




CHAYENU

OUR LIVES 

Temple Beth-El
Rabbi Michael Fessler

118 S. Grand Avenue
Poughkeepsie NY 12603

President: Russell Rothman
<https://www.TBENY.org>

RABBI MICHAEL'S COLUMN



Friends,

As I write these words, Rosh Hashanah approaches. During the month leading up to the new year, our tradition urges us to look backward as well as forward — in the words of the poet Marge Piercy in her poem “Coming Up On September”:

Now is the time to let the mind search backwards like the raven loosed to see what can feed us. Now, the time to cast the mind forward to chart an aerial map of the months...I will find there both ripeness and rot, what I have done and undone, what I must let go...and what I must take in.

The words of this poem challenge us to look back on the past year, and to honestly reckon with how we have used our most precious resources — our time and attention — and how well our actions have lived up to our ideals. This exercise, though often uncomfortable, can help us recalibrate as we approach the new year, moving us to give more of ourselves to what's truly important.

For our congregation, once of these areas is our community's work of social action and *tikkun olam*. In mid-June, I spoke at a peace vigil held by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council. The event's goal was promoting peace in a violent time, and focused partly on the epidemic of gun violence. I'd like to share my words, with minor edits for the printed page, in the hopes that in the coming year we can redouble our efforts to reach across boundaries in pursuit of a better world.

Remarks at St. Martin de Porres Parish on June 22, 2023

We come together this evening — members of many faiths, united in our common humanity. We come together knowing the urgency of the crises of violence that face us. We come together in hopeful defiance of the forces that separate and dehumanize us,, moved by our compassion for one another, and in our knowledge of the precious Divine image that resides in each and every one of us. No exceptions.

The Hebrew word for peace is *Shalom*. It comes from a root meaning “completeness” — “perfection” — “wholeness.” True peace, true shalom, is more than a lull in the storm, the tense pause until the next shattering act of violence. Shalom is a state of calm that grows out of true security, prosperity, and well-being. In the 19th century, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch wrote that a nation as a whole can have no shalom, no true peace, if its people are suffering and in despair. The Shalom of the nation consists of the Shalom of its people. And, conversely, it is through our work toward peace and compassion — within ourselves, and with one another — that we can build a community, a society, a nation, a world of peace.

In Psalm 34:15, we're commanded: *bakesh shalom ve-rodfehu* - seek peace and pursue it. Why does this language repeat itself? Isn't seeking something and pursuing it the same thing?

Our tradition teaches that this repetition underscores the lengths we need to go to when peace is at stake. In *Shemirat HaLashon*, a 19th century work of ethics, Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan, a.k.a. the Chafetz Chayim synthesizes these teachings:

“Ordinarily we are not asked to run after or pursue most commandments, but only to fulfill them on the appropriate occasion. Not so for peace: you must seek it in your place, and pursue it elsewhere. Seek it with your friend and pursue it with your enemy. Seek it for yourself and pursue it for others. Seek it today and pursue it tomorrow. And do not despair, saying “I will never achieve” peace, but pursue it until you do achieve it. “

(Continued on next page)

There's an evocative phrase drawn from Psalm 89:3 "*olam chesed yibaneh*".

Just three words:

Olam: eternity of time ("forever") or of space ("the world, the universe")

Chesed: Loving kindness, compassion, grace

Yibaneh: will be built

While in the larger context of the psalm it has a different valence, the phrase on its own can be read as: "The world will be built through *chesed* – kindness, love."

The word "built" is important here – it suggests a painstaking and deliberate process, requiring many hands and perspectives. The world of peace, the world of care and love, that we are yearning for, cannot be created by a single divine utterance, or for that matter, a single dramatic act by our society.

Rather, a world of compassion and peace is built like one builds a house: brick by brick, good deed by good deed, prayer by prayer, task by task, vote by vote — moment of peacemaking by moment of peacemaking. The way to reach a world built along the divine blueprint of love and compassion is for us all work together to build it - day by day. None of us will build all of it - but each of us has our part to contribute to the greater whole.

These words were put to music by Rabbi Menachem Creditor, who wrote it just after 9/11 for his newborn daughter, hoping for a peace that seemed far distant. [Editorial note: for those who would like to hear it, it's easy to find on YouTube by searching for "Menachem Creditor *olam chesed*".]

The lyrics follow:

Olam chesed yibaneh (x4)

I will build this world from love
And you must build this world from love
And if we build this world from love.
Then God will build this world from love

EDITORIAL

As the days get shorter and the nights grow longer, we come to the end of our summer and the beginning of autumn.

Over the past few months, life at Temple Beth-El has been quiet, but there has been much planning for the fall and winter months.

Children will return to religious school, adult education classes will start anew, our book club will continue, and volunteers, who generously give of their time, will help to make all aspects of our temple run smoothly. We ask that you think about what volunteer work you might like to do. We need our volunteers, we very much appreciate our volunteers, and we would love to have you on board.

Soon the High Holidays will be upon us, and the temple will once again will be a place of worship for all congregants whether in person or streaming. We hope to see you there!

Ellen Danziger

President's Column: by Russell Rothman

Hello all,

When I came to upstate New York from New Jersey and joined Temple Beth El, I was very impressed by the vigor, pride, and happiness of the volunteers and members that I met. Though today's Poughkeepsie Jewish community is relatively small compared with its heyday, Temple Beth-El was a place that felt like home.

Temple Beth-El is now at a similar crossroads to that faced by hundreds of once-thriving small town Jewish communities and synagogues. These communities grew from the tireless efforts of immigrants, peddlers, merchants, and scholars. Now many of these strong and vibrant communities are struggling under the weight of various demographic pressures, particularly the exodus of next-generation young families and the changing intergenerational patterns of synagogue affiliation.

Temple Beth-El is working hard to adapt to these new realities. It has become increasingly clear that our most pressing immediate challenge is volunteer time and energy. Traditionally, active long-time volunteers decide at some point to step back and pass the torch to the next generation. Sadly right now, far too few people are stepping forward to replace them, and their institutional memory will be lost if there is no one for them to mentor.

