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

Come as you are. Discover who you are.

Welcome to Kesher

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2ND ANNUAL VILLAGE TEMPLE SHABBAT-IN-THE-HOME
Friday, May 17, 6:00 pm

On Friday, May 17, welcome and celebrate Shabbat in each other’s homes. The evening will start at 6:00 for drinks and appetizers. For those that are in the year of mourning or have a yahrzeit you may join Rabbi Hirsch in the sanctuary at 5:45 for Kaddish. What better way to deepen connections with one another?

If you haven’t done so, please register with Liotte Greenbaum (lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org) or call 212-674-2340.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 pm

Dear Congregants,

We hope you will join us at The Village Temple annual congregational meeting. This is an important event at which you will have the opportunity to review and vote on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as the proposed slate of Board of Directors. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on joining us. We need a quorum of congregants present.
Dear Friends,

October, 1985—My first year as rabbi at East End Temple. Simchat Torah’s joy that year was pierced with the horrific news that the Italian cruise line, the Achille Lauro, had been hijacked by members of the Palestine Liberation Front. In an era before cell phones or internet, it took a couple of days to learn that the only victim of that hijacking was Leon Klinghoffer. News of his murder rattled the Jewish world and was a seminal moment of tragedy for the Klinghoffer family. Decades later, while I was a rabbi at Temple Shaaray Tefila, we read the names of Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer on their yahrzeit, who for a brief period of time were members there. Marilyn died just four months after her husband was murdered. When I arrived at The Village Temple, I learned that the Klinghoffer family had deep roots in the congregation, and that Lisa’s husband, Jerry was co-president of VT.

For the past few years, VT member and past co-president, Julie Salamon, has conducted countless interviews across the globe, regarding the hijacking of the Achille Lauro and the murder of Leon Klinghoffer. Julie is a former journalist for the NY Times and Wall Street Journal, and her books have been on the NY Times best seller’s list. In June, her newest work, An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer, will be released. I have had the privilege to read a galley proof version of the book. Julie weaves the tragic and horrific killing of Leon Klinghoffer against the backdrop of global politics, and explores the personal impact that event had on three families. The book is not only an historic investigation into motivation and response, but it also underscores the human factors memorialized in history.

On June 11 at 7 pm, The Village Temple and The American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) will co-sponsor the book launch of An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer. The evening will include a conversation between Warren Bass (of the Wall Street Journal) and Julie, followed by a Q & A and reception. You can purchase tickets at AJHS here (https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4051839). Tickets are $5 for Village Temple members. I hope you will consider attending this meaningful Village Temple event.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
rabbidhirsch@villagetemple.org

Julie weaves the tragic and horrific killing of Leon Klinghoffer against the backdrop of global politics, and explores the personal impact that event had on three families.
Dear fellow congregants,

We have much to be thankful for. On March 6 we celebrated The Village Temple's 70th Anniversary with a gala at the Manhattan Penthouse. The gala was a great success and raised $275,000 for our Temple. We are grateful to our gala chairs, Wendy Goldberg and Stephanie Kanarek, for organizing this wonderful event. While we are very appreciative of the money raised thanks to our generous donors, we are just as appreciative of the spirits raised during the event. It was clear during that evening that we are a community that not only takes care of each other but also enjoys each other's company. We have come a long way since July of 2016 when Rabbi Hirsch joined us. Our congregation is strong, caring, and growing.

Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting events in May and June. Here are a few that reflect the cultural richness and vitality of our small shul.

- **Etgar Civil Rights Journey.** On May 2, 30 Village Temple congregants will follow in the footsteps of Dr. King and Rabbi Heschel on a journey through Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham to understand the Civil Rights movement through a Jewish prism and how the struggle still continues today. It promises to be an extraordinary experience.

- **Shabbat in the Home.** On May 17, instead of celebrating Shabbat at temple like every Friday night, we will celebrate in each other's homes, building connection and community. Last year was an incredible success; this year will be even bigger.

- **Adult Education Classes.** On May 16, May 30, and June 6, at 6:30 pm, Rabbi Hirsch will lead classes discussing *Pirkei Avot*, the original compilation of Jewish ethical and spiritual teachings. It is often considered the first recorded manifesto of social justice in Western civilization.

- **Congregational meeting.** Please be sure to join our congregational meeting on May 29 at 6:30 pm at temple. We need to approve a slate of officers and board members, and approve the budget, temple dues, and security and religious school fees. Part of our duty as a sacred community is to be stewards of the institution that supports the temple, the clergy, the soup kitchen, the religious school and all of the events that make The Village Temple what it is today. Please be there.

