



SHALIYAH

Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore

April 2016

A Community Dedicated to Change and Committed to Tradition Adar 2/Nisan 5776



WOMEN'S PESAH EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m.



YOGA SHABBAT

April 9th, 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

Experience Shabbat through movement; connecting body, mind and soul. This

Shabbat Yoga program is taught by Rabbi Jodie Siff. Good for all levels, adults and post b'nai mitzvah teens, non-members welcome.

Bring your own mats and yoga props (we have a few if you forget yours). Wear comfortable work out attire.

Meets Saturdays, May 7 and June 11, 8:15-9:30 a.m.

If you have questions please Email Rabbi Jodie Siff at rabjodie@optonline.net

SHABBAT UNPLUGGED

Join us on Friday night, April 15th from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. for our monthly musical service: A joyous evening of music and singing with a fantastic Shabbat Band (drums, guitar, strings, sax, etc.) led by our very own Solomon Hoffman!

SHABBAT B'YAHAD

The B'Yahad program is an ongoing Saturday morning family service and education experience. All members are welcome! Adult Text Study begins at 9:00 a.m. and the community Family Service begins at 10:15 a.m.

Our next session will be Saturday, April 16th.

Finding Recovery and Yourself in Torah with Rabbi Mark Borovitz

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Mark Borovitz of Beit T'shuvah, in Los Angeles, will join us to premiere his new book *Finding Recovery and Yourself in Torah: A Daily Spiritual Path to Wholeness* (Jewish Lights Publishing). Details on page 12.



PESAH SERVICES

Saturday, April 23rd

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

7th day of Pesah Service – including *Yizkor*

Friday, April 29th

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

SAVE THESE DATES:
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:
SUNDAY, MAY 22 – 5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT:
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

In honor of the Children and Families who make RSNS Thrive and Grow.

Watch for your invitation!

MAY SHALIYAH

The deadline for the May 2016 issue is April 15th.

To submit content for the MAY Shaliyah, Email your copy as a word document to

rsnsnewsletter@gmail.com



Parenting ♦ Caregiving ♦ Marital Concerns ♦ Separation/Divorce ♦ Bereavement
Geriatric Care ♦ Cancer Wellness ♦ Career ♦ Legal ♦ Financial

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A SERVICE CORPS FOR JEWISH BOOMERS ON LONG ISLAND?

Join boomers (and beyond) from Sid Jacobson JCC, Friedberg JCC, The Marion and Aaron Gural JCC, Mid-Island Y JCC and Samuel Field Y in volunteer opportunities and create deep meaningful bonds through UJA-Federation of New York's Engage Jewish Service Corps.

Call or email Susan Berman, Engage Community Organizer at 516-484-1545, ext. 202, sberman@sjjcc.org or complete the online application (see link below) to be matched with meaningful opportunities that use your skills, satisfy your interests and compliment your schedule.

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=1013303431>

PARTNERS IN CARING STAFF

Randy Hight, LCSW
Audrey J. Bernstein, LMSW
Michelle Laser, LCSW, Director of Social Services
Margy Ringelheim, LMSW
Chana Topek Diamond, LCSW

Our Warm Line is staffed by your caring, professional social workers.

CALL 516.484.1545, ext. 196

Phone calls are always free and confidential.

UNIVERSITY DAY: GOOD AND EVIL IN JEWISH TRADITION

We look forward to an in-house Shabbaton the weekend of May 20-21.

During services Friday night, May 20, Aaron Siff-Scherr will talk about an Israel-centered program that brings together Jewish teens and Catholic teens. Recounting his trip to Israel this past February, Aaron will be joined by his travelling partner who is an eleventh grade student from Chaminade. They will reflect on their experience touring Jewish and Christian sites sharing their respective traditions.

The next morning, May 21, we will convene for our annual University Day. This year's theme is 'Good and Evil in Jewish Tradition.' We are especially privileged to have Dr. Yedida Kanfer, Coordinator of Education Services at the Holocaust Center in San Francisco, as our keynote speaker. A PhD graduate of Yale University in Russian and East European history, and a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Kanfer is also Naomi Weinberg's granddaughter. Addressing the issue of evil in modern Judaism, she will examine how 14-year-old diarist Rywka Lipszyc found a sense of comfort in the darkest days of the Lodz ghetto by surrounding herself with religious life, study, and belief. She will also look at the consequences of losing one's "home," and what that means for contemporary times.

