



The JCC of Fort Lee & CSI Scholar Fund Presents

VISITING SCHOLAR JANET DINARDO WHITE

February 21st & 28th

Lecture Series Topic - *“Reform Movements”*

(refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by speaker at 1:00 pm)

February 21st

Roots of Reform

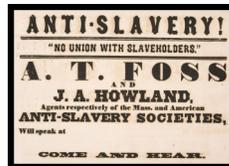


Interest in reform peaks or intensifies during certain eras. This session will focus on the effort to reform American society that swept the country in the 1820’s-1850’s.

Why did this interest in reform arise at this time? What social experiments emerged in an effort to perfect American society? Why did so many of these movements involve changes to the role of women?

February 28th

The Rise of the Abolitionist Movement



Americans of the early 19th century sought to rid their society of evil, and certainly the most glaring was the evil of slavery. This session will

discuss early opposition to slavery and how this opposition gradually evolved into the abolitionist movement. Opposition to slavery will be examined from economic, political and moral perspectives.



Janet DiNardo White spent over 20 years teaching high school history, with an emphasis on early American history; the period when our basic “personality” as a country was being formed. Since her retirement, she has taught several continuing education classes at Bergen Community College.

There is no charge for this lecture series; all are welcome to attend; RSVP not required.

Our Torah Members

These generous individuals have voluntarily chosen to support our Synagogue at a higher level of dues than is required, in order to help other Jews who are less fortunate and in need of assistance.

ETERNAL LIGHT MEMBERS

These members provide financial assistance and synagogue membership for families who are enduring financial hardship, as well as a full religious education for their children.

Anonymous
David Korn
Stephen & Merilee Obstbaum

“Offerings of the Heart”

*The names of our
Torah Members
are inscribed on the
sculpture in our
Community Room.*

Joseph & Tikva Ofeck
Joni Rosen
Myrna Weissman

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2018 *President's Council* 2019

The President's Council was established to recognize and honor our "**Leadership Donors**" who contribute \$1,250 or more to our *Kol Nidre Annual Fund*.
These generous individuals are the "**Financial Guardians**" of our synagogue.

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Jerry Goldfischer & Lilah Mordoh Ellen Yuder

(* Indicates a Charter Member since 1995)

ECLIPSE CALENDAR



As I watched the wolf, blood-moon lunar eclipse on Sunday night January 20th which, not surprisingly, was also Erev Tu b'Shevat, the 15th day, mid-point, full moon of the lunar month, I thought about two things.

The first was the poetry and precision of God's creation. "The heavens declare the glory of God. The sky proclaims God's handiwork. Day after day the word goes forth; night after night the story is told. Soundless the speech, voiceless the talk, yet the tale is echoed throughout the world." Those are the opening words of Psalm 19 (I only know those words well because they are part of the morning service every Shabbat and Yom Tov). Standing there, in the silence, watching the heavens, even nonbelievers stared, marveling in awe. It was beautiful. And it was also mysterious, even though everybody understood what was happening and why.

And the second thing could be summed up as "We will do down here, what they do up there".

A lot of the modeling in biblical and rabbinic theology is, essentially, based on this concept. "You be holy, because I, God, am holy". That phrase is found multiple times in the Torah—*imitatio dei*, as they say in Latin.

"We will sanctify your name in the world, just as it is sanctified in the heights of the heavens". Every Kedusha begins with some variation of those words (We are better acquainted with the response: *Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh...*).

The precision and synchronization – the work of art that we witnessed in the sky during the eclipse, and – almost every morning at sunrise, and evening at sunset, when the palette of the universe is a display—has it's parallel down here, I think in the precision and beauty of the Jewish calendar, the essential feature of which is **a leap month** (Adar I), which will begin on February 5th/6th.

We all know that a lunar year is 365 **and one quarter** days. We make up for that quarter day by inserting a leap day every four years.