Currently, we have several committees without leaders, as well as some with a leader but no one else to work with. The Board of Trustees is also looking for people to help steer the congregation through the complex landscape we face. Several executive officer positions will also need to be filled by next July: my second term as president will be up then, and my concern for domestic tranquility and self-preservation prevent me from continuing any further. (My wife has promised to inflict bodily harm if I even consider another term...) In addition, one vice president will be stepping down at that time, as will as our hard-working treasurer. And our recording secretary's term has already expired, but he is graciously continuing to serve just long enough for us to find a replacement.

Volunteerism is the lifeblood of any organization, but this is especially true with synagogues with few paid staff. As someone once said, volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they are priceless. Each of you reading this is priceless and equally instrumental to the success and survival of our synagogue. As Mohammed Ali once said, "service to others is the rent you pay for your room on earth."

In the Torah portions that we are reading now, Moses is telling his people that after forty years of wandering, they will soon enter the Promised Land. Once they reach it, though, they are still obligated to follow the precepts laid out by G-d: their responsibilities are not over and must be continued even after Moses is gone. Likewise, I know that many of you have previously devoted significant time and energy in support of Temple Beth-El, whether recently or in years past. But we still need your help. Some of you may well be feeling a little burnout — that you have done enough for the Temple, and that it's time for the new kids on the block to step up.

But right now, we're in need of your support in bridging the current gap we face, so that we can welcome more new members, help those who are able to develop and grow as leaders, and draw on the knowledge and experience of "old timers" to mentor and support them. (Remember, Moses hung around until he was 120 or so...)

If we are to face the future effectively, we're going to need all the support our members can muster. It truly does take a village, and that means all of us together, new members and old hands alike. We have a wide range of positions open and depending on your skillset and interests, there is certainly a job for everyone. Find something and volunteer - please don't hesitate to reach out to me (njwolfdad@gmail.com) to discuss how you can help.

Below is a list of roles for which our members can volunteer to help. Please take a moment to look at it find something that you can contribute to. We would enthusiastically welcome your help.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Temple Beth-El community, and for your patience in reading this far!

Russell Rothman, President

Open Offices:

Recording Secretary

Chairs of Nominating and Personnel committees

Committee support needed in areas including:

Operations (House/building, personnel, cemetery, communications and publicity, security, legal, long-range planning)

Education and Culture (religious school, adult education, ritual, High Holidays, youth, social action, community service, Green Team)

Budget and Finance (dues, endowment, planned giving, investment, scholarships, fundraising, membership)

And in July 2024: Treasurer, vice-president, president, board members



Way Outside The Box: Learning That Lasts

*By Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Education Director &
Cantor Devorah Gartner, Youth & B'nai Mitzvah Director*

Why are our Kulanu students so happy to come to school? One major reason is that they are really learning. Students acquire skills and absorb information about Jewish culture and traditions in an active and engaging climate. How does this work? We combine in-person classes with online tutoring for grades 3 and up. As a result, our students successfully master and retain what they learn. In addition to learning to read Hebrew, students are introduced to basic vocabulary, which enables them to understand what they are reading. This understanding is a gateway to discussions of the spiritual meaning of blessings, prayers, and traditions. Through these discussions students are exposed to Judaism's deep wisdom and its commitment to grappling with life's big questions. Our students are proud of what they know, and what they can do. Furthermore, they experience Judaism as a living tradition that is relevant to their lives.

Creating confidence and mastery is not just about opening the door, but about creating anticipation about what is on the other side. With that in mind, we strive to create a learning environment that embraces active learning in multiple modalities.

Our Early Childhood students are introduced to the Hebrew Alef-Bet, holidays and Shabbat through stories, games, crafts, art, music, movement, cooking, and play. These activities prepare students to participate in Shabbat and holiday rituals and get them ready to read. In addition to traditional pedagogy, active games and crafts are used to reinforce new skills and practice old ones.

Students in grade 3 learn the Alef-Bet and begin learning Hebrew sight words and their meanings. Students in grades 5-7 study vocabulary using active classroom games. Some favorites are Bingo, Hebrew "Candy Land" and the ever popular "trash can basketball". Weekly, individual tutoring sessions allow teachers to focus on areas where students need help and provide the reinforcement that makes skills stick. Electronic games on Quizlet, Kahoot and Blooket bolster students' knowledge and skills.

When children learn to read English, they are decoding a language that they already speak. To mimic this natural learning process, we introduce Hebrew vocabulary, blessings, and prayers through music in the early grades. When Kulanu students begin to read, they can instantly sight-read the blessings they know by heart, creating a sense of ownership and pride.

Everything begins with family engagement. Kulanu families enjoy meaningful hands-on activities that make a connection between school and home. Every year, from January to March, we pivot from Sunday School to Shabbat (Saturday) School. Students and families experience Shabbat first-hand. When our entire school enters the sanctuary, the little ones join the parade with their stuffed Torahs and are greeted with warm smiles. A multigenerational community lunch follows each service, along with boisterous games of gaga ball.

We extend our commitment to experiential learning through our hands-on holiday programs and multigenerational Tikkun Olam activities. Throughout the year we collect food and school supplies for needy children and participate in the CropWalk to end hunger. Students help with the Youth Group Bright Nights winter coat drive and participate in Community Mitzvah Day. This year we collected money and supplies for the DCSPCA. We also finished sorting thousands of bottle caps which will be repurposed into a bench rather than being discarded in a landfill. Each of the mitzvot our students performed throughout the year was documented on our "mitzvah wall."

We invite families to visit our school on Thursday, September 7th for our Open House and Ice cream social or anytime school is in session. For more information contact Karen Jacobs at educationassist@tbeny.org. We look forward to meeting you!

Mission Statement of Temple Beth- El

We are a vibrant and egalitarian Conservative Jewish congregation serving the Jewish and Intermarried families of Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson Valley for more than 90 years. Whether you are seeking religious services, educational opportunities, cultural, social, or recreational activities, you will find it at Temple Beth-El. We are a spiritual home for a diverse, inclusive congregation that cares deeply about imparting the love of Judaism to this and future generations.

Share our Journey.



