Come as you are. Discover who you are.

Welcome to Kesher

Connection is the force that binds members and clergy to Judaism and to The Village Temple.

IN THIS ISSUE
A Letter from the Rabbi................................. 2
A Letter from The Co-Presidents.................... 3
Thank You to Our High Holy Days Appeal Donors..... 4
The Village Temple Giving Tree...................... 4
Education News.......................................... 5
Save the Date............................................ 6
A Spiritual Home of Inclusion........................ 6
January Calendar........................................ 7
February Calendar...................................... 8

MISHKAN HANEFESH (Tabernacle of the Soul)
Our New High Holy Days Prayer Book

We are delighted to share that at next year’s High Holy Days Services we will be praying using our new Machzor (HHD Prayer Book)

*Mishkan HaNefesh*

This Machzor is fully transliterated and includes many alternative readings and study materials

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

EMILY HACKER & ANNE KEATING
JAMIL SIMON
NELLY SZLACHTER & ARTHUR ROVINE

Their donations have enabled the purchase of these Machzorim. Members will have the opportunity to purchase bookplates to honor a loved one or for a simcha or in the memory of a loved one. Bookplate dedication information will be available in early spring.
Dear Friends,

This past month, I attended the Union for Reform Judaism’s Biennial Convention in Boston. It was a powerful, poignant, and meaningful experience. This was probably the 12th Biennial Convention I attended, and I never stop being amazed at its breadth of content and spiritual connection. I have posted meaningful moments on our website blog and I encourage you to go to www.urj.org and scroll down to the recorded plenary sessions that include Shabbat Worship, to get a true feel for what transpired in Boston. 5500+ participants joined together to learn, study, pray and sing their hearts out. Isabel (Liz) Dunst, chair of the Reform Movement’s Commission on Social Action, commissioned a new music CD, Together as One, for Social Justice for our time. Music has been an underpinning of every generation of change and protest, and this new CD is for our generation. Liz Dunst will be our congregation’s featured speaker on Shabbat HaGadol, March 23rd. Our religious school children will learn songs from the CD and will learn to raise their voices in unison with youth throughout North America.

I am proud that Village Temple teens will be traveling to Washington, DC in February for the Religious Action Center’s (RAC) Li’taken (To repair) Seminar. There, they will join with hundreds of teens from across the country to learn about issues of social justice, including gun violence prevention, health care, economic justice, immigration, racial justice, the environment, and LGBTQ rights. While at Biennial, I learned a fascinating piece of trivia. When Rabbi Jonah Pesner, the current Director of the Religious Action Center was a high school student at THE VILLAGE TEMPLE (his dad was a past president), a casual visit to the RAC was transformed into the FIRST formal Li’taken Seminar—it’s a rich piece of our congregation’s history that we should celebrate and replicate in our generation.

Aside from presenting at two Biennial workshops, I had the opportunity to listen to thoughtful people presenting on preparing teens for Israel conversations on campus; to reimagining Jewish-Muslim relationships; continued on page 3
We talk a lot about what a warm and cozy congregation we have at The Village Temple—and we do! Still, many of you don’t know one another and how much you may have in common. Over the next couple of months, various congregants will be hosting gatherings for people whose shared interests extend beyond the synagogue walls. Three of these events are already in the planning stages, one for academics, another for people involved in the arts; a third for writers and editors. Please let Sandy Albert know if you are interested in attending one of these, or creating or hosting a special interest group in the fields of architecture, social work, medical care, finance, art and law—or something we haven’t thought of.

Anita Hollander and the Children’s Choir will be front and center at the Martin Luther King Shabbat on January 12, in a service that features the accomplished jazz musician (and VT member) Antoine Drye on trumpet. Antoine and his wife Jacqueline Moline will also be celebrating the b’nai mitzvah of their children Lily and Theo that weekend. On January 19, our fabulous chef-congregants Sandi Knell Tamny and Judi Schiff are preparing a Shabbat community dinner.