Before Yedida speaks, Rabbi Lee will offer a workshop on a Philosophical Reflection on Good and Evil in the Bible as seen through the lens of philosopher Martin Buber. Cantor Eric will offer a workshop on Good and Evil in Jewish Pop Culture: A Contemporary Perspective. A light lunch will be served. Mark the date and look out for a full schedule for the Shabbaton.

A complete Schedule is forth coming.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PJ LIBRARY

Join us for our next **PJ Library** event will take place on Wednesday **April 13th at 5:30 p.m.** We will be reading PJ Library selections for Pesah and having dinner - one last bit of hametz before Pesah begins.

Not a PJ Library member yet? It's never too late for your child to start receiving these free Jewish books each month. Visit www.pjlibrary.org to sign up.

OR HADASH For grades 4 - 6

Join us for our next Or Hadash program of the year. We will be volunteering in the soup kitchen on **Monday, April 18th from 3:00-8:00 p.m.** All permission slips for this trip are due by April 11. To sign up for all of the events, call the RSNS office or email Sharon sharonrsns@optonline.net.

KADIMA – seventh grade 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

- Kadima class with parents – April 5th

- Kadima class (students only) – April 12th & 19th

PURIM CARNIVAL SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone that made our annual Purim Carnival a success.

A good time was had by all!

Purim Play Video

Use the following link to view a video of the Purim Play posted on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftLTLBw4834&feature=youtu.be>

Link is also on the homepage of our website.

TEENS: grades 8-12

ADOPT A SURVIVOR

Post Kadima class 2015 -- meeting Wednesdays from 5:30 –7:00 p.m. Our final preparation for our presentation at the congregational Yom Hashoah service are as follows:

- Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. rehearsal – no dinner
- Tuesday, May 3, 4:30 - 6:15 p.m. Presentation during Synagogue School and Yom HaShoah school service
- Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m. Presentation during Congregational Yom HaShoah service

KESHER HADASH

Are you an RSNS teen? Then join us online!

Follow us on instagram:

[instagram.com/rsnsteens/](https://www.instagram.com/rsnsteens/)

Join our Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/kesherhadash/

Boy's Group – Bros' Hodesh

Next meeting **April 19, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

If you're a boy in grades 8-12, please RSVP to Cantor Eric, or join our Facebook group!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/187609124592536/>

Girl's Rosh Hodesh – draws on the tradition of Rosh Hodesh celebrations to build self-esteem, leadership skills, and satisfying Jewish identities for adolescent girls. We intend the program to demonstrate to teenage girls Judaism's commitment to their growth and well-being. 8-10th grade girls may join this special "girls only" group. Our next meeting will be on **April 12th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL NEWS

The 2015-2016 [School Calendar](#) is posted on the RSNS website.

Annual Shabbat Day in Synagogue School Tuesday, April 5, 4:15-6:15 p.m.

Students create their own Shabbat kits by making a new item each year

Bet: challah boards

Gimmel: ceramic candlesticks

Daled: mosaic tzedakah boxes

Hay: challah covers

Vav: etched glass kiddush cups - **We definitely need parental help for this project!**

After five years each student will have a complete Shabbat kit!

Any parent wishing to help is welcome! FYI: there are no make-ups for these projects.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS HELD DURING REGULAR CLASS TIME – ALL DATES ARE TUESDAYS

April 19	Pesah Day	May 17	Zimria & Slide Show
May 3	Yom HaShoah		

Shabbat Services: Family services are held one Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. There are many different ways for families to participate. We work with each class to enable parents to provide Jewish role models for their children as well as expand their knowledge of Jewish liturgy and texts. You may sign up to help with a Family Service one. The *B'Yahad* Saturday morning family service and education program act as reinforcement for our *tefilla* program.