The Torah mandates two, almost contradictory requirements: that we use the lunar month (29.5 days), and that Passover be observed as a springtime holiday, which is dependent on the solar cycle. (The same applies

to the other two pilgrimage festivals). Using a strictly lunar calendar (as the Muslims do), we would lose 11+ days each year, and after about 6/7 years Passover would fall in the winter, some years later in the fall, and continue to recede through the seasons until it would eventually come back to springtime... and then start all over again

By inserting an entire lunar month every 2-3 years (the Torah makes no mention of doing this), we are able to keep the holidays in their proper seasons.

In a 19 year period, the discrepancy between the lunar years in solar years amounts to 207 days. By intercalating seven lunar months in each 19 year period (210 days), we get pretty close! And then we also have a couple of "swing months" which can be either 29 or 30 days long. We use these two "swing months", not just to adjust the length of the year, but also to make sure that certain holidays don't fall on certain days of the week (for example: we never want Yom Kippur to fall on a Friday or a Sunday; the seventh day of Sukkot – *Hoshanna Rabbah* – must never fall on Shabbat).

This complicated calendrical structure – and I have only shared with you the tip of the iceberg – was devised just under 2,000 years ago. If that isn't a feat of genius, precision and beauty, paralleling the works of heaven, then I don't know what is!

So what did our ancestors do before the principles of the calendar were formulated?

They inserted an additional lunar month, whenever it was necessary: 1) as Passover approached and it was determined that the lambs that were to be used for the Paschal offering were not mature enough, they added a leap month to give the lambs another 30 days to fatten up, and/or 2) as Passover approached and it was determined that the barley crop that was required for the Omer offering on the second day of Passover needed more time to grow/mature/ripen, they delayed Passover by inserting the leap month.

And now you know why Purim is delayed by one month, and why Passover will be "late" this year (and same for Rosh HaShannah).

The JCC of Fort Lee & CSI Scholar Fund Presents

VISITING SCHOLAR
RABBI TZVEE ZAHAVY

February 7th

(refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by speaker at 1:00 pm)



Lecture topic: **Talmudic Values in Our Lives Today**

The Talmud is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law and Jewish theology. This session will focus on the different modes of critical Talmudic thought, and answer the question, What are the Talmudic values that can be applied to our contemporary day-to-day life?

Please note: This talk does not presume any prior knowledge of the talmud.

**On the Road with the Rabbi
to Liebman's Kosher Deli**

The only delicatessen--kosher or not (and this one is, or we wouldn't be eating there!!)--still standing in the Bronx!

**Wednesday, February
20th at 12:00 p.m.**

552 West 235th Street in Riverdale



RSVP to Rabbi Ken Stern: rabbi@gesherhalom.org or 201-947-1735 ext. 314

The JCC of Fort Lee/ Congregation Gesher Shalom

Presents

Kosher Jazz IV



Featuring The Matt Chertkoff Combo

A CSI Scholar Fund Program

Wednesday March 6th, 1:00 pm

(refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by concert at 1:00 pm)

An all new program featuring haunting liturgical melodies that are chanted in synagogues, and secular tunes that speak to the Jewish experience. A narrated concert, Matt will illustrate how these melodies lend themselves to the jazz idiom.



Matt Chertkoff, a graduate of the University of Miami School of Music with a degree in Jazz Performance, is featured on several CDs; has appeared on international TV networks; and performed at jazz festivals here and abroad. He can be seen locally at many popular jazz venues in New York City.

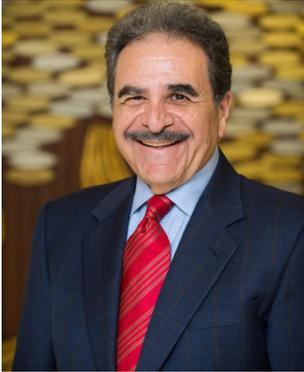
Free admission; Invite your friends!
No reservation necessary



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INTERESTING TORAH FACTS



The chanting of the Torah has always been the first and foremost way of transmitting our tradition. **Ezra Hasofer** - the scribe, instituted the public reading of the Torah in the open squares in the year 444 B.C.E, upon returning to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity.

