

ON THE ROAD WITH THE RABBI TO THE ARCHIVES OF YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

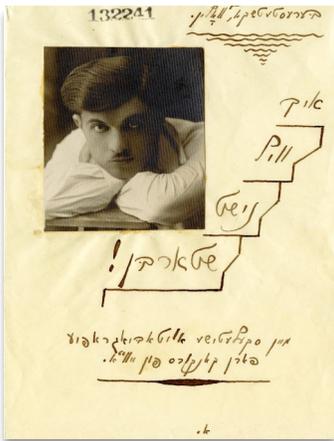
”דישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט • יוואָ

A professionally led tour by the Director of the Archives, Dr. Stefanie Halpern, focusing on **The Hopes and Fears of Young People in Pre-War Europe**

Wednesday, February 26 at 11:00am

15 West 16th Street, New York NY

\$25.00 per person



In 1939, YIVO announced a contest for the “best Jewish youth autobiography,” open to young men and women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two. Its aims were sociological: “We want to become fully aware of the life of the Jewish youth in these difficult days.” YIVO had planned to announce the winners on September 1, 1939, but that day Germany invaded Poland, starting the Second World War...

Translation: “I will not Die!”

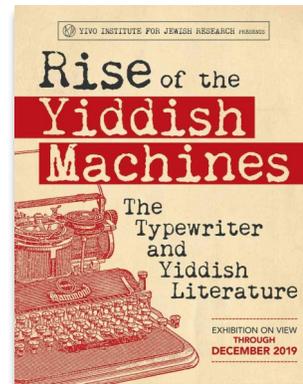


Translation: “My Autobiography—Written especially for the YIVO Competition in Vilna”

We will also have the opportunity to view this exhibit:

And there is the option to eat lunch at

 **Sushi Tokyo** 121 West 19th Street



Call the Rabbi for more information:
 201-947-1735 ext. 314
 Or email rabbi@geshershalom.org

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.*

Joni Rosen
Ann Rosenberg
Myrna Weissman
Mordechai & Suzanne Warshavsky

CHAI MEMBERS

These members provide financial assistance and membership for families who are enduring financial hardship.

Mercy Cohen
Lior & Andrea Elrom
Harvey & Barbara Fishman
Regina Friedman
Seymour & Nancy Green
Renee Gruenspecht

Daniel Kraut & Eve Kohut
Joseph Lempel
Irwin & Karen Meyers
Joseph & Tikva Ofeck
Abraham Ravid

Seligman & Phyllis Rosenberg
Sheila Scherl
Norm & Florence Silverberg
Michael Glantz & Heidi Skolnik
Barry & Barbara Sussman
Charlotte Winter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Rabbi's Study	4	Donations	8
Notes from the Cantor	6	Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Sisterhood	7	Calendar	11

JOIN ME IN WASHINGTON DC ON MARCH 1



You may recall that last Rosh HaShannah (and Yom Kippur) I told you about my most impressive takeaway from the AIPAC Rabbinic Symposium I attended in August: A Republican professional pollster told us *that there are 3 great bi-partisan issues in the United States: funding for Veterans, for Infrastructure, and for Israel.*

Stop and think about it: who would have ever imagined that the State of Israel would be in the top 3 on the agenda of the United States?!! That's something precious—and miraculous—and it didn't happen just because Israel is so deserving. It took a lot of hard work, and that work is only getting harder.

AIPAC is all about *maintaining that bi-partisan support for Israel* in a time of an ever increasing partisan divide. *I know* that some people don't want to attend AIPAC because they think that AIPAC is filled with right-wing extremists. And *I know* that some people don't want to attend because they think that AIPAC is filled with left-wing progressives!

But this is what I know: AIPAC is filled with people who are passionate about Israel—people who are deeply concerned about keeping Israel as one of the 3 great a bi-partisan issues of our country at a time when Israel is in danger of becoming a politicized, 1-party issue, embraced by many Republicans, and simultaneously distanced by some very vocal Democrats.