Rabbi Miriam Hyman

Another year of school has come to a close,
 So we must thank our teachers, in poetry and
 prose.
 Our teachers' dedication is consistent and true,
 They work so hard in all that they do.
 Morah Goldy gives her students everything she's
 got,
 To bring Jewish learning to our little tots.
 With stories and projects and beautiful art,
 Morah Goldy gives our kids a wonderful start.
 Whether by writing and illustrating her own
 Jewish book,
 Or painting a tree of life upon which all can look.
 Morah Karen has always got her Gan students in
 mind,
 Enriching their knowledge with anything she can
 find.
 She keeps everyone busy with hands on
 activities,
 Tailoring her lessons to her students' proclivities.
 She also works in the office, and without fail,
 Helps Rabbi Miriam with her attention to detail.
 Morah Turrissi's dedication cannot be beat,
 She always stands ready to do anything we need,
 Teaches kids and adults to read Hebrew
 And Torah, and holidays and Jewish values.
 Helping us all to be better in everything we do.
 This year Morah Rochelle did her part
 To teach mitzvot through discussions and art.
 Helping us all to stand proud & tall
 By building our wonderful mitzvah wall
 To see what she's done, go down the school hall.
 Morah Beth is a teacher who we adore
 She serves on the board, heads the kitchen committee
 and so much more
 As a teacher she brings dedication and creativity

To engage her students in meaningful activities
 Teaching the Ten Commandments & the meaning of mitzvot,
 Through hands-on projects & biblical quotes.
 It makes us want to sing and dance the Horah
 When we think of Cantor Devorah.
 She helps our b'nai mitzvah students do their very best
 And to stay calm when they get overstressed.
 She helps us to find new ways to innovate
 So our school can continue to be so great.
 Our youth group has been so lucky this year
 To have Brina Novogrebelsky to bring us cheer.
 Helping our teens to plan and explore
 Empowering them and acting as a gentle mentor.
 Brina's kindness and care always shines through
 And for that we say, Thank you, thank you.
 Rabbi Michael is an asset to our school.
 He brings us new ideas that are always cool.
 He helps our b'nai mitzvah students with their speeches.
 And enriches our lives when he preaches and teaches.
 He is always ready to support everything we do.
 Rabbi Michael, we are so happy to have you.
 And, last but not least we thank our TA's
 Who help our school run in the best possible ways
 Whether taking attendance or helping a student read
 They are always willing to take the lead.
 They greet our students at the front door.
 They organize the library, count tzedakah money & more
 We thank Brady, Michaela, Eva & Mischa, Amalia, Tamar,
 Laila & Livia

KULANU SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th @ 6:30pm
 at Temple Beth-El**

Meet our teachers and learn about our plans for
 the upcoming school year

For more information contact Karen Jacobs educationassist@tbeny.org



HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Bring a non-perishable
 food item to the open house
 for the local food pantry.

It's a Mitzvah!

Are you looking for
 Jewish community & spiritual home?

Join us for a
TEMPLE BETH-EL OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th @ 6:30pm

Meet our clergy & members & learn about what
 our synagogue has to offer

Candle lighting - Poughkeepsie
Hebrew Year 5784 (2023 - 2024)
 www.hebcal.com

Sep 15	Rosh Hashana	6:47
Sep 16	Rosh Hashana	7:45
Sep 22	Ha'azinu	6:35
Sep 24	Yom Kippur	6:31
Sep 29	Sukkot	6:23
Sep 30	Sukkot	7:21
Oct 6	Shmini Atzeret	6:11
Oct 7	Simchat Torah	7:09
Oct 13	Bereshit	5:59
Oct 20	Noach	5:49
Oct 27	Lech-Lecha	5:38
Nov 3	Vayera	5:29
Nov 10	Chayei Sara	4:22
Nov 17	Toldot	4:15
Nov 24	Vayetzei	4:11
Dec 1	Vayishlach	4:08
Dec 8	Vayeshev	4:07
Dec 15	Miketz	4:07
Dec 22	Vayigash	4:10
Dec 29	Vayechi	4:15
Jan 5	Shemot	4:21
Jan 12	Vaera	4:28
Jan 19	Bo	4:36
Jan 26	Beshalach	4:45
Feb 2	Yitro	4:53



TBE Member Steven Rushefsky has been tutoring a Morse School bilingual first grade student. When First grade teacher, Ms. Haines and Art teacher, Ms. Cascio learned he had art and commercial art experience, they asked him to assist with the mural. Ms. Cascio shared her vision and Steven helped brainstorm one or two additional ideas. Steven provided a glue that made certain materials easier to work with and he worked with Ms. Haines's class to paint and glue the straws that Ms. Cascio had conceived of as the shark texture. Muriel Horowitz stopped by as well. Steven got a special shout out from Ms. Haines when the mural was presented to the board. Thank you, Steven, for doing this important community work!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HARDING CLUB ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

For the past 100 years, through times of prosperity and depression, war and peace, the Harding Club has provided aid and comfort, leadership and friendship, philanthropy and camaraderie to those in need and to their members. For more information, visit their website: <http://harding.jigsy.com> or send an email to hardingclub1923@gmail.com

Said by someone: If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, go together.

As you read this, we should all be enjoying the end of summer, with long days and wonderful nights, filled with fireflies and occasional meteor showers. Meanwhile, life goes on at Temple Beth El. Rabbi Michael and I will be setting up a series of parlor meetings across the community to listen and hear what your concerns are and find ways to improve our synagogue. We also hope to try some Friday night services at our members' homes, maybe in their backyards or gardens, and see if we can encourage more people to participate.

Due to the success of our member-led adult ed classes this past spring, we would like to continue them this fall. If anyone has any ideas for upcoming classes and would like to donate their services, please contact me or Rabbi Miriam.

The problem of refugees, whether political or climate refugees, is one that won't go away by ignoring it. It is our duty as Jews to help them. These people need our aid and there are many ways to help. Volunteers are needed for transportation, to help with classes in English, to work in the Little Store at the Red Roof Inn, currently open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2-6pm, with just two hour shifts.

People are needed to organize contributions, to help find out what people need. Although knowledge in Spanish, French, Arabic, or Russian is helpful, Google Translate is available as well. Cash donations or gift cards are always welcome (food, supermarkets, Target, Walmart, etc), event planning, food and transportation, etc. A medical subcommittee is in the planning stage and if you have any experience, your participation is gratefully welcome.

We are also setting up an exploratory committee to investigate the idea of selling our building and moving into a smaller space that is more suitable to a membership of our size. The hope is to find something that would be newer, with the need for less upkeep and expense. If you have any interest in serving on this committee, please reach out to me soon.