Here at our shul, we are fortunate to have not one, not two, but three members who can read the Torah: **Rabbi Stern, Dr. Leon Perkal and Dr. Avi Yacobi**. They can be called upon almost anytime during the reading cycle of the Torah. We are truly grateful to them for sharing their talent, generosity and dedication. They not only have the knowledge of the “trope,” but are familiar with our sacred text and it’s correct pronunciation and phrasing. The word “trope” means cantillation and is derived from the Greek word “tropos,” meaning style or way. The symbols for chanting Torah known more familiarly by the Yiddish word “trop” represent a set of notes. There are a number of different **Ashkenazi and Sephardi** melody systems for “trope”- each community has its own norms and preferences.

To read from the Torah scroll the **Baal Korei** has to memorize the precise pronunciation of each word and breaks in between verses. The **Baal Korei** may use printed copies of the Torah to help them prepare for chanting from the Torah scroll. These printed copies include vowels, pronunciation and cantillation. I learned the art of Torah cantillation while studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Long before that I read a portion of Torah for my own Bar Mitzvah.

Before the “trope” system was created, Torah readers relied on a system of hand signals called *chironomy*. This system relayed to them by the “**Tomech**,” or helper, who stood on the right side of the reader; much like the Gabbai in our shul today. The *chironomy*

system directed the proper melody to the Torah reader.

The Ben Asher family in Tiberius in the 9th century C.E. established the accents, invented and assigned “trope signs” to the Biblical text. These signs clarified the exact accents and phraseology of the way we read the Torah today.

Finally there are the 6 systems of “tropes” (or as they are known in Hebrew ‘**Taamim**’) they are:

1. Chanting the Torah during the year
2. Chanting the Torah on the High Holy days
3. Chanting the Haftarah
4. Chanting Megillat Esther
5. Chanting Megillat Eicha –Lamentations on Tisha B’av
6. Megillat Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Ruth all share the same system of “tropes”.



You don’t have to be afraid to try and read Torah. I can say, that it will enhance your enjoyment of the Torah service. It’s nice and rewarding to be able to follow along and may give you a greater appreciation for our Torah readers. In the *Ethics of Our Fathers*, it is said about the Torah - “**Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it.**” Lets all remember that the Torah reading is a major part of our services.

May we all be inspired to continue on the lifelong journey of “Talmud Torah” - the study of Torah.

Sisterhood's Mishlo'ach Manot Project

*Your Purim gift lists have been mailed,
please fill them out
and return them to the Center office with your check.
Help us surpass our fundraising goal.*



*Will you help deliver our gifts on Sunday, March 17th ?
Call Debbie 201-947-1735 ext. 312
or Ethel 201-224-7215 to volunteer.*

We said it once, we will say it again. It is time for our "ALL CHARITY" project that supports our Synagogue and those in need, both near and far, most especially Israel. Because of this we hope that all of you will participate in Mischlo'ach Manot **this year.**

Needless to say we need volunteers to help assemble the packages on **Thursday, March 14th at 11am** and most especially to make deliveries on **Sunday, March 17th.** Please return your contribution forms and help us 'go over the top' this year. It's fun and rewarding! Todah!!

KOSHER JAZZ 4
Wednesday March 6th 1:00 pm

We encourage our sisterhood women and friends to attend this exciting musical program. It features the talented Matt Chertkoff Combo. Refreshments served at 12:30 pm.

REMINDER
There will be no general membership meetings in February and March.

Books Books Books

Please join the **Sisterhood Book Club**, which is in it's tenth successful year. We are a group of enthusiastic, avid readers (men and women) who enjoy lively book discussions. The book selections deal mostly with Jewish content but some are of a secular nature. Look for the current flier in the synagogue lobby.

Sisterhood Book Club resumes in the spring.