On a personal note, the King family will be celebrating the bat mitzvah of our youngest daughter, Anaïs, on June 1. As a parent there are few events—if any—as full of joy and pride as your child's bat/ bar mitzvah, and it is all the more special at The Village Temple where our community feels like family. I invite you all to join our family for this great simcha and to share in the congregational oneg on Friday night and the kiddush lunch on Saturday that will follow.

Sarah King
Fred Basch
Sarahking123@gmail.com
Fredbasch@nyc.rr.com

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**Meet Our Adult B’not Mitzvah • Saturday, June 15, 10 am**

The congregation is proud of three of its members who, for the past two years have been working with Rabbi Hirsch towards becoming adult b’not mitzvah.

On Saturday morning, June 15, Stephanie Kanarek, Julie Salamon, and Deborah Seidman will lead the worship service, chant Torah and Haftarah and share their personal reflections. We know it will be a most sacred and meaningful Shabbat, both for our adult b’not mitzvah and the entire congregation.

The congregation is invited to a Kiddush lunch following the service.

---

Sarah King
Fred Basch
Sarahking123@gmail.com
Fredbasch@nyc.rr.com

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A LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

It was clear during that evening that we are a community that not only takes care of each other but also enjoys each other’s company.

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**A LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**
In early April, our Village Temple teens began learning about Jewish immigration to the United States (mainly from Eastern Europe) in the late 1880s throughout the 1920s. We went to the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side to see how Jews lived, worked, went to school, and assimilated into American culture. Many of the teens shared their own family stories of coming to the United States.

As we approached Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), our teens visited the Center for Jewish History for a guided tour of the Kindertransport exhibit. They learned how thousands of Jewish children were saved from the Holocaust by being sent from Nazi-occupied Europe to Great Britain in the late 1930s. After the tour, Village Temple member and Kindertransport Refugee Josef Eisinger came to The Village Temple to tell his own story to our teenagers. It was a meaningful and engaging experience for everyone. Josef is also the Yom HaShoah guest speaker on May 1 so parents can also hear the speaker.

Just as we celebrated freedom from Egyptian slavery during Passover, our teens were also able to share what they learned about immigration and freedom from war and persecution, and how grateful they are to be free today.

Liotte Greenbaum
Director of Community Engagement
lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org

A Special Message for Parents and Grandparents From URJ Camps

Are your children or grandchildren your precious gems? Do you love watching them grow up? Do you enjoy giving them things they will love and that will help them as they grow as Jews? Here’s a gift suggestion that you and your child or grandchild are guaranteed to cherish, with benefits and memories that can last a lifetime.

If you have a child or grandchild who is currently in Grades 1-9, consider giving a positive, exciting and effective Reform Jewish experience—a summer at one of the Union for Reform Judaism’s (URJ) Northeast Camps – Eisner, Crane Lake, or Six Points Sci-Tech Academy. Eisner and Crane Lake are the best! No other Jewish experience can even begin to approach the value of an Eisner or Crane Lake summer. Why? Just read on.

Eisner and Crane Lake Camps offer everything we have come to expect from terrific camps—sports, arts and crafts, water activities, music, drama, camp-outs, photography, radio, singing, camp Olympics, robotics, video game design, video production, coding, web design, environmental science, biology and more. However, it’s the exciting and creative Reform Jewish dimension that puts them way out in front. Judaic education, Shabbat celebration and Jewish cultural activities presented in an informal, upbeat, stimulating and challenging manner give our kids (and yours, if you like) the ability to say they actually enjoy being Jewish!

No kidding! Every summer, over 1500 kids spend two, four or eight weeks loving Jewish living! And they bring that love home with them. It can, quite literally, change the atmosphere of a home and a religious school when, suddenly, kids not only know Jewish songs, but love singing them, as well! Eisner, Crane Lake and Six Points Sci-Tech Academy campers come home and fall in love with synagogue because at these camps they fall in love with Judaism. They join Youth Groups. They become teaching assistants. They’re more interested in celebrating holidays.

Does this sound like a gift you’d like your child or grandchild to receive? Then please contact the office and start the wheels rolling now (Eisner, Crane Lake and Sci-Tech Academy have limited space, so applications need to be submitted soon), and give your child or grandchild the experience that will last a lifetime! Please call camp offices or visit http://necamps.urjcamps.org for more information.
The Village Temple Celebrates Purim with

ShushAnnie
Honoring Harriet Zimmer and Alex Tansky

Our sincerest thanks to all of you who donated (see next page) and also those who helped make this gala event such a success, and particularly our Gala Co-Chairs, Wendy Kaplan and Stephanie Kanarek.