Also, it's crazy to imagine now but by the next time you read Chayenu, it will be during the High Holiday Season. So sit back, relax and try to enjoy the summer. I will!

HIGH HOLIDAYS 2023

We invite guests who attend services to donate, so that we can continue to serve the Hudson Valley Jewish community year-round. Suggested contribution levels are found on the guest form. We are extremely thankful for your support.

Registration deadlines:

Thursday morning, September 14 for Rosh Hashanah

Friday morning, September 22 for Yom Kippur

Given the large number of people who will be gathering, we're setting aside a section of the sanctuary where masks will be required. We ask everyone to be mindful of any symptoms of illness and to refrain from attending services if ill.

Before the Holidays

Selichot Service

Saturday, 9/9/23 at 8:00pm. Details forthcoming.

Memorial Service

Sunday 9/10/23 at 10:00am at TBE Cemetery

Shofar Over the Hudson

Sunday 9/10/23 1:00pm at Waryas Park waterfront

Rosh Hashanah Eve - Friday, September 15

8:00pm Evening service (Candlelighting 6:47)

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 - Saturday, September 16

8:45am Shacharit (morning) service begins

9:45am Torah Service and Sermon

9:45am Family Service with Rabbi Miriam (ages 6+)

9:45am Tot program (ages 0-5)

10:30am Teen program (ages 13+)

11:00am Babysitting begins

11:15am Musaf service

Saturday evening:

No service — enjoy a festive dinner with family and friends

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 - Sunday, September 17

8:45am Shacharit (morning) service begins

9:45am Torah Service & Shofar Blowing, sermon

11:15am Musaf service

12:30pm Service concludes, followed by community Taschlich

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidrei - Sunday, 9/24/23

Service begins at 6:00pm (6:14 pm Candle Lighting, 6:32 sundown)

Yom Kippur Day - Monday, 9/25/23

8:30am Shacharit (morning service) begins

9:45am Torah Service & Sermon

9:45am Family Service with Rabbi Miriam (ages 6+)

9:45am Tot program (ages 0-5)

10:30am Teen program (ages 13+)

11:00am Babysitting begins

11:00am President's Address

11:15am Memorial prayers (Yizkor + Remembrance of Martyrs)

12:00pm Musaf

2:00pm Afternoon Break

5:00pm Mincha service with reading of Torah and book of Jonah

6:15pm Ne'ilah (closing) service begins

7:30pm Havdalah and Shofar blowing as Yom Kippur ends

Temple Beth-El High Holiday Guest Registration – 2023 / 5784

All in-person guests must register using this form.

Please return by Thursday morning, Sept 14 for Rosh Hashanah or Friday morning, Sept 22 for Yom Kippur

Temple Beth-El welcomes all guests for in-person and virtual live-streamed High Holiday services. Suggested guest donations go a long way to help us continue to serve the Hudson Valley Jewish community year-round. We are extremely thankful for your support.

(Note that guest attendance is intended to welcome newcomers, college students, and out-of-town visitors to Temple Beth-El. If you're a current or recent member, we're happy to work with you so that you can continue or resume membership in our community.)

All High Holiday services will be livestreamed at <https://www.tbeny.org/live-stream/>

Local college students:	Welcome to attend with no suggested donation level
Family of members suggested donation:	\$180 for all days, \$72 for individual days
Non-member household suggested donation:	\$360 for all days, \$144 for individual days
Livestream suggested donation:	\$54 for all days

Please list all guests below. Schedule details can be found on our website: <https://www.tbeny.org/pray/high-holidays/>

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: Rosh Hashanah Eve Friday, Sept 15 and Saturday (morning), Sept 16

Guests (name, email, phone number): _____

Rosh Hashanah Day 2: Sunday (morning), Sept 17

Guests (name, email, phone number): _____

Yom Kippur: Kol Nidrei - Sunday, Sept 24, Yom Kippur Day - Monday, Sept 25 (ending with Ne'ilah)

Guests (name, email, phone number): _____

My donation of \$ _____

Preferred payment method: ☐ Check payable to Temple Beth-El ☐ Please charge my credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

Name on card _____ Phone _____ Zip Code _____

Card number _____ Expiration Date ____/____ 3 (or 4) digit security code _____

Signature _____

Please return this form to the TBE office. If you have any questions or would like a hard copy form, please contact the office at 845-454-0570.

Temple Beth-El | 118 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Marist College Center for Lifetime Study

Seeking New Memberes

Here's a wonderful opportunity for the Temple Beth-El community. Join current Temple members in an environment of continued learning and socializing.

The Marist College Center for Lifetime Study (CLS), having just completed its thirtieth year of service to seniors, has embarked on a campaign to attract new members.

CLS is a volunteer organization operating under the auspices of Marist College. Its primary purpose is to provide opportunities for the educational, intellectual and cultural growth for persons aged 55 and older. CLS does this by offering classes to its members at the Locust Grove Estate on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie.

There is a wide range of courses offered in eight-week sessions in the spring and fall.

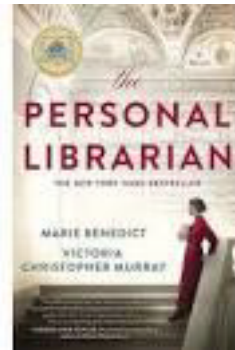
Classes in the past have included such topics as art, computers, current events, economics, gardening, history, healthcare, law, literature, music, poetry, politics, religion, science and travel. Classes are taught by knowledgeable individuals including college faculty, CLS members, community leaders and professional experts.

CLS not only offers classes but also plans trips to places of interest, social activities and events as well as access to various Marist College events and programs. Anyone interested in learning more about CLS is invited to browse their website at

<https://www.marist.edu/professional-programs/cls> or by calling the CLS office at (845) 575-3902.

The TBE Book Club Proudly Announces Its Selections for 2023-24:

10/10/2023 The Personal Librarian



12/12/2023 The Hare with Amber Eyes



2/13/2024 The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba



4/9/24 and 6/11/24 Selections TBD

All meetings are at 2:00 in the Social Hall at TBE. In case of inclement weather, a zoom link will be sent out the day before.

Mazal tov to:

Barbara and Bernie Cohen on the birth of their new granddaughter, Melanie Rose Cohen.