On February 1st at 6:30PM, congregant Lilly Rivlin will be showing her inspiring film, “Heather Booth: Changing the World,” with a post-film talk by Heather herself. Lilly calls Heather “the most influential person you never heard of.” Here’s your chance to discover this extraordinary woman, a civil rights activist and organizer, whose work has been changing lives for 50 years. On the weekend of February 9, eight young Village Temple activists are going to Washington DC with Rabbi Hirsch, Alex Tansky, and Liotte Greenbaum to attend a weekend conference focused on the Jewish imperative for social justice at the Religious Action Center. That same weekend, the Village Temple will be honoring people with disabilities at a special Shabbat service. Finally, on February 28 the Village Temple Players present the annual Purim Schpiel, always a treat. Hoping you’ll join us for these special events.

Wishing everybody a hopeful and productive 2018.

Julie Salamon and Fred Basch, Co-Presidents
Jms118@att.net; fredbasch@nyc.rr.com

A Letter From Rabbi Hirsch, continued from page 2

A major Biennial theme was how to engage people with disabilities, millennials, and baby boomers. I was inspired by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, founder of Repairers of the Breach and president of the North Carolina NAACP. We heard from MA Governor, Charlie Baker (Republican) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (Democrat). Shabbat Services were powerful, thoughtful and joyful. You can watch these speakers and service in their totality on the link above.

Biennial connects Reform Jews in North America and from around the world, as the World Union for Progressive Judaism also convenes during Biennial. It is a powerful reminder of people’s strength when organized with purpose. During his Thursday evening remarks, URJ president, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, launched RJ (Reform Judaism) Connect: This is a new initiative for seekers and couples exploring Jewish life. It is a ‘multi-pronged service that will connect individuals and couples to their peers, communities, Reform Jewish clergy, and opportunities to explore Jewish life.’ What is key to this initiative is that it will not only be synagogue based. Details will roll out in the coming months.

In a word, I was ‘energized’ by Biennial. It provided opportunities for reflection, centering and visioning. It spoke to my passion for Judaism. The next Biennial will be in Chicago, December 11-15, 2019. This year I was joined at Biennial by Alex Tansky, Rose Snitz (our Religious School music teacher) and Carole Rivel. A delegation of four is not enough to bring lasting impact to any congregation. I URGE you—whether board member, member-at-large, or teen—to join me in 2019—to have a strong delegation from The Village Temple. I hope the energy and information gleaned from the Boston Biennial will help to strengthen our community.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
Rabbidhirsch@villagetemple.org
A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR HIGH HOLY DAYS APPEAL DONORS

| Bill Abrams & Julie Salamon    | Igal Hodorov & Marina Levin    | Brucke Resnik & Elizabeth Soqui    |
| Andy Amer                     | Anthony & Nadine Hoffmann     | Lexa Rosean                        |
| Tina Ball                     | Meryl Holt & Eli Silverman    | Sylvia Rosegg                      |
| Ellen Banner                  | Steven Horowitz              | Bill Rosenblatt & Elyse Grusky     |
| Fred & Susan Basch            | Theodore & Barbara Horwitz    | Ronald & Katherine Rothenberg      |
| Charlie Berman                | Joel Roskind & Susan Jones   | Joyce Rothenberg                   |
| Elliot Blanchard              | Meridith Kane                | Arthur Rovine                      |
| Stuart Blay                   | Judith Kaufman               | Carole Sadler                      |
| Alan Brown & Barbara Gerolimatos | William & Sarah King       | Malcolm Sage & Lynn Florio         |
| Chris Buck & Michele Golden   | Myra Klahr                   | Dirk Salomons                      |
| Philip & Judith Bukberg       | Jerry & Wendy Labowitz       | Linda & Eric Scalettar             |
| Robert Carr                   | Stanley & Ilene Levy         | Sam Kopel & Sari Scheer           |
| Paul Dworth & Ilsa Klinghoffer | Harriet Lieberman            | Judy Schiff                        |
| Fred & Eileen Eichler         | Herbert & Vicki London       | Deborah Seidman                    |
| Susan Eisenberg               | Sue Lorimer                 | Eric Seiler & Darcy Bradbury      |
| Renee Feinberg                | Alexandra Memmi             | Douglas Sepler                     |
| Peter Fleischman & Susan Klebanoff | Carrie Motschwiller  | Lisa Shapiro                        |
| Leah Garber                   | Kenneth Motschwiller         | Steven & Sandy Shore               |
| Michael Gazza & Ruth Hoffman  | Jay & Karen Palevsky         | Joseph & Sandy Siegel              |
| Gary & Anna Gitelman          | Carole Pesner                | Jamil Simon                        |
| Emily Hacker & Anne Keating   | Joseph Profaci              | Lisa Wenger                        |
| Andrea Hirsch                 | Jodd Readick                | Jill & Andrew Wilkinson            |
|                              | Stuart & Nicole Reisman      | Amy Wölf & John Hatfield           |

