I invited her to step behind the counter so she could have a closer look at all the fish. Next thing I knew she was standing there beside me, asking about my slicing technique and, for that fleeting moment, I was the star — a master lox slicer.

“Look who’s here, guys,” I told my co-workers. “It’s Barbra Streisand paying us a short visit,” at which point Barbra and I began a duet — “*People, people who need people are the luckiest people in the world.*” I wanted so much to finish the song with her, but I woke up before I could.

In the morning, as I considered Barbra’s thank-you note and our unfinished dream duet, I realized that she and I have a lot more in common than meets the eye. We are both old. She is 83, and I am 95. We’re both Jewish. We both like sturgeon. But most of all, we are both professional singers — my career started in 5th grade, at P.S. 180 in Brooklyn, when I was chosen to sing the lead in Walt Whitman’s “I Hear America Singing.” Then, in 6th grade, I played Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*. And, when I was 12, I sang in the Oscar Julius Choir at Temple Bethel in Borough Park. I also sang at Jewish weddings — 50 cents as part of a choir, \$1 when I performed a solo.

Suddenly, I realized that maybe it wouldn’t be so inappropriate to send Barbra a half-pound of sturgeon as a belated 83rd birthday present. Except I didn’t have her address.

Enter Christine. As I was cleaning my knives one Thursday, one of my co-workers tapped me on the shoulder and told me there was a woman looking for me. And there she was. Did Barbra want more Nova, I wondered, or some sturgeon?

Christine told me she had an appointment in the neighborhood and thought she'd stop in and say hello. I told her how I had considered sending Barbra a belated birthday gift, though I added that it would be just as easy for her to order some online. Christine gave me her phone number, so later I texted her and asked if I could send Barbra the sturgeon. "Sure," she texted back and gave me an address.

I got to work. I selected the best-looking block of sturgeon in the display counter, sliced off half a pound and wrapped it up. Then I removed the dorsal fin from the most succulent whitefish in the showcase, wrapped it and placed it on top of the sturgeon. I walked over to the bakery and retrieved one of Zabar's rugelach, wrapped it in foil and placed it alongside the dorsal fin. There was a paper plate on the shelf behind me. I took out my black marker and wrote "Happy Birthday to Barbra," and signed my name.

I finished the package, brought it up to Bernardo in the shipping department, and gave him instructions as to where and to whom it should be sent. I returned to the fish counter thinking a job well done.

But — she never got the sturgeon

I set the wheels in motion with the appropriate department at Zabar's to investigate "*The case of the missing sturgeon*." In the annals of crime, there are those cases that go down in the books as unsolved; so too in the world of undelivered smoked fish. This is one of those cases.

As for the replacement sturgeon I sent to Barbra, a recent call to Christine revealed somewhat anticlimactically, that Barbra did receive it, but due to some confusion, it was sliced and sent as a regular shipment with no indication that it had come from me, her fellow singing professional. Perhaps she'd sent a perfunctory thank-you note to Zabar's, perhaps she wondered why she was getting another round of sturgeon, without explanation, so close to her birthday, or maybe, just maybe, she suspected it was from her new friend, Len.

I'd like to think that I'll have another opportunity to wish her a happy birthday. When her 84th comes around, I'll be at the fish counter. And I'll be ready.

[Len Berk is the official lox columnist for *The Forward*. Find him Thursdays at Zabar's lox counter.]

## • OBITUARIES •

### ***Dick Zimmer***

Dick Zimmer, a three-term Republican congressman from New Jersey, who sponsored the landmark legislation known as Megan's Law, requiring states to disclose where convicted sex offenders are living, died on Dec. 30, 2025, at a nursing care facility in Flemington, NJ. He was 81.

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1990, Mr. Zimmer sponsored Megan's Law after the 1994 rape and murder of 7-year-old Megan Kanka in Hamilton Township, NJ. Her family had been unaware that her killer, a twice-convicted sex offender, had recently moved in across the street.

The bill was based on similar legislation adopted in New Jersey and in other states. It was passed unanimously by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996.

### ***Gary Graffman***

Gary Graffman, a former child prodigy whose successful international career as a concert pianist was cut short when a rare neurological disorder cost him the use of his right hand in his 50s, setting him on a new and distinguished path as a teacher and administrator, died on Dec. 27 at his home in New York. He was 97.