Jill and Ira Auerbach on their grandson Dylan Majors receiving the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

Karen and Martin Hochhauser on the graduation of Samuel Marks, her son and his grandson, from SUNY Binghamton .

Carol Gray on her granddaughter's graduation from the NYS University at Oneonta.

Rabbi Miriam and Rabbi Fessler on their daughter Ariella's graduation from NYU School of Arts and Sciences and the Tisch School of the Arts.

Cantor Devorah and Robert Gartner on their daughter Bethany receiving her Master of Science in Criminal Justice.

Merri and John Sedgwick on their son Jason's marriage to Christina Magnussen.

Judy and Alan Fox on their granddaughter Paige Fox's graduation from High School and to Roz Fox, Alan's mother, on her 100th birthday.

Irvin and Linda Miller on their granddaughter Eliza Tabachnik's graduation from High School.

Joan and Leslie Molomot on their daughter Lisa receiving a Peabody award for her film "Missing in Brooks County".

Lucia and Scott Swartz on their son Aaron's graduation from Skidmore College.

Donna and Philippe Pistiner on the graduation of their grandsons', Ben Pistiner and Henry Ostroff's graduations from High School.

Marilyn and Michael Schwartz on their granddaughter Emily Bubel's graduation from a 5 year Bachelor/Master program.

Paula and Azzy Reckess on the birth of their granddaughter, Lilah Esther Reckess.
Paula and Azzy Reckess on their granddaughter Anya's bat mitzvah.

Sue and Rich Levine on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Rita and Lew Sims on their grandson Alex's bar mitzvah.

Nina and Russell Rothman on their 44th wedding anniversary.

Emily Perlman Moran on her grandson Aaron's graduation from High School.

Beth and Les Richardson on their grandson Eitan's graduation from High School in Israel.

Stephanie Wasser on the birth of her granddaughter, Adeline "Adi" Gray Cook.

Sue and Rich Levine on their grandson Dom's graduation as valedictorian of his High School.

Rabbi Neal Loevinger on receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree.

The Harding Club on their 100th anniversary!

Carole and Barry Horowitz on their grandson Zachary's graduation from Tufts University.

Bob Ulrich on his grandson Wilson's graduation from Northwestern University.

Steven Rushefsky on the beautiful mural he helped the Morse School create.

Vicki Greenberg on her grandson David's engagement to Vitoria Schmitt.

Joy and Bryan Kolber on their son Marcus' graduation from the SUNY Upstate Medical Residency Program.

Rita and Barry Rothfeld on their 50th anniversary.

Leonardo da Vinci Was Jewish

In all likelihood, Leonardo da Vinci was only half Italian. His mother, Caterina, was a Circassian Jew born somewhere in the Caucasus, abducted as a teenager and sold as a sex slave several times in Russia, Constantinople, and Venice before finally being freed in Florence at age 15. This, at least, is the conclusion reached in the new book *Il sorriso di Caterina, la madre di Leonardo*, by the historian Carlo Vecce, one of the most distinguished specialists on Leonardo da Vinci.

The official version of da Vinci's birth is that it was the fruit of a brief fling between the Florentine solicitor Piero da Vinci and a young peasant from Tuscany called Caterina, of whom almost nothing was known. Yet there had long been a seemingly unfounded theory that Leonardo had foreign origins and that Caterina was an Arab slave. Six years ago, professor Vecce decided to kill the rumor for good. "I simply found it impossible to believe that the mother of the greatest Italian genius would be a non-Italian slave," he told me. "Now, not only do I believe it, but the most probable hypothesis, given what I found, is that Caterina was Jewish."

Vecce was the right man for the job—he published an anthology of da Vinci's writings and a biography, *Leonardo*, translated into several languages, and he collaborated on the exhibition of da Vinci's drawings and manuscripts at the Louvre and Metropolitan Museum in 2003. He embarked on the research for his latest book during the reconstruction of da Vinci's library, which is where he found the document that changed everything. Dated Nov. 2, 1452, seven months after Leonardo's birth, and signed by Piero da Vinci in his professional capacity, it is an emancipation act regarding "the daughter of a certain Jacob, originating from the Caucasian mountains," and named Caterina. According to the document, Caterina's owner appears to have been the wife of rich merchant Donato di Filippo, who lived near the San Michele Visdomini church in Florence, and whose usual solicitor for business was Piero da Vinci. The date on the document is underlined several times, as if da Vinci's hand was shaking as he proceeds to the liberation of the woman who just gave him a child.

Slavery was still current practice in 15th-century Italy, though on a much smaller scale than in the Ottoman Empire. The city of Florence alone had at least 1,000 slaves—among them Russians, Abkhazes, Turks, Serbs, and, like Caterina, Circassians from the Caucasus. Who was this woman who gave birth to one of the greatest geniuses of the Renaissance?

Investigating her story, professor Vecce traced another part of the history of the Jews. "Traveling from Russia," he told me, Caterina "certainly passed through the Taman peninsula, near Crimea, which opens on the Azov sea." The peninsula owes its name to David of Taman, the king of the Jewish Khazar kingdom that briefly existed there during the seventh to 10th centuries. "It seems that some traces of the Khazar kingdom still existed in the 15th century, when the peninsula was controlled by the Genovese Jewish Ghisolfi family. The region was ruled by Jewish consuls until the Ottoman Empire put an end to it at the end of the 15th century." Most of the slave ships traveled from the Venetian colony implanted at Azov (then Tana) to Constantinople. From there, we can follow Caterina to Venice, and then to Florence where she was brought by her new master, Donato di Filippo, who put her to work both in his clothing workshop and at the service of his wife. That she was a sex slave is attested by the fact that she already had several children by Filippo when, at 15, she met da Vinci, Filippo's solicitor, who at first "borrowed" her as a nanny for his daughter Marie and then fell so much in love with her that he freed her from slavery after Leonardo's birth. "Da Vinci himself was no stranger to the Jews," says professor Vecce. "His main customers were among the Jewish community of Florence."

Piero da Vinci ended up leaving Florence for Milan. Caterina died there in 1493 and is probably buried in the San Francesco Grande church, where Leonardo had painted the "Verginnee delle rocce" a few years before.