Have you noticed the new Village Temple Giving Tree in the lobby? It was designed by temple member Marina Levin, who also generously donated the materials to create it. Our temple is a wonderful community, and we are fortunate to be able to offer so many great events and programs for our members. That’s where you come in- Please help us cover expenses by sponsoring Shabbat Onegs, musicians for services, challah, choir snacks, Religious School supplies, Hanukkah and Purim carnivals, speakers, and special events. No matter what you can afford to give, all contributions are needed and appreciated. What to do: 1) Take a leaf with the program to which you would like to contribute (donations vary by color) 2) Call the office to make a pledge OR go on the temple website and click DONATE.

Thank you to Orly Mallin and Fred and Sue Basch who made the first Giving Tree donations.
In early December, for the first time ever, I had the privilege of joining Rabbi Hirsch and 5,500 Reform Jews from all over the world in Boston for the URJ Biennial Convention.

One of the things I loved about my first Biennial was the notion of belonging to something so immense. It is very easy to forget that we are part of such a large and progressive movement. It is such an inspiration to listen to prominent leaders and to speak with Reform Jews from all over the world, and to participate in Shabbat worship services with 5,500 involved and enthusiastic congregants, rabbis, cantors, educators and Jewish professionals. I had a sense of belonging to something that is awesome and holy.

The other thing that made my first Biennial so special was the opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues, and to meet new people who share in the work in congregations within our movement. Whether catching up on our personal paths and family or comparing notes on the work of our education programs, I was delighted to see so many friends I met who were involved in Jewish education in the Former Soviet Union, or folks I’ve encountered through Hebrew Union College, the Association of Reform Jewish Educators, Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators and regional networking events and professional learning.

It was a total surprise that at the Shabbat dinner table next to ours sat a delegation from Temple Beth Ahavat Shalom, the only remaining Reform temple in South Brooklyn (now merged with another Brooklyn Reform congregation), where I taught Hebrew and tutored B’nai Mitzvah candidates shortly after my arrival in the United States in 1999. It was so nice to see old friends who opened doors for me and my family and allowed me to explore Reform Judaism at their congregation 18 years ago. I sang songs with incredible Jewish musicians. I prayed in the enormous Convention Hall surrounded by a sea of Reform Jews, joining as one in song and prayer. I discussed new methods of effective Jewish learning with prominent educators, and I took note of what the Movement’s leadership shared with respect to the vision for Reform Judaism in the United States and abroad.

A few years back at one of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators gatherings, I picked up a pretty magnet for the metal file cabinet in my office. It is decorated with Judaic and holiday symbols and ritual objects. It also has an inscription in the center saying “JUDAISM is not the same without U!” Right away I fell in love with this magnet and its message. To me, it reflects the ultimate mission of a Reform Jewish Educator—to make Judaism real, personal, and accessible to all learners by creating an educational experience that informs, inspires, and nurtures life-long commitment. Following my first experience at the Biennial, I am inspired to help Rabbi Hirsch recruit a 2019 URJ Biennial delegation from the Village Temple. From now on, when I look at my favorite magnet, a new message comes to my mind – “_NION FOR REFORM JUDAISM is not the same without U!”

I am thankful for the opportunity to use the Biennial as further motivation to strive for excellence in the field of Jewish education and in my position at the Village Temple.

L’shalom,
Alex Tansky
Director of Education
atanzky@villagetemple.org

Heather Booth is the most influential person you never heard of. The newest film by critically acclaimed filmmaker and VT member, Lilly Rivlin, HEATHER BOOTH: CHANGING THE WORLD is an urgent response to the recent election of Trump and all that has ensued. At a time when many are wondering how to make their voices heard, when civil and women’s rights are under attack, this empowering documentary is an inspiring look at how social change happens.

Heather Booth, a renowned organizer and activist, began her remarkable career at the height of the Civil Rights movement. Through her life and work this inspiring film explores many of the most pivotal moments in progressive movements that altered our history over the last fifty years: from her involvement with Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, to her founding of the JANE Underground in 1964, to her collaborations with respected leaders such as Julian Bond and Senator Elizabeth Warren.