That's where you come in. Now is the time for you to step up and join me in this vital mission of keeping Israel bi-partisan at the **AIPAC Policy Conference** in **Washington, DC** on **March 1-3.**

You don't have to be an activist to do this; you just have to be curious enough to try it, to care enough to try it. And you will not be alone: you will be in the company of other people from our Shul. So don't hesitate on that account.

And if you come, I guarantee that you will be inspired, by what you learn and who you will hear.* I can also guarantee you that your commitment to Israel will be deepened by the experience.

I am here to answer your questions and to ease your way into an experience that rivals visiting Israel but without the jetlag. Please let me hear from you.



-*Politicians from a variety of countries, for sure, but also Israeli scientists on the cutting edge of technology and medicine, individuals who are making a difference in Israeli society, patients whose stories will bring you to tears, people from all walks of life whose stories you will never forget, some influenced by a Jewish neighbor, some emulating a relative or a friend, some motivated by their deep or newly discovered, religious conviction.



TU B'SHEVAT

Falls on Monday, February 10. At the Kiddush following services on February 8, we will have a special table set out with a variety of fruits and nuts for your tasting pleasure.

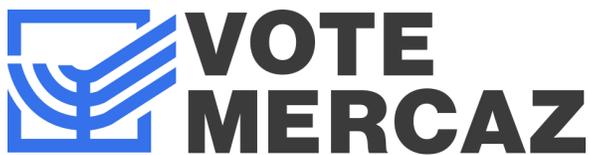


WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS

It happens every 5 years, and you may recall the push that I made the last time 'round to get as many of you as possible to vote—and to **vote for MERCAZ**, the political party that represents the interests and viewpoint of the Conservative/*Masorti* Movement both in Israel and around the world at/in the World Zionist Congress. The Congress was founded by Theodor Herzl, and since 1897 it has been shaping the direction of world Jewry. This election will influence the policies religious tolerance and pluralism, most especially the legitimacy of Masorti Judaism and egalitarian prayer and fiscal priorities funding for Masorti communities set by the Zionist Congress, which has at its disposal in the neighborhood of \$1 Billion annually.

American communities comprise about 1/3 of the Congress, and obviously, the more of us who vote, the more influence we will have. So **YOU'RE VOTE IS OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE!** Unfortunately, voting is just a bit convoluted. It's a 2-step process (registering and then voting) and it requires an outlay of \$7.50. After you register, you will receive a special pin/code which will allow you to vote.

I know that this is a huge ask, **but please vote for** our slate: **MERCAZ, Slate #6** by going to <https://www.mercaz2020.org/> (you can just input [mercaz2020.org](https://www.mercaz2020.org/) and you will be taken to the site). And once you have completed your ballot, please let me know that you have voted.



The Conservative Movement Slate #6

Voting closes on March 11

Unfortunately, voting can only be done online. Fortunately, I am happy to help you vote, on my computer! Just give me a call and we'll make an appointment.

Celebrate Purim!

with the JCC of Fort Lee/Gesher Shalom and CBIOTP

Monday evening, March 9, 2020
Evening service followed by Megillah reading and costume parade at 7:30 pm
Dessert reception will follow Megillah reading

Tuesday morning, March 10, 2020
Megillah reading at 6:30 am
Light breakfast and hamentashen will be served after services

Purim Services on Monday and Tuesday will be held at CBIOTP
1585 Center Ave Fort Lee





IT'S SHEVAT—HAPPY BIRTHDAY TREES!



The Hebrew month of Shevat falls during the winter months. This coming February 10th, will be the 15th day of the month of Shevat, and it's celebrated as the New Year of the Trees. In Israel, the rainy season usually ends, and buds are beginning to appear on trees.

It's customary to eat fruits and nuts on Tu B'Shevat. At our Tu B'Shevat "Seders" we usually eat almonds, grapes, carob, dates, pomegranates, apricots and olives. It also give us a chance to make an extra Bracha (the **Shehecheyanu**) for certain fruits that we haven't eaten the rest of the year.