Tuesday, March 19th - 1:00pm

"The Last Watchman of Old Cairo"
By David Michael Lukas

Refreshments served

Our reserved books will be available at the library on February 4th.

Chairpersons
Kathy Grazian 201-592-0463
Naomi Altschul 201-568-9274

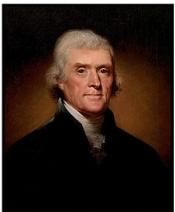
AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THE JEWS

President's Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 18, 2019. For many families, it is a three day weekend filled with shopping trips or a long weekend away. A great Shabbat table conversation that weekend might be to talk about the impact American Presidents have had on the Jews throughout our short history as a Nation. Our children learn all about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in school. Talking about the respect directed toward American Jewry might help to reinforce the positive attitudes and pride that we wish to instill in our children now and for their entire lives.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington, was not only the first president, but the first president to visit the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. In his famous "Letter to the Jews", Washington quoted the prophet Micah when making reference to what religious freedom should mean in the young United States, "...everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."



THOMAS JEFFERSON

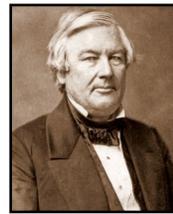
In 1787, the citizens of the United States adopted the Constitution. Article VI contains the following Jefferson inspired phrase: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." Despite his somewhat negative attitude toward Judaism as a religion, Jefferson's advocacy of the rights of Jews- and those of any other religious minorities, has become the law and the custom of our land. Tolerance of all religions and the absence of an official government religion and the right to practice and express religious thought freely are some of the most important in the legacy of Thomas Jefferson.



MARTIN VAN BUREN

Martin Van Buren was the first president to order an American consul to intervene on behalf of Jews abroad. In 1840 President Van Buren instructed the U.S. consul in Alexandria, Egypt to use their offices to protect the Jews of Damascus who were under attack because of a false

accusation of murder, until the matter could be resolved.



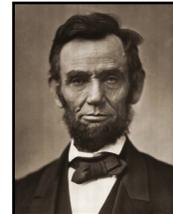
MILLARD FILMORE

Millard Filmore was the first president to offer a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court to a Jew—Judah P. Benjamin, then a U.S. senator from Louisiana. Benjamin declined the appointment, preferring to remain in the Senate.



FRANKLIN PIERCE

Franklin Pierce was the first and only president whose name appears on the charter of a synagogue after he signed the Act of Congress in 1857 that amended the laws of Washington D.C. to enable both Christian churches as well as the city's first Jewish synagogue, the Washington Hebrew Congregation, to incorporate. President Pierce also appointed the first Jewish American diplomat, August Belmont, to the post of U.S. Minister to The Hague.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln was the first president to submit changes in the U.S. Armed Services chaplaincy laws to include Jewish Rabbis. These redefined laws ultimately won the approval of both the Senate and House in 1862. President Lincoln then appointed Rabbi Jacob Frankel to serve as the first Jewish military chaplain. Lincoln was also responsible for revoking an official act of anti-Semitism by the U.S. Government as he cancelled General Ulysses S. Grant's "Order No. 11," issued December 17, 1862, which expelled all Jews from the Tennessee district controlled by Grant's armies during the Civil War. (Grant denied personal responsibility for the act, attributing it to his subordinates.) When asked about his views on creating a Jewish Homeland, Lincoln said that it was "*a noble dream and one shared by many Americans.*"

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The family of Dr. Matt Fermaglich would like to thank the Rabbi, Cantor & Members of the Congregation for their comfort and support before and after Joseph's recent passing.

Our condolences to . . .