As for Donato di Filippo, after his death he gave his money to the church of San Bartolomeo a Monte Oliveto, for which Leonardo would paint the "Annunciation." Coincidentally enough, the background of this painting shows a mountain very similar to Mount Elbrus, the highest summit of the Caucasus mountains. An Oriental port quite similar to the port Caterina passed through when she was a slave also figures on the painting.

According to professor Vecce, "Caterina certainly fed young Leonardo's imagination with the memories of her travels. Circassian people had a reputation for being untamed, free of mind, and wild. I like to think she taught him the spirit of absolute freedom that can be found in his scientific and intellectual researches. The freedom of a mind that is not bound by prejudices or authority."

Upcoming Programs from the Adult Program Un-Committee

Merri Sedgwick and Suzanne Turrisi

- Bingocize: A combination of bingo and chair exercise. This is sponsored by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging. It will run every Tuesday and Thursday in the social hall, 11:00-12:00, from 9/26/23-12/8/23. Sign up details to follow.
- Comedy show and Dinner: Come join us on Sunday, October 15, 2023, for an evening of laughter, great food and good friends. Johnny Lampert and Steven Scott (www.headlineentertainment.us) will be the headliners. There will be a 50/50 raffle, a wine grab (will explain at a later date), and other raffles. The doors will open at 4:30, dinner/raffle tickets will be 5:00-6:30, and the show will be from 6:30-7:50. Sign up details to follow.
- The TBE book club continues to meet every other month in the social hall. The books for the fall are as follows; dates TBD:

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba by Chanel Cleeton

The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal

If you have an idea for an adult education course you would like to teach, please contact Merri Sedgwick at moondoggie7@optonline.net or Suzanne Turrisi at suzanneturrisi8@gmail.com. We would love to meet with you to work out the dates and the specifics!

Did you know.....

1. Before switching to business school, Michael Arnoff had abruptly quit Veterinary School at UCLA, disgusted after the school began offering udder-enhancing surgery as an elective.
2. Roger Lewin broke off his friendship with Al Roker when he found out that Al could care less what it was like up in Roger's neck of the woods.
3. Thanks to Andrea Hagen's careful observation, it was recently exposed in the Poughkeepsie Journal that when Donald Trump travels to the Southern hemisphere, his comb-over automatically changes from counterclockwise to clockwise.
4. While in college, Merri Sedgwick was one of 4 students nationwide selected for an internship with the National Weather Service and did nothing but search for clouds that looked like animals.
5. To celebrate their 25th anniversary, Mark Cooper paid the CDC to name a disease after Susan.
6. While studying for his Bar Mitzvah, John Weisman discovered that although God ordered Noah to only allow two of each species on the ark, Noah sneaked several extra cows aboard because he liked grilling hamburgers on Sundays.

Jewish Geography

A Jewish family Karnofsky, who immigrated from Lithuania to the United States, took pity on the 7-year-old boy and brought him to their home. There he stayed and spent the night in this Jewish family home, where for the first time in his life he was treated with kindness and tenderness. When he went to bed, Mrs Karnovski sang him Russian lullabies, which he sang with her. Later he learned to sing and play several Russian and Jewish songs. Over time, this boy became the adopted son of this family. Mr. Karnofsky gave him money to buy his first musical instrument, as was the custom in Jewish families. Later, when he became a professional musician and composer, he used these Jewish melodies in compositions such as St. James's Hospital and Go Down Moses. The little boy grew up and wrote a book about this Jewish family, who adopted him in 1907. And proudly spoke Yiddish fluently.

In memory of this family and until the end of his life, he wore the Star of David and said that in this family he learned "to live a real life and determination."

This little boy's name was Louis Armstrong. This little boy was called Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong. Louis Armstrong proudly spoke fluent Yiddish and "Satchmo" is Yiddish for "big cheeks, a nickname some say was given to him by Mrs. Karnofsky!



Tech developed by refugee who fled Nazis to

UK used today by NASA on Mars

LONDON — Benjamin Abeles's pioneering research helped power the spacecraft used in some of NASA's most daring interstellar missions, including [the Voyager program](#) that probed Jupiter and Saturn.

But, as a teenager, the renowned Jewish physicist was forced to flee Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and spent part of World War II working odd jobs and living in air-raid shelters in London.

Abeles's life and scientific achievements were marked at [a June 13 event](#) at the University of Southampton, in the south of England, to which his family has donated a treasure trove of photos, letters and documents.

Abeles, who died at the age of 95 in December 2020, worked for 53 years as a physicist in New Jersey. Together with George D. Cody, his research for the Radio Corporation of America developed the germanium-silicon alloys used in radioisotope thermoelectric generators, which power spacecraft and probes.

Dr. Charlie Ryan, associate professor in astronautics at the University of Southampton, said in a statement to the press that Abeles's work has had "a very significant influence on space exploration."

"He helped to develop a type of power source for spacecraft, using radioactive decay to produce power, which is the power source of choice for space missions where using solar panels is not feasible," Ryan said.

"It has been used on some of the most groundbreaking missions ever launched, such as the Voyager probes that have explored the outer solar system and beyond," he added.

The technology Abeles helped to develop is still in use today, powering the [Perseverance rover](#) currently being used by NASA to explore Mars



Temple Beth-El General Fund

Donna & Kevin Gallagher

In memory of David Pastiner

Adrienne London

In honor of Pat Waill's Birthday

In honor of Sam Mark's graduation from SUNY Binghamton

In honor of Alex & Ben Mark's graduation from AHS

In honor of Alex Sim's becoming a Bar Mitzvah

In honor of Annabelle Hershfield becoming a Bat Mitzvah

In memory of David Pastiner

Norman Silverman

In memory of my wife, Claire

Jackie Kahn

In memory of Sylvia Gorin

Miriam Gold

In memory of Burt Gold

Judith & Joel Weiner

In memory of David Pastiner

Sharon & Bernardo Steinvurzel

In honor of Samuel Marks

In honor of Alex Sims' Bar Mitzvah

In memory of David Pastiner

Harold Perl

In memory of Phyllis Perl

Eli Gorin

In memory of Sylvia Gorin

Ruth & Donald Klein

In honor of our newest great-grandson

In memory of Donald's mother

In memory of Ruth's sister

Stephanie Dickstein

In memory of my mother, Natalie Dickstein

Donna & Felipe Pistiner

In honor of the Reyut Committee's kind expression of sympathy

In honor of Alex Sims' Bar Mitzvah

Mazel tov, Paula & Azzy Reckess, on birth of new granddaughter

Mazel tov, Ashley & Jacob Reckess, on birth of new daughter

Nancy & Sandy Bernstein

In honor of the birth of Melanie Rose Cohen

Paula & Azzy Reckess

Mazel tov on the birth of Melanie Rose Cohen

Yishar Koach on Dylan Major's accomplishments

Yishar Koach on Bob Ulrich's grandchildren's accomplishments

Yishar Koach on Russell Rothman's recognition and award from the Alzheimer's Association of NJ

