

## North Fork Reform Synagogue

# Gazette

Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

March - April 2019

Adar/Nissan 5779

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[www.northforkreformsynagogue.org](http://www.northforkreformsynagogue.org)

### On the Calendar

#### NFRS Presents: Cinematic Series '19

Saturdays, 7:30 PM, Cutchogue Presbyterian Church

February 23: *Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem*

March 16: *Carvalho's Journey*

April 27: *Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria*

#### Community Programs

April 6: *4 Women 4 Stories*, Jamesport Meeting House. 8 pm

14: East End Arts Students Concert, Mattituck Library, 2 pm

#### Winter-Spring Shabbat Worship Services

#### Regular Friday Night Service 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted

March 1: **Social Justice.** Rabbi Host: Geri Armine-Klein; Oneg Host: Sara Zarem

15: **Purim.** Rabbi Host: Barbara Sheryll; Oneg Host: Sylvia Pafenyk

April 5: **Women's Service.** Rabbi Host: Margo and Andy Lowry;

Oneg Host: 'Men'-bers

26: **Passover.** Rabbi Host: Ellen Zimmerman; Oneg Host: Jan and Billy Bennett

#### Adult Ed

Saturdays 4 pm at the home of:

March 2: Geri Armine-Klein

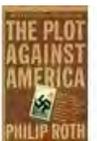
16: Barbara Sheryll

April 6: Margo and Andy Lowry

27: Ellen Zimmerman

#### Book Club

March 16: *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth at Ellen Love's



## Synagogue Officers

Paul Gilman	President
Margo Lowry	Vice President
Kay Freeman	VP, Treasurer
Ellen Love	Secretary
Irwin Freeman	Trustee
Barry Mallin	Trustee
Barbara Sheryll	Trustee
Ellen Zimmerman	Trustee
Steve Hill	Past President

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## Mission Statement

The North Fork Reform Synagogue is a small, inclusive congregation meeting spiritual, educational, social, and cultural enrichment needs of our members in the Reform Jewish tradition. We embrace families and individuals, Jews by birth or “by choice,” non-Jews and Jews regardless of ethnic or racial background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We support the local community through outreach programs with special emphasis on social justice issues.

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## Editors

Carol Brown, Editor-in-Chief  
Kay Freeman  
Joyce Friedland  
Margo Lowry  
Ellen Zimmerman

## From Our Rabbi

### Contemplating the Spring Holidays

By Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot



Purim and Passover are coming! Our Hebrew school students are already planning their Purim costumes. Are you?? Don't worry; even though the next set of holidays may tend to \*spring\* up on us each year, there are plenty of reminders in place.

There are *five* (5) special Shabbatot spanning 7 weeks (this year from March 2 – April 13), each reminding us of something different:

**Shabbat Shekalim** announces that the month of Adar is starting soon; **Shabbat Zachor** (“Shabbat of Memory”) tells us that Purim is starting in a few days; **Shabbat Parah** prepares us to welcome the month of Nisan, the month in which Passover falls; **Shabbat HaChodesh** marks the actual start of the new month; and **Shabbat HaGadol** (the “Great Shabbat”) immediately precedes Passover. No matter how many times we may try to hit Snooze or Dismiss, our Jewish calendar reminders just keep popping up.

So what can we do to prepare, other than baking hamantaschen for Purim, and then making sure to get rid of them all before Passover? Both of these are holidays of introspection as well as celebration. We remember how close we've come, time and again, to being destroyed, and we are called upon to take action in response. On Purim, there is a tradition of giving treats to friends and especially giving *tzedakah*/charity to the poor; this may be a great day to make a contribution to your favorite organization. On Passover, each of us is commanded to see ourselves as if we personally came out of Egypt; we remember our experience as both strangers in Egypt and a homeless people in the desert. Consider inviting a new friend to your Passover Seder, or donating your extra *chametz* (leavened bread, pasta, etc.) to a local food pantry. I suggest setting your own calendar reminders now... the holidays will be here before you know it!