Sandy Albert
Janet Falk
Liotte Greenbaum
Emily Hacker
Susan Rosenberg Jones

Julie Salamon
Deb Seidman
Judy Klein Steinman
Sandi Tamny
Sharon Weinstein

Anne Keating
Sheila Renert
Carole Sadler

And our Teens….Emma Basch, Rachel Hendrickson,
Zoe Oppenheimer, Ella Wilkinson

Top row, left: Our Gala organizers, Wendy Kaplan and Stephanie Kanarek. Top row, center: Harriet Zimmer: our synagogue’s member in longest standing. Below: Alex Tansky, our Director of Education.
$50,000 to $100,000
Access Industries
Anonymous

$10,000 to $20,000
Samuel Kopel & Sari Scheer
Eric Seiler & Darcy Bradbury
Marlowe Greenberg & Yasmina Zaidman

$1,000 to $5,000
Alan Brown & Barbara Gerolimatos
William & Sarah King
Jerry Arbitier & Lisa Klinghoffer
Carole Sadler
Steven & Sandra Shore

Jamil Simon
Judith Steinman
Amy Wolf & John Hatfield

Up to $1,000
Anna Abrams
Anna Aronzon
Judith Banki
Ellen Banner
Geoffrey Wiener & Wendy Banner
Fred & Susan Basch
Sheldon Basch
Michael & Andrea Buman
Robert Carr
Dean & Jill Chavooshian
Eileen & Fred Eichler

Josef Eisinger & Styra Avins
Walter Kim & Leslie Feldman-Kim
Melinda Gellman
Elizabeth Grayer
Elyse Grusky & Bill Rosenblatt
I. Robert Grossman & Susan Talbot
Joel Henry & Jessica Tuccelli
Allan & Elizabeth Horwitz
Joel Roskind & Susan Jones
Howard & Trudy Kaplan
Suzanne Kelson
Donald Kent & Ellen Goosenberg
Louise Lieblich
Alex & Katherine Lipman
Frank & Sidney Maas
Robin May

Antoine Drye & Jacqueline Moline
Adam Owett
Jay & Karen Palevsky
Lois Rakoff
Harvey & Sheila Renert
Bruce Resnik & Elizabeth Soqui
Mordecai Rosenfeld
Arthur Rovine
David Smith & Stephanie Kanarek
Matthew & Katherine Sperling
Sandi Tamny
Ron & Jennifer Weiss
Andrew & Jill Wilkinson
Deanna Yalowitz
Richard & Lucy Zimmer

March 6, 2019 • “Honoring the past. Celebrating the Present. Creating the Future.”

Our Gala Donors

May-June 2019 / 5779 • Kesher
Standing at Sinai

Joint Shavuot Study, Potluck Dinner, Havdalah & Service
Saturday, June 8 at 6 pm

The Village Temple and East End Temple will join together at The Village Temple for an Erev Shavuot evening of study, food and worship.

Rabbis Hirsch and Stanton will begin with a text study on the historic and current meaning of the revelation at Sinai in Jewish tradition and our personal lives. The study will be followed by a potluck dairy dinner. Following dinner, we will gather in the sanctuary for an Erev Shavuot service that will include Yizkor, led by Rabbi Hirsch, Rabbi Stanton, and Cantor Bach. The evening will conclude with an oneg in the social hall.

If you plan to join us for dinner, please contact Liotte Greenbaum (lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org), to reserve a space and let her know what you plan to bring.
Shalom!

EDUCATION NEWS

Shalom,

The last 3 weeks of Religious School in May will be a busy time of year for all students and their families. One of the upcoming special programs will take place on Friday, May 3 at 5:30 pm when families with children in grades 1 and 2 will gather for an early Shabbat celebration and dinner, followed by a family Shabbat Service. During the service, students will lead selected prayers and blessings, and share with the congregation their skits about biblical characters.

During the last week of classes on Tuesday, May 14, Wednesday, May 15 and Sunday, May 19, we will hold our traditional end-of-year celebrations to mark our accomplishments, acknowledge the great learning we shared this year, and celebrate our friendships and community. Stay tuned for more information and reminders about our Moving Up ceremonies. All parents and prospective families are invited to join our celebrations.

Summer camp is a chance for kids to try out fun aspects of Judaism that they might not be exposed to at home or in Religious School. Jewish camps have Shabbat and Jewish holiday celebrations, and provide kids the chance to celebrate Shabbat more fully in a fun way.