His performing career lasted until the early 1980s, when he began to suffer from focal dystonia. He never regained use of his right hand, and instead focused on teaching and performing repertory for the left hand.

In his memoir, Mr. Graffman wrote vividly about the pitfalls of live performance. Describing a concert of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the conductor George Szell, which almost derailed after a section of the orchestra counted wrong. Mr. Graffman wrote, "I felt like someone who had been tied to the railroad tracks as a train whistle is heard in the distance. But," he added, "Szell made some magic passes in the air and led the orchestra safely across the Red Sea."

### ***Eva Schloss***

Eva Schloss, an Auschwitz survivor who dedicated her life to speaking out against prejudice and to preserving the legacy of her stepsister Anne Frank, died on Jan. 10 in London. She was 96.

"We hope her legacy will continue to inspire through the books, films and resources she leaves behind," Ms. Schloss's family said in a statement published by the Anne Frank Trust UK, an organization she co-founded to challenge intolerance and educate young people about the Holocaust. After WWII, her mother married Anne Frank's father, Otto, the sole survivor of the Frank family.

For more than 40 years, Ms. Schloss remained silent about the horrors she endured at Auschwitz, to which she had been deported as a teenager. When her grandchildren once asked about the tattoo on her arm that she had been branded with at Auschwitz, a-5272, she told them it was her telephone number.

It was not until 1986, when she was invited to speak at the opening of a traveling Anne Frank exhibition in London, that she began to tell her story publicly. From that point on, and into her 90s, she traveled widely to speak about the dangers of injustice.

### ***Josef Veselsky***

Josef Veselsky, a Holocaust survivor and table tennis champion who spent more than a year as Ireland's oldest man, died on Jan. 10 at 107.

Born Joseph Weiss to a Jewish family, he was 20 when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia. He changed his name after his mother, Bertha, urged him to change his name to "something more Slovak," according to the *Irish Times*.

He joined the resistance and survived the war in the Carpathian Mountains, according to Holocaust Education Ireland. His older brother and parents were killed in Auschwitz.

Following the war, Veselsky served as the captain of the Czechoslovak national table tennis team and was later awarded the Order of the Slovak National Uprising for his actions during the war. He also served as the captain of the Irish national table tennis team for 20 years, and became life president of the Irish Table Tennis Association.

In October 2024, following the death of Marti McEvilly at the age of 108, Veselsky became the oldest man in Ireland.

### ***Rhoda Levine***

Rhoda Levine, one of the rare female opera directors to work steadily starting in the 1970s, at a time when the field was dominated by men, and who was acclaimed for clear, straightforward interpretations of the classics as well as stirring world premieres, died on Jan. 6 at her home in Manhattan. She was 93.

She brought true theatrical acting into opera, insisting on directing singers as actors, demanding a kind of realism in an often stylized art form. At New York City Opera, Netherlands Opera and other

companies, she directed works stretching from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" to Alban Berg's "Lulu," in addition to contemporary works like Mark Adamo's "Little Women."

Her preoccupation was to reach her audience directly, to "provide an audience with a very human experience that really connected with their own lives," she told the music journalist Bruce Duffie in 1998. "Clarity is all," she added. "Whether the audience likes it or not, whatever your intention is, you must deliver that intention to them. That's your job as an actor, an actress or as a musician. You hope you're clear."

### ***Jerome Lowenstein***

Jerome Lowenstein, a distinguished professor of medicine at New York University who in an artistic sideline helped found a literary journal and a small publishing imprint. The company drew book-world attention when it published a debut novel that won a Pulitzer Prize after being rejected by many other editors. Dr. Lowenstein died on Dec. 8 at his home in Manhattan. He was 92.

In his 1997 book, *The Midnight Meal and Other Essays About Doctors, Patients and Medicine*, Dr. Lowenstein wrote about the need for doctors to show compassion, which he defined in part as "the willingness to enter into a relationship in which not only the knowledge but the intuitions, strengths and emotions of both the patient and the physician can be fully engaged." Teaching compassion is as important as teaching medicine, he wrote.

### ***Hessy Levinsons Taft***

Hessy Levinsons Taft, who as an infant appeared on the cover of a Nazi magazine in Germany, promoting her as the ideal Aryan baby, a distinction complicated by the fact that she was Jewish and had been exploited as part of a hoax, died on Jan. 1 at her home in San Francisco. She was 91.