FRIDAY EVENING FAMILY SERVICE STUDENT PARTICIPATION

All families are encouraged to join us at all family services regardless of your student's grade.

April 1	Kindergarten/Alef
May 6	Shabbat School

SAVE THESE DATES

THE YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM – MAY 3RD

Class begins as usual at 4:15, program will begin at 4:30 p.m. *Parents are welcome to join us as we remember the victims of the Holocaust through the lens of our 8th grade students, who have been part of the Adopt a Survivor program.*

END OF YEAR ZIMRIAH – MAY 17TH

Class begins as usual at 4:15. All students in kindergarten-vav will participate in a Zimriah singing songs on the theme of Israel, followed by a slide show of this past year in Synagogue School. **Kindergarten and alef students, and any parents, should arrive at 5:15 p.m.**

CONGREGATION WIDE PROGRAMS

For all ages!! All are welcome.

SANDWICH MAKING

SUNDAY April 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Prepare bag lunches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, for clients of the INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network).



What fun we had at Purim dressing up and parading through the synagogue. There were many beautiful Queen Esthers, wicked Hamans, King Ahasuerus', Mordecais, hamentashen, and other creative costumes. We made groggers, megillahs and delicious hamentashen to eat!

Spring is finally here and so is Pesah! The children have been cooking all kinds of foods that you can eat during Pesah - matzah brie, matzah ball soup, matzah pizza and chocolate covered matzah. They are making beautiful placemats, afikomen bags, matzah covers and haggadahs for Pesah. Frogs are always an important part of Pesah in the nursery school - we sing about them; we read about them; we paint and decorate them, and our four year olds observe the transformation of tadpoles to frogs in their classrooms. The toddlers will be participating in a Pesah Sing a Long on **Tuesday April 20th** and the three and four year old classes will be participating in a Model Seder on **April 21st**.

Join us for our next **PJ Library** event will take place on Wednesday **April 13th at 5:30 p.m.** We will be reading PJ Library selections for Pesah and having dinner - one last bit of hametz before Pesah begins.

When we return to school after Pesah we will get ready for Yom Ha'atzmaut by making Israeli flags, airplanes, and blue and white collages. We'll be eating Israeli foods and having birthday cake as part of our celebrations.

Do you have leftover supplies from a home art project? The nursery school is always looking for yarn, wool, and buttons for our creative artwork.

Registration continues for our summer program and our fall classes. Don't delay - call the nursery school at 516-627-0257 or e-mail us at ganshalom@optonline.net to register your child.

For seven weeks this summer, your child can have a wonderful experience at Gan Shalom. Our summer program begins **June 29th and ends August 16th**. This summer we will be offering a 1 or 2 day program for our two year olds and a 4 day or 5 day a week program for our 3 and four year olds. The tuition and more details are available upon request.

The two year olds will meet from 9:30 – 11:00 or 9:30 – 11:30. The three year olds will meet from 9:30 to 12:30 and the four year olds will meet from 9:30 to 1:30. The fours will bring a dairy lunch from home daily. A daily ½ hour lunch extension is available for 3 year olds. Children will have the opportunity to play indoors in an air-conditioned classroom, and outdoors where **sprinklers** and a **water slide** will be available. Special activities are planned for each week of the program.

Toddler Programming - Come play, paint, paste, sing and share snack with us this summer!! No bottles or pacifiers for these classes, please. All classes will meet in a air conditioned room and include water play in the playground. We are delighted to offer two types of programming for our toddlers this summer. Our Summer Program begins **on Monday June 30 and ends on Friday August 15, 2014.**

Our seven week Come Play With Me is a non separating class for children who will be two by December 1, 2015 and their parent or caregiver. We will be offering this class on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:00AM. Tuition will be \$225 for synagogue members and \$250 for non-members.

Our seven week Summer Twos class is a separating class for children who will be two by December 1, 2014. This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30AM. Tuition is \$600 for synagogue members and \$650 for non-members.

HAPPY PASSOVER TO ALL!

Laura

ADULT STUDIES AND SEMINARS

EAT, READ, TALK

Rabbi Lee will continue his Thursday afternoon programs in this series at **12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7th**. He will again, present an article “ripped from the headlines” of Jewish relevance. Feel free to bring a dairy lunch and we’ll supply the hot drinks and the article to be discussed.