## From Our President

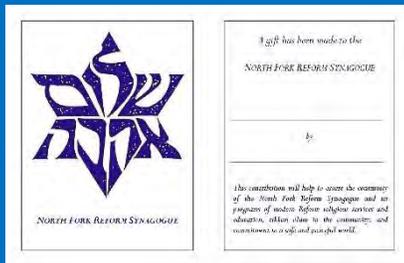
### Thoughts of Winter

By Paul Gilman



I must admit that I am writing the March-April column from sunny, but not so warm, Miami Beach as Ellen and I escaped the northeast winter for a few days. Reflecting on the last few weeks, it is easy to understand how important the NFRS is to our community. On January 20, we co-sponsored with our friends, the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church and the Town of Southold Anti-Bias Task Force, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service which was well appreciated by our extended community given the large attendance and recent events in the Mattituck Schools. The Tu B'Shvat Seder on January 18, coordinated by Helene Ciappetta and Rabbi Barbara Sheryll, was exceptional. Rabbi Danielle taught us about the mystical connection between the edible fruit of trees and spiritual perception. As a community, we shared a traditional

**Acknowledge a Simcha, or a Loss; a birth, a bar/bat mitzvah, a graduation, an engagement, a marriage, or other event in the lives of family or friends with a hand-inscribed tribute card from NFRS.**



By giving *tzedakah*, you support the synagogue while offering your congratulations or condolences. We suggest a minimum donation of \$18 (*chai*).

Contact Kay Freeman to send a card: 631-722-5712  
kaywin316@earthlink.net

Mail your check, payable to North Fork Reform Synagogue, Tribute Fund  
PO Box 1625  
Southold, NY 11971

Include recipient's name, mailing address, occasion, donor's name, address, phone and the amount of the contribution if you wish it included.

Shabbat dinner, with roast chicken of course, at our annual Family Dinner hosted by Rabbi Barbara Sheryll and Margo Lowry.

My recommendation for the next few quiet months on the North Fork is to take the opportunity to visit one or two of our local wineries. Taste an aged chardonnay or cabernet franc, savoring the skill of our local winemakers before the visitor rush. Which reminds me, our cherished Foodie Tour Committee has already met and is planning this year's September 8th event. The Foodie Tour Committee and our other committees are always looking for new members. Specifics for these activities can be found in this newsletter and emailed announcements. Please participate, volunteer, and contribute to keep our Temple community vibrant and relevant.

*Paul*

## Programs & Events

### Community Joins Hands, Hearts For Martin Luther King Jr. Service

By Lisa Finn, Patch Staff, | Jan 20, 2019 8:48 pm ET

"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



CUTCHOGUE, NY — A joyful and united community came together in Cutchogue Sunday to celebrate the life and message of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organized by the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force, the event was held at the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church and North Fork Reform Synagogue, with keynote speaker Rev. Tisha Williams of the First Baptist Church of Bridgehampton.



Members of the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force Valerie Shelby, David Schultz, Christopher North, Jean LePre, Cindy Smith, Marjory Day, Susan Dingle, Eleanor Lingo and LeRoy Heyliger.

Val Shelby, co-chair of the ABTF, spoke first during the uplifting service, which was infused with song and community; she was followed by Rev. Richie King, pastor of the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church, who shared the need for individuals to "stick together" even during turbulent times. "We must come together, work together." Steven Hill, past-president of the North Fork Reform Synagogue, highlighted the need to fight back against anti-Semitism. "The time is right to do what's right," he said.

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 8PM  
Jamesport Meeting House**

**4 Women 4 Stories**



An evening of songs as four notable cabaret singers, including our very own Peggy Schwartz, share their stories through the songs that represent their lives. Their songbook includes works by Kander and Ebb, Comden and Green, Leonard Bernstein, Neil Diamond, and Jason Robert Brown.

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Rabbi Barbara Horowitz Sheryll of the North Fork Reform Synagogue also spoke. Rev. Dr. King's words, "I have a dream," she said, "planted the seeds that resulted in the Civil Rights Act, banning racial discrimination in schools, places of employment and public places — and voting laws that would change the landscape of our democratic process. Now's as good a time as any to take stock in the progress we have made."