The episode began in 1934, when Hessy was 6 months old and her parents hired a photographer to take her portrait. Her parents framed the photo and placed it on their piano. One day, a cleaning woman noticed it, and said she had seen the photo on the cover of a magazine. The cleaner purchased a copy of the magazine, a pro-Nazi publication that proclaimed the child in the photo as the ideal Aryan baby.

The photographer said he had been invited by the Nazis to contribute photos for a contest to find the child who best represented the Aryan nation. Hessy's photo won. The photographer enjoyed the joke, but Hessy's parents did not. If the Nazis discovered the joke, all would be put to death, they feared. Mrs. Taft finally in 1987 revealed the truth of the Jewish baby who was the "ideal Aryan baby." "I was that baby," she said.

After going public with her story, Mrs. Taft was often asked what she thought of the photographer's prank. "I can laugh about it now," she told *Tablet* magazine in 2022, "but if the Nazis had known who I really was, I wouldn't be alive."

### ***Georges Borchardt***

Georges Borchardt, a literary agent who arranged for the publication in English of Elie Wiesel's Holocaust memoir, *Night*, after it was rejected by 14 American publishers, and who introduced American readers to masters of the avant-garde, like the playwright Samuel Beckett, died on Jan. 18 at his home in Manhattan. He was 97.

Mr. Borchardt had an astute eye for literary talent. At various times, he or the Manhattan agency that he and his wife, Anne, founded in 1967 represented five Nobel laureates, eight Pulitzer Prize-winners, and one statesman, the French president Charles de Gaulle.

About the *Night* memoir, Mr. Borchardt sent an impassioned pitch to 14 mainstream publishers, praising the book. All rejected it as too bleak, morbid. Finally, in 1959, the small publishing house of

Hill & Wang offered \$250 for the manuscript. The book originally sold about 1,000 copies. But sales surged after the 1961 trial in Jerusalem of Adolf Eichmann. In time, thousands of schools made *Night* required reading. By 2020, its worldwide sales were estimated at 14 million.

### ***Barbara Aronstein Black***

Barbara Aronstein Black, a legal historian who achieved a milestone as the first woman to lead an Ivy League law school, at Columbia University, died on Jan. 20 in Philadelphia. She was 92.

As dean, Professor Black, a scholar of law in colonial America, influenced curricular reform, bolstered Columbia's corporate law program, brought more women and people of color onto the faculty, adopted a maternal leave policy, and introduced a part-time program for mothers.

After completing her term as dean, from 1986-1991, she returned to full-time teaching, research and writing. She retired in 2008.

### ***David Rosen***

David Rosen, a Brooklyn-born entrepreneur who transformed his photo booth business in Japan into Sega enterprises, the video game giant that dominated arcades, basements and dorm rooms with blockbusters like *Mortal Kombat*, *Sonic the Hedgehog*, and *N.H.L. '94*, died on Dec. 25 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 96.

During a four-decade career that began in the 1950s with coin-operated machines and culminated with the introduction of cutting-edge home gaming systems, Mr. Rosen was a visionary figure who helped shape what is now a \$200 billion industry.

To Mr. Rosen, gaming represented an entirely new category of entertainment. "Activities such as television, movies and sporting events all have a valid place in our society, yet these forms of entertainment lack an important factor in satisfying a fundamental need," Mr. Rosen wrote in *Play Meter*. "That need is active participation, which is, of course, what computer video games are all about."