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a day for rejoicing. The trees are just as important there as they were in biblical times. When Jews resettled in Israel in modern times, they found that through neglect, much of the land had become bare desert. By planting and caring for millions of trees, they have turned Israel back into a green and blooming land.

Even though Tu B'Shevat falls during our winter, I still remember as a youngster that people all year round would send donations to organizations like the Jewish National Fund, for tree planting in Israel. In the past (and even today) people honor one another by planting trees, to help Israel grow and help make their land more fruitful and beautiful.

Going back some 300 years there was a Seder that was initiated by the Kabbalists (mystics) of Tzefat in Northern Israel. For the last 25 years Geshet Shalom/JCC of Fort Lee has celebrated TU B'Shevat with a Seder. It has become a more important celebration on our Jewish calendar, with a Seder connected to the holiday.

In general we have readings, poems and songs that are built around two ritual acts: the drinking of four cups of wine (sound familiar?) and the eating of many fruits. As for the music, I believe the three

most popular songs taught in Hebrew Schools for Tu B'Shevat are "**Hashkeidiya Porachat**" (The Almond Tree is growing), "**Ki Tavo-U**" (When you come to the land), and "**Atzei Zeitim Omdim**" (Olive trees are standing).

With this in mind, the two most popular blessings we recite for Tu B'Shevat Seder are "*Borei P'ri Hagafen*" and "*Borei P'ri Haeitz*" for creating the fruit of the tree. If you are wondering what melody to use for these blessings, Ill give you one hint: Think of all the wine and foods we say and sing blessings for at our Passover Seder, and you have the answer. They have their own special tune!

Tu, Tu, Tu, B'Shevat Happy New Year Trees!

כִּי תִבֹּאוּ אֶל הָאָרֶץ
 Ki-tavo-u el ha-aretz
 וְנִטְעַם כָּל עֵץ מֵאֵכֶל
 un'tatem kol eitz ma-a-chal
 וְנָתַן הָעֵץ פְּרִי וְהָאָרֶץ יְבֹולָה
 v'natan ha-eitz pir-yo v'ha'aretz y'vula
**When you come to the land and plant trees
 And the trees give their abundance
 Then you shall be like a tree,
 Planted by the water.**



Sisterhood's Mishlo'ach Manot Project

Purim is on Monday, March 9th. Your Purim gift lists have been mailed. Please fill them out and return them to the Synagogue office with your check. Help us reach our fundraising goal.



Will you help deliver our gifts on Sunday, March 8th ?

Call Yael 201-947-1735 ext 316 or Ethel 201-224-7215 to volunteer.

We hope that everyone will participate in Mishlo'ach Manot this year. This is an **ALL CHARITY** project that supports our Synagogue and those in need, living in the US and Israel.

We need volunteers to help assemble the packages on **Thursday March 5th** and most especially to make deliveries on **Sunday March 8th**. It is fun and rewarding! Todah!

REMEMBER

There will be no Sisterhood general membership or Book Club meetings in February.

Please join the entire congregation on the **evening of Monday March 9th** for the Purim Megillah Reading, costume parade and refreshments at 1585 Center Ave Fort Lee.



Books Books Books

Please join the **Sisterhood Book Club**, which is in its eleventh 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 flyer in the synagogue office or on the table before services at 1585 Center Ave Fort Lee.

Sisterhood Book Club

Tuesday, March 17th - 1:00pm

The Lost Girls of Paris
By Pam Jenoff

Refreshments served

Our reserved books are available at the Fort Lee Public Library.

Book Club will be held at 301 bridge plaza north

Chairpersons

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTORS

DONOR

Mary & Leo Rettig
The Davis Family
Irith & Arnold Insler
Sol Arbeiter

IN HONOR OF

Mark Altschul
Alice Grodman's Birthday
Alice Grodman's Birthday
The successful sock drive

*Our Sages taught:
The giving of tzedakah is as great as all
the other mitzvot together —
Bara Batra 9a*

DONOR

Shirley & Marvin Kochansky
Iris & Jon Fox
Hyla Epstein
Ann & Peter Bloch
Sisterhood

IN MEMORY OF

Manny Silverberg
Bill Katz
Bill Katz
Bill Katz
Bill Katz

Our condolences to . . .