BIBLE STUDY

This group has been and continues to be committed to reading every word of the Hebrew Bible (in English translation). After more than a decade and a half, the group has reached the last third of the Bible. We will pick up the reading with the Book of Psalms, which will occupy us for most of the year. This seminar meets biweekly on Thursday nights from 8-9:30 p.m. **Our next meetings are Thursday, April 14th and 28th.**

SHABBAT SEMINAR

The History of Israel: A Documentary Approach. We began our examination of Zionism seven years ago through the lens of the writings of Zionist and anti-Zionist ideologues. Last year we arrived at the end of the Six Day War and concluded with the Yom Kippur War. We will continue to critically review the development of the State through original political and sociological documents. This seminar meets biweekly on Shabbat afternoons 12-1:30 p.m. **Our next meetings are April 2nd, 16th and 30th.**

CANTOR’S DINNER

Friday, April 8th 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join Cantor Eric for a wonderful discussion and dinner as we explore the topic of the year “**JEWES ON THE FRINGES - EXPLORE THE UNIQUE SMALLER JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN EXOTIC PLACES AROUND THE WORLD.**” \$12 for dairy dinner, or come for FREE just for the discussion at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Cantor Eric (rsnscantor@gmail.com) (whether you’re coming to the dinner OR just the discussion!) by **Monday, April 4th**. AND WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND.

DONATION or PAY ON OUR WEBSITE

Go to <http://rsns.org/giving> and follow the directions. Call the office if you need help (516-627-6274). All credit cards accepted on our website.

ENGAGING WITH AGING

Our next meeting this year, facilitated by Audrey Bernstein, is set for **Thursday, April 14th from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.** We’ll meet in the Blue Room, as usual. Note the following meeting dates, all are Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.: May 5, and June 2. Please encourage other members who may be interested to join us.

WOMEN’S ROSH HODESH GROUP

Traditional religious ritual was designed, and continues, to meet a variety of needs that relate to life passages: The need for the individual to be acknowledged by community, the need for the community/tribe to read itself into the passages of each member, the need for bonding, which serves both individual and community, the need to (re-)enact dramatically the great stories and messages of the tradition, for the sake of individuals and of the tradition. Through rituals, we create structures that provide an element of predictability and, therefore, safety, around times of insecurity, transition, and/or loss. All women of our congregation are welcome to join us as we continue to study, and learn from each other.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL WOMEN’S SEDER ON APRIL 6TH AT 6:30 P.M.

MENS GROUP

The Men's Group meets the second Wednesday of each month to discuss topics of interest selected by members. While the discussion starts off with a selected topic the meetings move in many directions and are a wonderful way for members to get to know one another. All men in the congregation are invited to attend. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, April 13th at 7:30 p.m.** Coffee and some snacks will be available.

"Honesty is the best policy". Are there times when it is not? Give examples from your own experience when it makes sense to not tell the truth.

YIDDISH READING CIRCLE

We meet on average, every other week on a Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the RSNS Library. For more information and a schedule contact Jerry Bloom at 516-466-2519.

Community Corner

This column is an outshoot of the Engaging with Aging meetings Carol Blumenthal has been running for the past year, which itself is an outgrowth of our community's CBCO efforts that Carol, Alice, Harriet and others spearheaded over the past several years. We found that so much valuable information and so many powerful personal stories bubbled up during the meetings that we needed a way to share what we've learned with the larger RSNS community. Over time, we hope that this column will grow into a place for members from every pocket of the RSNS community to share their stories.

Black Lives Matter By Rachel Mankowitz

This winter, the social action committee (chaired by Debbie Kesselman) planned a book discussion event, focusing on Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*, as one in a (hopefully) continuing series of events to help us find our role in supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. The discussion was moderated by Jeanette Walowitz, another member of the committee and a long time teacher.

Many people at the book discussion were teachers, or social workers, and were surprised by how much they did not know about the experiences of the people they'd been trying to help for so many years. We want to believe we understand because, as Jews, we have been oppressed, discriminated against, and murdered for being Jews. But we can walk into a room and our Jewishness is invisible, unless we speak of it. A black body can't be hidden.