DR. MATIS FERMAGLICH

On the loss of his brother

DR. JOSEPH FERMAGLICH

~

YETTA MAIDENBERG

On the loss of her husband,

BERNARD MAIDENBERG

~

RUTH GERSHEN

On the loss of her mother,

MILDRED "MIMI" GERSHEN

~

MARK HALPERN

On the loss of his father

SANFORD HALPERN

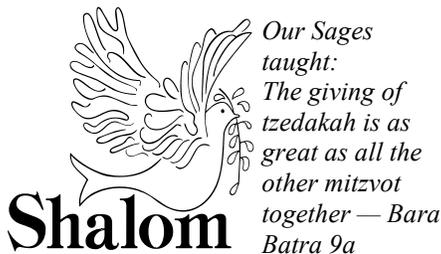
~

*To the families of our
 esteemed members*

ILENE MCGRATH

&

ALLEN J. KAMPEL



Donations listed were received in December

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 Michelle Reisner
 2 Bernard Wasserman
 4 Leo Rettig
 5 Irving Spielman
 7 Sydney Josif
 8 Judith Platt
 8 Florence Silverberg
 12 Hannah Rak
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 25 Suzanne Fasman
 25 Murray Feit
 25 Rhonda Huegel
 25 Rose Jakoby
 26 Arnold Insler
 26 Gloria Singer
 27 Nancy Schiff
 27 Diane Sudakoff
 28 Craig Barnett

*Happy
 Birthday!*

15 Lisa & Gary Maier
 28 Selma & Rabbi Irving Spielman



If your birthday/anniversary is not listed, please call the Synagogue office and we will update our records. 201-947-1735



Siddurim have been dedicated by:

*Harriet Hirschenfang & Family
 In memory of her husband,
 Dr, Fred C. Hirschenfang*

*Evelyn Baer
 In memory of her grandparents,
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Morning:

Mon - Fri at 7:00 am

Evening:

Sun - Thurs at 7:45 pm

SAVE THE DATES:
**Upcoming Shabbat Dinners and
Musical Services**

**February 22nd
March 15th**



New York Times Bestseller

Letters to
My Palestinian
Neighbor



Yossi Klein
Halevi

Author of Like Dreamers

The next meeting of the Great Synagogue Read-In will feature Chapter five (*6 Days and 50 Years*) of "**Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor**" by Yossi Klein Halevi on Wednesday, February 13th at 10:30 am. Discussion will begin that day at 6:30 pm



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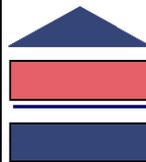
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FEBRUARY 2019

Shevat/Adar I - 5779

Daily Service Times

Mon -Thur 7:00am & 7:45pm
 Friday 7:00am & 7:00pm
 Saturday 9:30am & Minchah
 Sunday 9:00am & 7:45pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 26 Shevat  4:55PM	2 27 Shevat Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 4:30PM MISHPATIM
3 28 Shevat	4 29 Shevat	5 30 Shevat Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00 pm	6 1 Adar I	7 2 Adar I Rabbi's Class 10:30 am CSI Lecture 12:30 pm	8 3 Adar I  5:04PM	9 4 Adar I Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 4:30PM TERUMAH
10 5 Adar I	11 6 Adar I	12 7 Adar I	13 8 Adar I The Great Synagogue Read In 10:30 am Read In discussion 6:30 pm	14 9 Adar I Rabbi's Class 10:30 am	15 10 Adar I  5:12PM	16 11 Adar I Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 4:45PM TETZAVEH
17 12 Adar I	18 13 Adar I Office Closed Minyan 9:00 am & 7:45 pm PRESIDENTS' DAY	19 14 Adar I	20 15 Adar I On the Road with the Rabbi 12:00 pm	21 16 Adar I Rabbi's Class 10:30 am CSI Lecture 12:30 pm	22 17 Adar I Bible Study 11:30am Shabbat Dinner 6:00 pm Service 7:15 pm  5:21PM	23 18 Adar I Birthday & Anniversary Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 5:00PM KI TISSA
24 19 Adar I	25 20 Adar I	26 21 Adar I	27 22 Adar I	28 23 Adar I Rabbi's Class 10:30 am CSI Lecture 12:30 pm		

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