FRAN KOSZER
On the loss of her mother
CYNTHIA FREEMAN

Donations listed were received in December



BERGEN COUNTY HOUSING, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

120 SOUTH RIVER STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601-6908

(201) 336-6475 Fax: (201) 488-9298 TDD: (201) 343-2185

JULIA M. ORLANDO, ED.M, MA, CRC, DRCC
DIRECTOR

orlando@habcnj.org

Jewish Community Center of Fort Lee
301 Bridge Plaza North #2
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
Attention: Iris Coleman and Regina Freidman

Dear Members of the Jewish Federation,

On behalf of our guests and community, we would like to thank you for your donation on December 13th of 300 pairs of warm winter socks. We greatly appreciate that you took the time to think about what our guests may need as they come in to the Center during the colder months. Your compassion and generosity support the Center and its guests in the daily effort toward rebuilding lives and regaining hope.

If in the future you would like to inquire about our most needed items, volunteer opportunities, or to learn more about how you can donate to the Jerome S. Some Memorial Fund, our vocational program that assists the homeless in obtaining gainful employment, please contact the Center at 201-336-6491.

Respectfully,

Julia Orlando
Director

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | <i>Michelle Reisner</i> | 16 | <i>Robert Mohl</i> | 26 | <i>Arnold Insler</i> |
| 4 | <i>Leo Rettig</i> | 17 | <i>Audrey Altschul</i> | 26 | <i>Gloria Singer</i> |
| 5 | <i>Irving Spielman</i> | 17 | <i>Milton Breit</i> | 27 | <i>Nancy Schiff</i> |
| 7 | <i>Sydney Josif</i> | 18 | <i>Alan Uliss</i> | 27 | <i>Diane Sudakoff</i> |
| 8 | <i>Judith Platt</i> | 20 | <i>Justine Laufer</i> | 28 | <i>Craig Barnett</i> |
| 8 | <i>Florence Silverberg</i> | 21 | <i>Richard Rosenberg</i> | | |
| 11 | <i>Diana Yacobi</i> | 21 | <i>Laurie Singer</i> | | |
| 12 | <i>Loren Wasserman</i> | 23 | <i>Elsie Zeilberger</i> | | |
| 14 | <i>Karen Brady</i> | 25 | <i>Suzanne Fasman</i> | | |
| 16 | <i>Irith Insler</i> | 25 | <i>Rose Jakoby</i> | | |

- 15 *Lisa & Gary Maier*
 28 *Selma & Rabbi Irving Spielman*

*Happy
 Birthday !*

*Happy
 Anniversary*



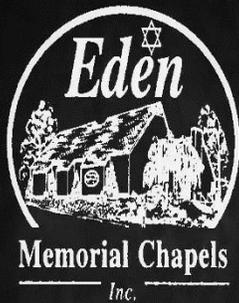
SUPPORT CONGREGATION GESHER SHALOM'S TWICE DAILY MINYAN
 Includes Breakfast & Conversation once a Week!



Morning:
 Mon - Fri
 7:00 am

Evening:
 Sun - Thurs
 7:45 pm

A Traditional Jewish Experience



Pre-Planning Experts
Graveside and
Chapel Services
Fair and Balanced Pricing



Barry Wien - NJ Lic. No. 2885

Frank Patti, Jr. - NJ Lic. No. 4169

Arthur Musicant - NJ Lic. No. 2544

Frank Patti, Sr. Director - NJ Lic. No. 2693

327 Main St, Fort Lee, NJ · www.edenmemorial.com

Convenient to NYC & Major Highways

201-947-3336

888-700-EDEN

*We continue to be Jewish family managed,
knowing that caring people
provide caring service.*

**GUTTERMAN AND MUSICANT
JEWISH FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

800-522-0588

**WIEN & WIEN, INC.
MEMORIAL CHAPELS**

800-322-0533

402 PARK STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

ALAN L. MUSICANT, *Mgr.*, N.J. Lic. No. 2890

MARTIN D. KASDAN, N.J. Lic. No. 4482

*Advance planning conferences conveniently
arranged at our chapel or in your own home*

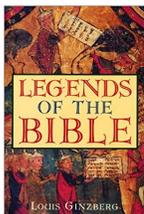


GuttermanMusicantWien.com



Re-Inventing the Bible

Thursdays at 10:30 am



Join Rabbi Stern as we discover the amazingly creative juices of the classical rabbis! They were masters at spinning yarns, embellishing narrative, and inventing out of whole cloth to really make the Bible come alive through what they called **Midrash Aggadah**.