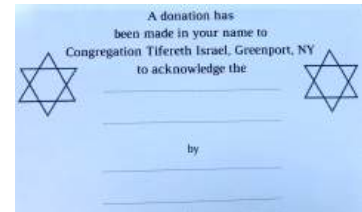
## **Yahrzeits in February**

- 1: Tillie Chrobersky; Dorothy Kaplan
- 2: Roselyn Campeas; Jack Dalven
- 3: Mazal Ha Levi
- 4: Mordechai ben Arye; Oscar Goldin; Donna Nadel; Rev. David Orliansky
- 5: Florence David; Adele Blanche Lustig; Samuel Joseph Pelovitz
- 6: Stanley Rubin; Abraham Slotkin
- 8: Sophia P. Ballen; Samuel Neimark
- 9: Bessie Goldin
- 10: Kate Kalter; Nettie Rosenstein; Bernyce "Bunny" Simon
- 12: Gertrude Ogue Moskowitz; Bernard Solomon
- 13: Audrey Rothman; Lore Seligson; Peter Smith
- 14: Harris Wilitzkin
- 15: Sophie Berson; Ida Kaplan; Michael Payne
- 16: Jerome Lipman; Leah Gertrude Sachs
- 17: Stuart Garmise; Edward Prager
- 18: Daniel "Danny" Bostian; Sylvia J. Goldin; Maury Harris; Gertrude L. Poulson; Loron Simon
- 19: Irene Feinman; Jesus Teyuca Flores; Albert M. Israel; Arthur Meyer; Sarah Slotkin
- 20: Harry Katz; Herman Keller; Minnie B. Revere
- 21: Celia Feigen; Nathan Goldin; Nora Levin
- 22: Elaine Marcus

- 23: William Adams; Jennie Kessler  
 24: Anna Levine; Abraham J. Nissenfeld; Irma Beverly Ribka; Ellen Wiederlight  
 25: Philip Cohen; Emanuel Garmise; Michael Adam Rosenbaum; Kurt Seligson  
 26: Ruth Berman Cohen; Samuel David Glickman; Leo Schneider; Benjamin Schnitzer  
 27: Dora Ann Helderman; Joseph Bruce Ross; Lottie Sherrin Schultz  
 28: Samuel L. Schwartz



## Share Your Thoughtfulness With A Sisterhood Sunshine Card



On the front, our historic sanctuary; an acknowledgment of your generosity appears inside. Send a Sunshine card (\$18 each; 3 for \$36) by calling Andrea Blaga at 631-477-0232.

### Refuah Shlemah

Menachem Bloom  
 Marc Demel  
 Martin Ehrenreich  
 Ann Hurwitz  
 Paul Jesselsohn  
 Claude Duvernoy Paulsen  
 Robyne Ryan  
 Cookie Slade

### Birthdays In February

2: Marc Demel  
 3: Suri Lan-Brown  
 4: Brian Bodhi  
 6: Perry Schaffer  
 11: Justin Solomon  
 13: Jack Weiskott  
 17: Bram Ellant  
 18: Allison Nathel  
 24: Devi Ellant; Georgia Downey  
 27: David Weinstein

### • MONEY MATTERS •

### Contributions in January

Marc and Caren Demel  
 Judith K. Weiner  
 Rabbi Suzan Lipson and Debra Riva

Dr. Michael Slade and Corinne Slade  
Ron and Madelyn Rothman  
Drs. Thomas Byrne and Veronica Kaliski  
Howard and Shari Schnitzer  
Gordon and Debbie Henry  
Adrienne Greenberg  
Meryl Kramer  
Ellen Jaffe  
David Berson  
Carol Seigel  
Anne Smith  
Susan Hugelmeyer  
Virginia Cava  
Alison Bloomer  
Sara Bloom  
Robin Phillips  
Mary James

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

### **Invest In Our Shul**

#### • **Cash**

Write a check or make a credit card payment.

**Donor Benefits:** There is an immediate tax deduction for the full value of the gift, and taxable assets are removed from the donor's estate, delivering direct benefits to CTI.

#### • **Appreciated, Marketable Securities**

Give a gift of appreciated securities that have been held for more than one year.

**Donor Benefits:** This gift bypasses capital gains tax; provides a tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities; and removes taxable assets from your estate.

#### • **IRA Charitable Rollover Gift**

Donors 70-1/2 years or older can make an IRA charitable rollover (up to \$108,000 per year) to CTI. The IRA funds must be transferred directly to CTI by December 31 of the calendar year you are making the donation. Charitable rollover amounts could count toward the donor's required minimum distribution, although these funds do not provide a charitable deduction.

**Donor Benefits:** This gift reduces taxes on amounts up to \$108,000 from the donor's IRA, and satisfies all or part of the required minimum distribution for the year.

#### • **Gift in a Will or Trust**

Donors can make a bequest gift of specific property, a specific dollar amount, or a percentage of the estate and/or a designated asset. The estate will receive a charitable tax deduction for the amount of the

gift, which may reduce the taxable portion of the estate. If the donor already has a will, an attorney can write a codicil to include the bequest.