Between the World and Me is an imperfect book. It is one man's take on race in America, at one moment in his life. But that imperfection is part of its power. Ta-Nehisi Coates is an individual human being, and you can feel what he is feeling (whether you want to or not) and see what he is seeing. There isn't the academic or literary distance someone else might allow you.

For me, the fact that he wrote this book as a letter to his son, and that his love for his son is evident on every page, is what made it bearable to read what is essentially an indictment of the illusions we choose to live with every day – the foremost of which is that we are white, and that being white has an intrinsic value.

Solomon Hoffman, head of our Shabbat Unplugged band, and a teacher in the Hebrew school, spoke at the end of the book discussion about how we need to become listeners, to really hear what African

Americans' experiences have been, instead of assuming that we already know, or assuming that reading one person's story is enough.

Solomon also spoke at the Martyrology this past Yom Kippur afternoon. He brought two of his friends, Olivia Harris and Dhari Noel, to give testimony to our congregation (copies of their speeches are available on the RSNS website). Their experiences are not mine, and it was often uncomfortable to hear what they had to say. The way Olivia was treated by white students in the city, often Jewish students, made me feel complicit, and then resentful at being made to feel complicit. But we need to hear these stories that are not our own if we are going to understand what people are experiencing, and if we are going to try to make a difference. We can't just assume that what we've seen with our own eyes is enough.

Their stories were the right kind of uncomfortable for our largely white congregation – pushing us to look at ourselves and our own behavior, rather than focusing on the kinds of overt racism we're used to condemning in other people. They focused on the casual way we dismiss other cultures as less than our own, or how we fail to take things seriously *enough* and forget that these issues are life or death, because they aren't life or death *for us*.

Last year's rabbinic intern, Georgette Kennebrae, gave a one-time class at the end of her year, on privilege and being a white ally. She told us that 20% of American Jews are racially and ethnically diverse, a statistic that surprised me, and others in the room. She talked about different types of privilege (male privilege, white privilege, privilege based on looks, wealth, education, religion, etc.), and then she said, Privilege is what we are born with and is not our fault, but what we do with it is our responsibility. You don't have to feel guilty for having privileges, but consider how you can leverage your privilege to do good in the world.

The social action committee is eager to welcome new voices and ideas. Consider which projects you might be interested in pursuing. Which books can we read as a community to become better informed? Who would you like to invite to speak to us? Which movies can we watch together, and will there be popcorn?

If you have a story you would like to share with the RSNS community, contact Rachel Mankowitz at rachelmank@earthlink.net.

Todah . . . RSNS' Way of Saying Thanks

In honor of Bob Wolff's birthday
Audrey and Andy Feiner

In honor of my birthday buddies
Eileen Rosendahl

In observance of the yahrzeit of Arnold Sander
Ilse Sander

In appreciation of our clergy team
Eileen Rosendahl and Rick Zweig

In honor of Maddy Falkowitz becoming a bat mitzvah
Ellen and Ed Greenfield
Diane Sharrett-Globus and Gary Globus

In memory of Mary Siff, mother of Carrie
and Sandy Siff, grandmother of Rabbi Jodie
Reisman/Schaffer family
Susan Miller and Daryl Rosenblatt
Nancy and Michael Cohen
Zari and Ira Ginsburg
Mindi Wapner and Gary Babad

In memory of Jerome Oppenheim, father
of Bobby Oppenheim
The Lane Family
Friends of Bobby Oppenheim

In memory of Gladys Goldberg
Ilona and Manny Halper
Joan Haberman
Judy Levine

In memory of Helen Rosendahl, mother
of Eileen Rosendahl
Audrey and Andy Feiner

In observance of the yarzeitin of Sarah
and Harry Hyman
Steve Hyman and Estelle Rapaport