HEATHER BOOTH: CHANGING THE WORLD blends interviews, from close friends, clients, political colleagues and current Midwest Academy students to explore Heather’s legacy in progressive politics and organizing. Anyone who has been confused or disheartened by the recent election needs to see this film. Donation: $10/person.
save the date

JANUARY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12: Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Services, 6:45 pm
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18: Literary Havurah hosted by Julie Salamon, 6:30 pm
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19: Community Dinner and 5th- and 6th-grade shul-in, 6:45 pm
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24: The Arts Havurah hosted by Evan Oppenheimer, 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1: Film and Speaker: Film by VT member Lilly Rivlin, Heather Booth: Changing the World, 6:30 pm
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9: Speaker for Jewish Disability Awareness Month, 6:45 pm
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11: Academia Havurah hosted by Wendy & Ben Goldberg, 4:00-6:00 pm
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28: Purim Services, Megillah reading and Shpiel, 6:30 pm

MARCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 18: Adult High Holy Day Trope Class, 9:30-10:30 am (first of 6 sessions)
FRIDAY, MARCH 23: Shabbat Hagadol: Isabel Dunst, Chair of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, 6:45 pm

The Village Temple:
A Spiritual Home of Inclusion

This fall, our congregation became part of a new cohort of UJA Federation—SYNERGY—engaged to deepen our commitment to being an inclusive religious community. Inclusion was also a hot topic at this year’s URJ Biennial Convention in Boston.

In past decades, “outreach” was a term applied to interfaith couples. Today, the net has been cast much further to include Jews of color, the LGBTQ community, millennials, and people with disabilities. Our focus thus far with our SYNERGY consultant, Jeri Mendelson, has been to make our temple structure more accessible to those with disabilities. We conducted a thorough walk-through of our building and have identified low-hanging fruit as well as long-term goals.

Our first project was to reconstruct the men’s restroom into an accessible one for those with physical disabilities and for the transgender community. This “reconstruction” is a temporary solution. Our goal is to reconfigure the restrooms on the first floor into several inclusive/accessible ones. To accommodate those who worship with us and have difficulty either holding or seeing our prayer book, we are in the process of putting our Shabbat worship services onto tablets that are lighter than our prayer books and that can be adjusted for font size. We are also planning on creating a space in the sanctuary that can easily accommodate a wheelchair, so that everyone can feel part of our sacred and warm community.

A special thank you to:
Marina Levin and Igal Hodorov for donating 5 tablets for use for services and the religious school, to Rachel Glube and David Friedman for their donation in honor of Anita Hollander’s birthday, and to Sarah and Will King who bought a brass leaf for our Tree of Life.
# JANUARY 2018/5778

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| New Year’s Day  
Closed | 6:00-7:00 Confirmation Class  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services/Martin Luther King, Jr. Service  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
RS | 10:30 am B’nai Mitzvah: Theo and Lily Drye  
RS |
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 9:30-10:45 am Parparim  
RS Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
RS |
| 14     | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| No Religious School  
RS | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Closed  
RS Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | 5:30-6:15 pm Bim Bam Shabbat  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
RS Community Dinner, 5th and 6th Grade Shul-In  
RS |
| 21     | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 9:00-10:45 am Pre-K & K  
RS Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
RS |
| 28     | 29     | 30      | 31        | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 9:00-10:45 am Pre-K & K  
RS Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS | Religious School  
RS |

RS = Religious School  
C = Classes  
S = Service  
♫ = Choir  
E = Events  
B = Board Meeting

---

**Meet our January B’nai Mitzvah:**

Theo and Lily Drye, son and daughter of Jackie Moline and Antoine Drye
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-8:00 pm Confirmation Class</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm Film: Heather Booth Changing the World with Heather Booth talk back following film</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm Choir</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class</td>
<td>Speaker for Disability Awareness Month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00-10:45 am Pre-K &amp; K</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30-8:00 pm Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00–5:30 pm Pre K &amp; K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm Madrich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation Class</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm Purim Services and Shpiel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- RS = Religious School
- C = Classes
- S = Service
- ♩ = Choir
- E = Events
- B = Board Meeting

---

**THE VILLAGE TEMPLE**
Congregation from Israel of New York
33 East 12th Street
New York, NY 10003

---

8  Kesher • January-February 2018 / 5778