**Donor Benefits:** This gift is simple to create; the estate receives a charitable tax deduction for the bequest, and the donor retains control of assets throughout life.

• **Life Insurance/Name CTI as Beneficiary**

Donors can name CTI as beneficiary and specify a percentage or the entire policy as the legacy gift.

**Donor Benefits:** Donors can ask for a “Change in Beneficiary” form from their plan administrator, retain control of the policy; and may receive a charitable tax deduction after death. This gift is an opportunity to make a large gift at little cost.

• **401(k) or IRA Retirement Plan Designation**

Upon death, retirement plans are subject to estate and income taxes, which means up to 60% of retirement assets may go to the IRS; distributions to charities incur no taxes.

Donors can name CTI as beneficiary and specify a percentage or the entire account as the legacy gift.

**Donor Benefits:** Gifts of IRAs and other retirement accounts allow donors to make a gift to CTI while saving on estate and income taxes.

• **Charitable Remainder Trust**

Donors can transfer assets (e.g., publicly traded securities, real estate, cash) to a trust that pays either a fixed amount (annuity trust) or a fixed percentage that reflects the size of the trust (unitrust) to the donor and/or their designated beneficiaries. This enables donors to make an irrevocable gift that produces payments for life or a set term for themselves and/or their beneficiaries, with the remainder of the donated assets going to CTI. At the end of the term or upon death of the beneficiary or beneficiaries, the trust terminates, and the assets in the trust pass to CTI as a legacy.

**Donor Benefits:** This gift offers a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of the gift, a payment stream, and removal of assets from the donor’s estate, which may reduce estate taxes.

• **Charitable Gift Annuity**

This gift provides one or two individuals who are 55 and older with fixed payments for life. The gift can be established with a simple contract between the donor and CTI. The donor transfers assets of cash or marketable securities to CTI and, in exchange, CTI promises to pay one or two people for life. The payment rate depends upon the age of the beneficiary or beneficiaries at the time of the transfer; the older the beneficiary at time of gift, the greater the fixed payments. The donor may be subject to tax on the income stream. When the last beneficiary dies, the annuity’s balance becomes the donor’s legacy gift to CTI. A deferred gift annuity works the same way, but starts providing payments at a fixed date in the future (rather than immediately). Until payouts begin, the annuity may grow in value, providing a higher payment rate.

**Donor Benefits:** This gift guarantees annual payments for life regardless of market conditions; a portion of the income may be tax-free; taxable assets are removed from the estate; some portion of capital gains may be bypassed with gifts of appreciated property, and the donor is entitled to an income tax deduction in the year the gift is made.

If you would like to discuss any of these Legacy Gift options, please contact Judith K. Weiner at [jkweiner@icloud.com](mailto:jkweiner@icloud.com) or Caren Demel at [carengail@gmail.com/](mailto:carengail@gmail.com/).

**Honor Loved Ones With A Plaque**

• **Memorial Plaque:** mounted in the sanctuary, lighted during the anniversary month.

Cost: \$300 members; \$600 nonmembers.

• **Tree of Life Leaf:** commemorates a simcha or joyous event, mounted in social hall.

Cost: \$54 members; \$108 nonmembers.

• **Sanctuary Seat Plate:** seat nameplate in sanctuary. Cost: \$200 members; \$250 nonmembers

To order a plaque, please contact Adrienne Greenberg at agreenberg825@optonline

## • SCHEDULE OF SYNAGOGUE FEES •

### Membership Per Year (Revised June 2023)

Family: \$1,200

Individual: \$800

<u>Event</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</u>
Lifecycle Event*	\$1,000	\$2,000
Sanctuary Only	\$500	\$1,000

### Commemoratives

Memorial Plaques	\$300	\$600
Tree of Life Leaf	\$54	\$108
Prayer Book Bookplate	\$54	\$54
Pentateuch Bookplate	\$72	\$72
Sanctuary Seat Plate**	\$200	\$250
Isidore Handler Hebrew School	TBD	TBD

\*Fee includes use of the sanctuary, community room, kosher kitchen, and Andrew Levin Park, also cleanup fee. Renters of our facilities must sign a contract at least 30 days prior to the event, and satisfy the fee schedule accordingly. For more information, email ctigreenport@gmail.org with a message for Elizabeth Adams.