In memory of Fern Aaronson, sister of Rabbi Lee
Reisman/Schaffer family
Pearl and Seymour Weinstein
Ilse Sander
Sandy Wolkoff
Karen and Dennis Reisman
Judith and John Miodownik
Rikki and Howard Lane
Ellen and Monte Sokol
Sharon and Mickey Warshawski
Julie and Jeff Goldstein and family
Lilly Cohen and Alan Dreiblatt

Deborah Factor and Barry Birdoff
Harriet Feiner
Maxine and Joel Siegel
Jeanette, Alan and Jaime Walowitz
Marni and Kenny Tuch
Wendy and Jonathan Paisner
Rhoda and Neil Rothberg
Ilona and Manny Halper
Joan Haberman
Joan and Marty Adickman
Eileen Rosendahl and Rick Zweig
Amy and Michael Hundert
Audrey and Andy Feiner
Alice Kleiman
Ann Kaynard
Nancy and Michael Cohen
Trudy and Julie Brown
Judy and Al Bieber
Susan and Jules Kaufman
Myrna and Sol Niego
Lee Parker
Judy and John Miodownik
Dorothy Stracher
Marilyn and Gene Grayson
Nathalie Solzberg
Marlene and Ken Ruskin
Steve Hyman and Estelle Rapaport
Tammy Smiley, Alan Ederer and family
Anita and Jerry Bloom
Renee Yarmoff
Zari and Ira Ginsburg
Paula and Marvin Silverman
Sheila Sherman
The Men's Group
Shabbat Seminar
Mindi Wapner and Gary Babad
Debbie Kesselman and Joe Giovanniello
Eileen and Walter Reed
Jeffrey and Deborah Shein
Morris and Marilyn Scherr
Abraham and Rhoda Korman
Lore Deutsch
Leslie and Larry Popkin
Julie Ramirez
Joan and Abe Kleinberg
Sy and Cindy Reisman
Wally Buchband
Antonia Govoni

In memory of Helen Friedlander
The staff and faculty of RSNS
The Board of Trustees of RSNS
Tammy Smiley and Alan Ederer

Todah . . . RSNS' Way of Saying Thanks

Continued

Marlene and Ken Ruskin
Joan Andors and family
Risa and Rob Weinstock
Ronni and Jessie Baerkahn
Peedee and Leonard Shaw
Audrey and Peter Weil
Sharon and Peter Neumann
The Nebenhaus Family
Renee Yarmoff
Paula and Rob Whitman
Michele and Michael Weiden
Joan Glickman
Diane and Sam Yellis
Audrey and Eli Weinberg
Eileen and Walter Reed
Vivian Frielicher
Florence and David Martin
Ellyn Sosin
Elizabeth Kase and Craig Johnson
Deborah Factor and Barry Birdoff
Lore Deutsch
Alice and Milt Leist
Rhoda and George Shapiro
Nancy and Michael Cohen
Joy Benjamin
Leslie and Larry Popkin
Susan and Paul Baumgarten
Jenna Pitkow
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Laura and Joel Miller
Eleanor Borsuk
Ilona and Manny Halper
Carrie and Sandy Siff
Lorri Staal and Steve Oyer
Karen and Paul Stewart
Jessica and Arthur Liebowitz
Sara and Heath Levine
Doris and Han Grunwald
Karen and Dennis Reisman
Roberta Hendler and Milt Alschuler
Lauren and Eden Siff
Judy Levine

Julie Ramirez
Jules and Susan Kaufman
Diane Sharrett-Globus and Gary Globus
Debbie Kesselman and Joe Giovanniello
Joan and Abe Kleinberg
Terry and Bob Wolff
Nancy Reisman and Eric Schaffer
Leslie and Art Mones
Sy and Cindy Reisman
Linda and Steve Einsidler
Sol and Myrna Niego
Zionist Seminar
Monte and Ellen Sokol
Lilly Cohen and Al Drattell
Marian Schwartz
Joan Haberman
Pam Brodlieb
Jack and Marty Budow
Wally Buchband
Judith and Leon Brenner
The Gersch family
The Nicholson family
The Levitin family
Renee and Adam Haber
Kirby Veevers and Eric Rubenstein
Trudy and Julie Brown
Mitch and Maxine Aigen
Glenn and Melissa Aigen
Sharon and Mickey Warshawski
Len and Robyn Fruchter
Paula and Marvin Silverman
Ellen and Ed Greenfield
Lee Parker
Zari and Ira Ginsburg
Joan and Marty Adickman
Diane Acker Haber
Karen and Steve Belfer
Harriet Feiner
Geri Ganzekaufer and Bill Finkelstein
Audrey and Andy Feiner
Alvin and June Pitkow
Mindi Wapner
Antonia Govoni