In honor of our new granddaughter's healthy arrival

In loving memory of Paula's grandparents, Esther and Symcha Feldzamen

Sandy & Jerry Goldberg

Mazel tov, Russell Rothman, on receiving the Circle of Honor award

Mazel tov on the birth of Melanie Rose

Mazel tov, Jill & Ira Auerbach, on Dylan's accomplishments

Mazel tov, Doris & Bob Haas, on Judy & Steve being honored by Binghamton University

Mazel tov on Emily Bubel receiving her BA/MS

Mazel tov on Christina & Jason Sedgwick's marriage

Mazel tov on the birth of Lilah Esther

Mazel tov on Ariella Hyman-Fessler's graduation

Mazel tov on Sue & Rich Levine's 40th anniversary

Mazel tov on Ben, Sam & Alex Mark's academic accomplishments

Mazel tov on Bethanie Gartner receiving her master's

Mazel tov on Eitan Garr's graduation from HS

In memory of Eric King-Smith

In memory of David Pastiner

Kenneth Miron

In memory of Maxwell Leeds

Barbara & Bernie Cohen

In honor of our new granddaughter, Melanie Rose Cohen

In honor of Sue & Rich Levine's 40th anniversary

In honor of Paula & Azzy Reckess' new granddaughter

In honor of Ashley & Jacob Reckess' new daughter

In honor of Alex Sims' Bar Mitzvah

Suzanne & Donald Turrisi

Mazel tov on Jason Sedgwick's wedding

Cindy & Roger Lewin

Mazel Tov on Annabelle Hershfield's Bat Mitzvah

Mazel Tov, Rabbi Neal Loevinger, on obtaining your Doctor of Ministry degree

Mazel Tov on Alex Sims' Bar Mitzvah

In memory of my mother, Hella Lewin

Miriam & Frank Rubin

In honor of Samuel Marks' college graduation

In honor of Matthew Rich's college graduation

In honor of David Rich receiving his master's degree

In memory of our daughter, Laurel Joy

Lydia Bauman & Family

In memory of Albert J. Bauman

Grete & Marty Finkelstein

Mazel tov, Evy Weiss, on grandson's Bar Mitzvah

Mazel tov on the birth of Melanie Rose Cohen.

Mazel tov on Jason Sedgwick's marriage to Tina

In memory of Stanley Finkelstein

In memory of Bertha & Benjamin Zimmerman

In memory of Hugo Mezger

Rita & Lew Sims

In honor of our anniversary

In honor of Beth Richardson

Susan & Richard Grilli

In memory of Olga Grilli

In memory of Pauline & Boury Grilli

Anita Lester

In honor of Cindy & Roger Lewin

Kenneth Jonas

In memory of Julius Jonas

Mordekai Gordon

In memory of Joyce & Sylvan Gordon

Renee & John Weisman

In honor of Rabbi Neal Loevinger receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree

In honor of the birth of Lilah Esther

Lou Newman

In memory of Harry Lieberman

In memory of Barbara Newman

In memory of Gertrude Newman

Barry Tunkel

In memory of my father, Raymond Tunkel

Arthur Lichtman

In memory of my loving wife, Rochelle Lichtman

Stan Perlman

In memory of William Perlman

Galina Panaev

In appreciation of Rabbi Hyman

Alisha Gerber

In memory of my dad, Glenn Gerber

Linda & Eric Perfecto

In honor and appreciation of the Officers and Board of Trustees for their dedicated service

In memory of Eric King-Smith

Marlene Straus

In honor of Anya Reckess' Bat Mitzvah

Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Alan & Gayle Uffer	July 1, 2023	44th anniversary
Dr. Pola Eisenstein Rosan & Dr. Peter Rosan	July 2, 2023	28th anniversary
Ira & Jill Auerbach	July 3, 2023	57th anniversary
Steve and Linda Saland	July 3, 2023	58th anniversary
Alan and Judith Fox	July 4, 2023	52nd anniversary
Stanley and Laurie Silverman	July 4, 2023	40th anniversary
Barry & Rita Rothfeld	July 8, 2023	50th anniversary
Robert and Doris Haas	July 16, 2023	34th anniversary
Timothy and Linda Doherty	July 18, 2023	25th anniversary
Allen & Gail Meisel	July 19, 2023	53rd anniversary
Norman & Bonnie Johnson Jr.	July 24, 2023	40th anniversary
Gary and Linda Mayer	July 25, 2023	59th anniversary
William Anshen & Hilda Bezares	July 26, 2023	36th anniversary
Jules and Barbara Glassman	July 28, 2023	32nd anniversary
Stanley and Susan Riveles	July 31, 2023	57th anniversary
Harry and Diana Ellis	August 2, 2023	47th anniversary
George and Marcy Marlow	August 2, 2023	59th anniversary
Steven & Lindsay Freifeld	August 3, 2023	10th anniversary
Bernard and Shirley Handel	August 4, 2023	56th anniversary
Howard & Audrey Nisgor	August 6, 2023	23rd anniversary
Melissa & Richard Kurtz	August 7, 2023	40th anniversary
Merri & John Sedgwick	August 8, 2023	47th anniversary
Matthew and Marcia Schlossberg	August 10, 2023	54th anniversary
Robert & Anita Morrison	August 11, 2023	66th anniversary
Lawrence and Joan Cohen	August 13, 2023	57th anniversary
Aaron & Sharon Ellis	August 13, 2023	17th anniversary
Dan & Karen Jacobs	August 13, 2023	23rd anniversary
Fred and Iris Maron	August 14, 2023	46th anniversary
Todd & Susan Canning	August 15, 2023	24th anniversary
Marc & Barbara Habert	August 16, 2023	31st anniversary
Gregory & Andrea Procopis	August 19, 2023	28th anniversary
Bernard & Barbara Cohen	August 20, 2023	56th anniversary
Michael and Karen Meshnick	August 20, 2023	56th anniversary
Saul and Cheryl Polenberg	August 20, 2023	56th anniversary
Irv & Leona Miller	August 25, 2023	21st anniversary
Howard and Ada Operowsky	August 25, 2023	49th anniversary
Louis & Blanche Bergman	August 27, 2023	45th anniversary
David and Phyllis Miller	August 29, 2023	69th anniversary
Dr. Jonathan Weinstein & Sandra Rich	August 30, 2023	26th anniversary
Roger and Cynthia Lewin	September 1, 2023	39th anniversary
David & Sheri Raften	September 2, 2023	33rd anniversary
Frank and Miriam Rubin	September 3, 2023	61st anniversary
Richard & Carol Levine	September 4, 2023	46th anniversary
Martin & Karen Sheer	September 4, 2023	29th anniversary
Neil and Elyse Mansfield	September 5, 2023	41st anniversary
Felipe & Donna Pistiner	September 5, 2023	51st anniversary
Jacalyn and Kenneth	September 7, 2023	37th anniversary
Roger & Rocille Schmidt	September 9, 2023	51st anniversary
Robert & Marilyn Brickner	September 12, 2023	59th anniversary
Stanley and Eileen Steinberg	September 14, 2023	60th anniversary
Joshua & Caroline Kaye	September 21, 2023	20th anniversary
Harvey and Roberta Lederman	September 25, 2023	52nd anniversary