At this point, most of you have your children’s summer plans in place, but in case you are thinking about next summer already or are curious about Jewish sleepaway camps, I highly encourage you to speak with me about your options. Those of you who are looking for a place where children can spend the best summer of their lives should look into Jewish overnight summer camping. The campers strengthen their Jewish identity and learn about their heritage in a way that is similar but also very different from their Religious School experience. The beautiful thing about Jewish summer camps is that youth are immersed in a non-stop magical Jewish experience that has nothing in common with formal modalities of Jewish learning. Summer camp is a chance for kids to try out fun aspects of Judaism that they might not be exposed to at home or in Religious School. Jewish camps have Shabbat and Jewish holiday celebrations, and provide kids the chance to celebrate Shabbat more fully in a fun way. Sometimes kids even bring home what they’ve learned at camp—like a new Shabbat song—and teach it to the rest of their family. This often creates a wonderful connection between home, family, and summer camp experience. Over the break, I am planning on visiting a few Jewish overnight camps where The Village Temple youth spend their summer vacation. I hope these visits will help us build fruitful relationships between Reform summer camps and our Religious School.

My thanks to all of you
Thank you to all Religious School Committee members and parent volunteers who helped throughout the year to organize and coordinate many Religious School events and holiday celebrations. Also, a hearty Todah Rabba (Thank You) to all parents for entrusting us with the care and Jewish education of your children. It is always a joy and a privilege to be a part of their lives from September through June! A very special thank you goes to Rabbi Hirsch, Cantor Bach, Sandy Albert, Anita Hollander, Liotte Greenbaum, and all teachers who contributed so much to making this school year such a great experience for all!

I wish everyone a wonderful, happy and healthy summer. Please stay in touch.

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

May-June 2019 / 5779 • Kesher  9
### MAY

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 6:00 PM:** Yom HaShoah v’Hagvurah commemoration: Speaker Josef Eisenger, VT member, who fled Vienna at age 15 on the Kindertransport. Students and members will participate in the service.

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 6:45 PM:** Family Shabbat Services with choir and 1st/2nd grade dinner. Dinner at 5:45 pm followed by services at 6:45 pm

**THURSDAYS, MAY 16 & 30, 6:30 PM:** Adult Education led by Rabbi Hirsch: *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary*

**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6:45 PM:** Shabbat-in-the-Home

### JUNE

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 6:30 PM:** Adult Education led by Rabbi Hirsch: *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* (3rd session)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 6:45 PM:** Camp Sendoff, Volunteer Appreciation Shabbat

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 6:00 PM:** *Standing at Sinai*

Shavuot text study and potluck dinner, Havdalah & Service: The Village Temple and East End Temple will join together at The Village Temple for an *Erev Shavuot* evening of study, food and worship.

If you plan to join us for dinner, please contact Liotte Greenbaum (lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org), to reserve a space and let her know what you plan to bring.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 7:00 PM:** An Innocent Bystander: *The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer*, Book Talk by VT member and author, Julie Salamon, at The American Jewish Historical Society (Center for Jewish History), 15 W. 16th Street.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 10 AM:** Adult *B’not Mitzvah*: Stephanie Kanarek, Julie Salamon, Deborah Seidman

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 6:45 PM:** Gay Pride Shabbat
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RS = Religious School  C = Classes  S = Service  ⚫ = Choir  ☘ = Events  B = Board Meeting

Meet our B’not Mitzvah:

Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Oppenheimer, May 11, Parashat Kedoshim
Bat Mitzvah of Anais King, June 1, Parashat B’chukotai
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**RS** = Religious School  **C** = Classes  **S** = Service  **<** = Choir  **E** = Events  **B** = Board Meeting

**Shavuot**

- 9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen
- 10:00 am Bat Mitzvah Anais King

**Saturday Schedule**

- 6:45 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Camp Sendoff, and Volunteer Appreciation
- 6:00 pm Yizkor Service and Shavuot Text study and dinner

**Sunday, June 2**

- 6:30–7:45 pm Adult Education

**Tuesday, June 4**


**Wednesday, June 5**

- 6:45 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Camp Sendoff, and Volunteer Appreciation

**Thursday, June 6**

- 6:30–7:45 pm Adult Education

**Friday, June 7**

- 6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services
- 5:30–6:15 pm Bim Bam Shabbat Services

**Saturday, June 8**

- 9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen
- 10:00 am Adult B’not Mitzvah: Stephanie Kanarek, Julie Salamon, & Deborah Seidman

**Saturday, June 15**

- 9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen
- 10:00 am Adult B’not Mitzvah: Stephanie Kanarek, Julie Salamon, & Deborah Seidman

**Saturday, June 22**

- 9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, June 29**

- 9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen

**Co-Host Book Launch—Julie Salamon, *An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leonard Klinghoffer*. Center for Jewish History.**