YARTZEIT

In observance of the yarzeitin of Sarah
and Harry Hyman
Steve Hyman and Estelle Rapaport

In observance of the yazeit of Arnold Sander
Ilse Sander

CONDOLENCES to Lee Friedlander on the death of
his dear mother, Helen Friedlander



Break the Bag Habit

In only a few short weeks I will become a bar mitzvah. For my mitzvah project I decided to raise awareness about the harm that single-use plastic bags are causing to our environment and offer some simple solutions and alternatives. With Earth Day rapidly approaching, this is an ideal time to think about the little things we can do to take care of our world.

Did you know that every year over 1 trillion plastic bags are used? That's 2 million a minute. Single-use plastic bags are having a major effect on our wildlife and add more than 8 million pounds of plastic to our landfills every year. Plastic bags poison our water, endanger animals and take over 500 years to degrade. Yet every day stores give us these harmful bags for free.

Since I was a small child people would talk about recycling and how great it is for the earth. However, it really isn't so good for the earth. I believe there is too much focus on recycling. While recycling is important it can be extremely expensive and energy inefficient. The best way to be good for our earth is to reduce. If you take a bag it will most likely end up in a landfill or poison our waters. The simple solution is to keep reusable bags in your cars, pocketbooks or backpacks. When purchasing one two or items skip the bag and just carry it out.

In my opinion, a way to influence people to reduce their use of plastic is for the government to give the people an incentive. Our state and local governments unfortunately haven't passed any law which gives people incentives to use fewer bags. In 2008 New York State passed the Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Act (2008 NY A 11725) which requires stores to provide customers with the opportunity to recycle plastic bags after they use them. This is not a good solution since it is not economical to recycle plastic bags and as a result they often end up in landfills.

What makes the most sense is to ban plastic bags or require people to pay a fee when they use them. If people had to pay a 5, 10 or 15 cents tax every time they took a plastic bag, it would encourage people to use reusable bags. With people conscious of saving money, plastic bags would be a thing of the past.

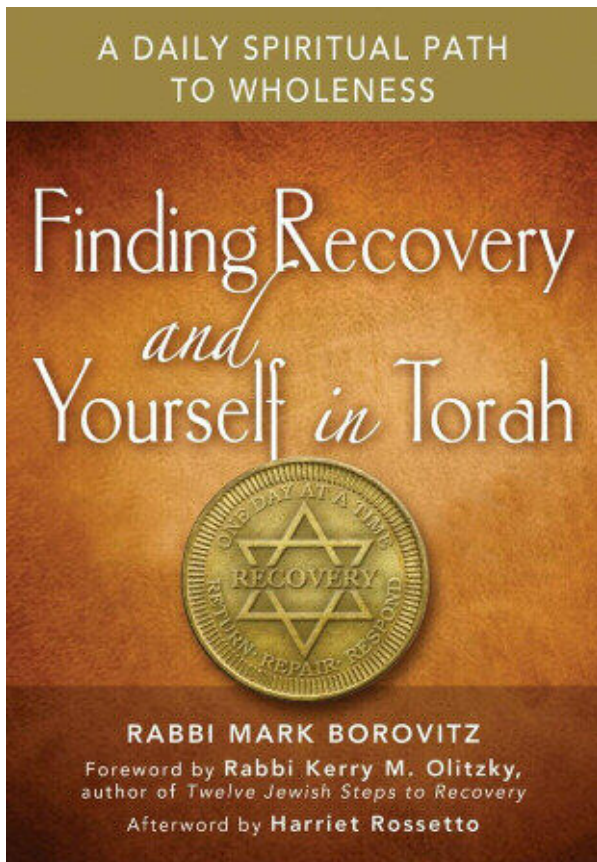
Governments across the world including Italy, China, Kenya, parts of Australia, Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda have banned or restricted plastic bags. In 2002 Ireland put a 15-cent fee on plastic bags which led to a 94% decrease in bag usage.