Temple Beth-El Proudly Presents the Comedic Talents of:

Johnny Lampert



Steven Scott



- When:** Sunday, October 15, 2023
Doors open 4:30; Dinner 5:00-6:30; Show 6:30-7:50
- Cost:** \$72.00 per person **AND** a non-perishable food item, per person, for the food pantry
- Where:** Temple Beth-El Social Hall
- Dinner:** Classic Kosher Deli with all of the trimmings. There will be vegetarian and gluten free options.
- Dress:** Casual
- Deadline:** **The absolute deadline to register is Friday, 12:00 noon, October 6, 2023.**
- Misc:** As this is also a fundraiser, there will be a 50/50, a cork pull, and other items raffled off. This will be cash only as we won't be able to take cards.
- Questions:** Merri Sedgwick: moondoggie7@optonline.net
Suzanne Turrisi: suzanneturrisi8@gmail.com

Lunch and Learn

September 13- off for holiday

September 27- Scamming for seniors with Brian Jones. Brian will teach us the latest tricks in keeping ourselves cyber safe!

Menu: vegetable stew, salad, cookies

Gluten free options available

WE SHARE OUR FRIEND'S GRIEF

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of:

Esther Cornell, longtime member of Temple Beth-El and mother of Sandra, Sharon and Robert

Susann Cohen, Temple Beth-El congregant

Eric King-Smith, father of Bernard King-Smith

Lyla Dolgin, mother of Nancy Judson

Alex Boguslav, uncle of Rabbi Michael Fessler

A Japanese diplomat saved her husband's family from the Shoah — now she'll honor him at Carnegie Hall

As a child, I struggled to keep track of the many steps my ancestors took between leaving Russia and Poland for America. I always knew, though, that one of my great-grandmothers escaped Lithuania through Japan because of a man named Chinue Sugihara.

Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat posted in Lithuania, wrote nearly two thousand visas to help Jews escape Europe. In 1984, Yad Vashem honored him with the title Righteous Among the Nations. And just before the pandemic hit, the virtuoso cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper conceived of a concert to honor Sugihara. She has a strong connection to Sugihara's story: Her father-in-law escaped Europe on a Sugihara visa.

[A Concert For Sugihara](#), an evening-length performance centered on a new work commissioned by Yad VaShem, Lera Aurbach's *Symphony No. 6: Vessels of Light*, premiered last November in Lithuania. In breaks between rehearsals, Reiko Cooper walked through the city of Kaunas, imagining the recipients of Sugihara's visas dashing "from embassy to embassy, consulate to consulate" in hopes of finding a savior.

Now, Reiko Cooper is bringing *A Concert for Sugihara*, which also includes a performance of Karen Tanaka's *Guardian Angel*, to New York City's Carnegie Hall on April 19. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

You and I have both had our lives shaped by Sugihara's legacy. What made you want to draw on that influence in your music?

It always astounds me, the reverberations. In the world today, there are thousands upon thousands of people who would not exist if it weren't for Sugihara.

For me, I have my husband and three children. So it's in my face. The original inspiration for wanting to pursue this so badly is that in the world today, there's so much strife and trauma and mass displacement of refugees.

To know that in 1940, amid the chaos and the evil and the noise that was going on, this man found that peaceful part of himself

There's a very, very terrifying section of the work which is fast and loud. Really terrifying. And the chorus is singing in Yiddish about "the fire, the fire is burning, people are burning, people are dying" — it's just mad chaos.

And then it all shrinks away for a minute.

There's a solo singer who sings as a child and is asking their mother, "Mother, Mother, what's what's going on? Where are you, mommy?" I answer in kind, as a comforting voice responding to the child.

I'm not the only person to say this: The cello is the closest instrument to the human voice. There is something so very human about the cello sound.

As the mother of three children, I have to say that that spot kills me. It just kills me to know that this child most assuredly dies. All you can do is be the voice of a mother.

Have you tapped into that voice when speaking to your children about *A Concert For Sugihara*?

I certainly wouldn't tell them about that part of it. They'd have nightmares forever.

I'm a convert, and when I first learned about the Holocaust, I was so profoundly and horrifically affected. I'm telling you, for three years straight, I cried every single night in terror. I remember thinking, "If I were born Jewish, how could I possibly live with this?"

But my 7-year-old already knows a bit about it. My 10-year-old knows everything about it.

When you describe the project to people, is there a main takeaway you try to impart?

This is a happy story. You're never going to come away from talking about the Holocaust with a smile on your face, but in the end, this is a story about the miracle of life, and how we carry on.

If there is one word for Sugihara's act, it is compassion. I would like people to realize the power of compassion, and to keep that alive in our hearts and our souls and our minds.