\*\* Seat plates are for current members or to honor deceased members.

## • WHO'S WHO AT OUR SHUL •

### Board of Directors

Sara M. Bloom: President

Chuck Simon and Lewis Teperman, MD: Co-Vice Presidents

Caren Demel: Treasurer

Nancy Torchio: Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Adams: Recording Secretary

Elaine Goldman: Corresponding Secretary

Miriam Gabriel; Ann Hurwitz; Suzan Lipson; Joanna Paulsen; Madelyn Rothman: Members at Large

Adrienne Greenberg: Sisterhood President

### The Men's Club

President: TBD

Vice President: Paul Jesselsohn

### The Sisterhood

Adrienne Greenberg: President

Joanna Paulsen: Vice President

Roberta Garris: Secretary

### The Shofar

Sara Bloom and Miriam Gabriel: Editors

## Shul Committees

Andrew Levin Park/Garden

Adrienne Greenberg, chair

Veronica Kaliski

Advertising

Sara Bloom, chair

Audio-Visual

Adrienne Greenberg, chair

Beautification/Buildings and Grounds

Adrienne Greenberg, chair

Miriam Gabriel

Bylaws

Joanna Paulsen, chair

Calendar

Elaine Goldman

Cantor Search Committee

Gordon Henry, chair

Chuck Simon

E-Communications/Website

Andrea Blaga

Education

Ann Hurwitz and Suzan Lipson co-chairs

Miriam Gabriel, Madelyn Rothman

Finance

Nancy Torchio, chair

Sara Bloom, Caren Demel, Joanna Paulsen, Judith K. Weiner

Fundraising:

Judith K. Weiner

Gift Shop

Sara Bloom

Information Technology

Steve Benthal, Andrea Blaga, Adrienne Greenberg

Journal

Madelyn Rothman, chair

Elizabeth Adams, Sara Bloom, Roberta Garris, Debbie Henry,

Cookie Slade, Nancy Torchio, Judith K. Weiner

Journal Summer Garden Party

Nancy Torchio and Helaine Teperman: co-chairs

Judaism and Art

Saul Rosenstreich, chair

Long Range Planning

Elizabeth Adams, Miriam Gabriel, Adrienne Greenberg,

Judith K. Weiner

Membership

Elizabeth Adams, Sara Bloom, Suri Lan-Brown,

Madelyn Rothman, Chuck Simon

Nominating 2025-2026

Chair: Joanna Paulsen

Miriam Gabriel

Pastoral

Miriam Gabriel, Elaine Goldman, Paul Jesselsohn,  
Suzan Lipson, Bill Packard, Carol Seigel

Plaques

Adrienne Greenberg

Programs

Chuck Simon, chair  
Debra Riva, Michelle Schwartz, Helaine Teperman,  
Nancy Torchio

Public Relations

Sara Bloom

Rabbi Contract Negotiating

Sara Bloom  
Arthur Riegel

Rabbi Search 2025

Chuck Simon and Lew Teperman, co-chairs  
Rabbi Suzan Lipson; Madelyn Rothman, Carol Seigel

Renovations

Meryl Kramer, chair  
Margot Perman, Nancy Torchio, Judith K. Weiner

Ritual

Sara Bloom, Ellen Buchbinder, Elaine Goldman, Adrienne  
Greenberg, Suzan Lipson, Stephen Meshover, Joanna Paulsen,  
Madelyn Rothman, Carol Seigel, Judith K. Weiner

Security

Stephen Meshover, chair  
Sara Bloom, Elaine Goldman, Gordon Henry, Judith K. Weiner

Silent Auction

Madelyn Rothman, chair  
Sara Bloom, Roberta Garris, Nina Neimark

Telephone/Sunshine

Sisterhood

Tikkun Olam

Veronica Kaliski, chair  
Adrienne Greenberg, Suzan Lipson, Susan Rosenstreich,  
Madelyn Rothman, Corinne Slade

Yahrzeits

Miriam Gabriel

Yellow Candle Project

Judith K. Weiner and Rena Wiseman, co-chairs  
Sara Bloom, Adrienne Greenberg, Elaine Goldman,  
Joanna Paulsen, Chuck Simon

Shul president Sara M. Bloom is an ex officio member of all shul committees.