In the United States, plastic bag restrictions are becoming more common. California and Hawaii recently passed state-wide bans of single-use plastic bags. City and local governments in states including Alaska, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Rhode Island and Washington State have either restricted or banned plastic bags. In New York State, single-use plastic bags were banned or restricted in East Hampton, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Paltz Village, Patchogue Village, Rye and both South Hampton Town and Village.

I am in the process of sending letters to my local and state representatives to advocate for restrictions on single-use plastic bags and encourage you to do the same. I also encourage you to go to visit www.nathansmitzvahproject.weebly.com, watch the video about the harms of plastic bags and Take the Pledge to reduce your plastic bag usage. On Friday, May 6th at 7:30 I will speak about this project at services and giving out reusable bags to those who attend.

Thank you for reading and considering what I have to say. Please join me and reduce your plastic bag usage to create a cleaner world.

Nathan Cohen



**Finding Recovery and
Yourself in Torah**
with
Rabbi Mark Borovitz
Tuesday, April 5,
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Mark Borovitz of Beit T'shuvah, in Los Angeles, will join us to premiere his new book *Finding Recovery and Yourself in Torah: A Daily Spiritual Path to Wholeness* (Jewish Lights Publishing).

Rabbi Jodie Siff studied at Beit T'Shuvah with Rabbi Borovitz in order to be trained as a “first responder” in substance abuse situations. Beit T'Shuvah (a renowned nonprofit, non-sectarian, Jewish addiction treatment center in Los Angeles) builds its program around the idea of “Being Torah.” In addition to addiction counseling, individual therapy, 12-step recovery meetings, and other therapeutic modalities, residents immerse themselves in Torah and try to find themselves in the text. This volume is arranged to be a book of daily inspiration; each day begins with a quote from the Torah, moves to Rabbi Mark's commentary about the weekly portion, and ends with questions meant to inspire each reader to further reflection. It is intended to reach the recovery community as well as readers seeking spirituality of all types.

Join us for Rabbi Borovitz's talk and book signing on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Please invite your friends to attend as well.

Copies of the book will be available to purchase at this event.

Please save the date and REGISTER NOW!



Wrestling with Jewish Peoplehood Conference and Shabbaton

Join us as we wrestle with the idea of Jewish peoplehood: what does it mean, and why does it matter. There'll be lots of big ideas and lively conversation, both at the two-day conference (April 10-11) and at the Shabbaton that precedes it (April 8-9). Come for either, or stay for the entire four days. We'll share plenaries and break-out sessions with prominent speakers, and enjoy musical entertainment.

The conference will be live-streamed and live-tweeted, so that the conversation can be interactive and shared widely.

When:

April 8-9, 2016 (Shabbaton)
April 10-11, 2016 (Conference)

Where:

The National Museum of American Jewish History, and other places in Philadelphia, PA

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[REGISTER](#)

We'll bring you more Shabbaton and conference details as they become available.

Confirmed speakers include:



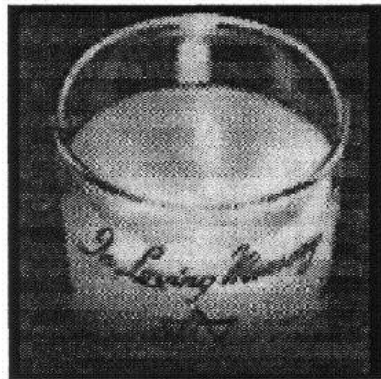
We are proud to present this conference with the Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, Temple University's Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the University of Pennsylvania's Jewish Studies Program, and Haverford College. The Shabbaton is co-sponsored with the Kaplan Center, Reconstructionist congregation Mishkan Shalom and Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI). Local partners include Congregation Or Hadash, Congregation Shireinu, Lev Ha'ir, Kol Tzedek, Minyan Dorshei Derekh and Society Hill Synagogue.

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