Using Louis Ginzberg's one-volume *The Legends of the Bible* (you can buy a used copy online for less than \$10), we will contrast the biblical text with these rabbinically enhanced narratives.

BRIDGE OPTICIANS

301 Bridge Plaza North
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
201-944-6440

Harrison L. Rosenberg

Anthony Bravo
Lila Mordoh

David Mandel
Lisa Stein

**PLACE YOUR
AD HERE**

Call Kathy Grazian
201-592-0463

FEBRUARY 2020

Shevat/Adar - 5780

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
<p>SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>All Shabbat Services (Friday evening, Shabbat morning and Mincha) will be held at CBIOTP 1585 Center Ave Fort Lee.</p> <p>Daily morning and evening services will be held at 301 Bridge Plaza North, Third floor.</p>						<p>1 6 Shevat</p> <p>Service 9:30 am</p> <p>MINCHAH 4:30PM Bo</p>
2 7 Shevat	3 8 Shevat	4 9 Shevat Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00pm	5 10 Shevat	6 11 Shevat Rabbi's Class 10:30am	7 12 Shevat Bible Study 11:30am  5:02PM	8 13 Shevat Service 9:30 am TU B'Shevat Kiddush following Kiddush MINCHAH 4:30PM BESHALACH
9 14 Shevat	10 15 Shevat TU B'SHEVAT	11 16 Shevat	12 17 Shevat	13 18 Shevat Rabbi's Class 10:30am	14 19 Shevat Bible Study 11:30am  5:11PM	15 20 Shevat Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 4:45PM YITRO
16 21 Shevat	17 22 Shevat Office Closed	18 23 Shevat	19 24 Shevat	20 25 Shevat Rabbi's Class 10:30am	21 26 Shevat Bible Study 11:30am  5:19PM	22 27 Shevat Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 4:45PM MISHPATIM
23 28 Shevat	24 29 Shevat	25 30 Shevat	26 1 Adar On the Road with the Rabbi to YIVO 11:00am RSVP required	27 2 Adar Rabbi's Class 10:30am	28 3 Adar Bible Study 11:30am  5:27PM	29 4 Adar MINCHAH 5:00PM TERUMAH

2019 - 20 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Mark Altschul
Vice Presidents	Andrea Elrom
	Wayne Koby
	Richard Schiff
	Ira Smilovitz
Treasurer	Arnold Insler
Secretaries	Niles Burton
	Iris Coleman
Joan Alter	Ethel Chesen
Regina Friedman	Hilda Froelke
Hugh Gilenson	Seymour Green
Vera Kishinevsky	Dan Kraut
Howard Schefflan	Laurie Singer
Heidi Skolnik	Alan Stern
Nancy Vorbach	

CLERGY & DIRECTORS

Rabbi	Kenneth A. Stern
Cantor	Paul Zim
Rabbi Emeritus	Irving Spielman
Messenger Editor	Yael Gevertzman

AUXILIARY

Sisterhood

President	Ethel Chesen
Treasurer	Martha Shemin
Financial Secretary	Ann Bloch
Corresponding Secretary	Evelyn Davis
Recording Secretary	Rochelle Carus

Men's Club

President/Treasurer	Alan Stern
Secretary	Marvin Kochansky

CONTACT US

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF FORT LEE / GESHER SHALOM

PHONE: (201) 947-1735 • FAX: (201) 947-1530

EMAIL: office@geshershalom.org • VISIT US: www.geshershalom.org



@CGSJCC



/JCCFortLee