Sheryll spoke of recent local dark events, such as [KKK literature being distributed](#) in Hampton Bays and [reports of anti-Semitism in the Mattituck Junior-Senior High School](#). "Rep. Steve King asked when it became offensive to use the terms 'white supremacist' and 'white nationalist.' We are here today to ask, 'When wasn't it offensive?'" Sheryll said. Many in attendance applauded.

Local elected officials including Southold Town Deputy Supervisor Bill Ruland and Greenport Village Deputy Mayor Jack Martilotta both spoke; ABTF member Leroy Heyliger read excerpts from Rev. Dr. King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail."

King was imprisoned in 1963 as the result of his continued crusade for civil rights, Heyliger said. The letter, written on toilet paper, is a legacy, he said. "In it, he noted, 'I guess it easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'Wait.'" King's letter "stands today as one of the great writings in American history," Heyliger said.

Greenport High School student Christina North read "I Have A Dream;" other children sang and a Mattituck High School student shared her artwork. Musical selections were also highlighted.



During her keynote speech, Rev. Williams conveyed a strong message: "I need you to survive." She spoke about how humans, no matter what race, religion, or demographic, need one another "Solitary confinement is a confinement of a prisoner alone in a cell," used as a method of torture.

"Human beings are not built to withstand that type of isolation," she said. "Some of us are suffering from spiritual solitary confinement. . . We think it's okay to go it alone . . . As believers, we need each other and we need relationships because, quite frankly, God said so." She added, "A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

She mentioned God's creations and said even after creating Adam and the paradise of the Garden of Eden, "It wasn't good for man to be alone. Something was missing. It was companionship." A dream car or home means nothing without people and friends to share fellowship with, she said.

Williams also spoke about the critical difference between a deposit and an investment; between, for example, giving out holiday turkeys and instead, creating a soup kitchen to help feed the hungry year-round. She talked about King and the fact that he understood a diversified network of friends from all walks of life was important — and about the need for that network to stand together, and how strength comes

**NS** North Fork Reform Synagogue presents:

**Cinematic Series '19**

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at  
Cutchogue Presbyterian Church

**THREE DOCUMENTARIES**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> **Theodore Bikel:**  
**In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem**  
*The stories of two beloved Jewish icons are woven together in this enchanting documentary: Sholom Aleichem, the great Jewish storyteller and Theodore Bikel, troubadour, actor and the most popular interpreter of Aleichem's work. Based on Bikel's acclaimed stage play "Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears."*

March 16<sup>th</sup> **Carvalho's Journey**  
*A real life 19th-century American western adventure, Carvalho's Journey tells the extraordinary story of Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1813-1897), an observant Sephardic Jew born in Charleston, South Carolina, and his life as a groundbreaking explorer and artist. The film interweaves stunning HD digital and 16mm film landscape cinematography, rare 19th century photographs and artwork, Carvalho's own surviving paintings and daguerotypes, and interviews with scholars and artists, including modern day daguerotypist Robert Shinar who recreates Carvalho's original daguerotypes on location.*

April 27<sup>th</sup> **Treasures: The Lost Jews of Kastoria**  
*Using never-before-seen pre-war archival footage and first-person testimonies, this film chronicles the Jewish life and culture of a picturesque lakeside village in the mountains of Northwestern Greece, near Albania. Here, Jews and Greek Orthodox Christians lived together in harmony for more than two millennia until World War II, when this long and rich history was wiped out in the blink of an eye. The film takes us from the joyful innocence of the pre-war years through the heartrending struggles of the Holocaust, to a unique Greek Jewish culture lost forever.*

Refreshments served. Suggested \$5 donation.  
Handicap accessible.  
[www.northforkreformsynagogue.org](http://www.northforkreformsynagogue.org)  
Film coordinator—531-255112

*A donation of \$5 is suggested  
for each program*

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**Birthdays**

## & Anniversaries



### Happy birthday to:

March 4: Barry Mallin

6: Hudson Kaufer  
Andy Lowry

9: Rosalind Gordon

16: Kay Freeman

17: Stephanie Zinger

21: Marisa Fox

22: Mike Furst

25: Miriam Lastoria

27: Adam Kaufer

April 3: Linda Hill

6: Geri Armine-Klein

8: Myra Eisenberg

17: William Socolov

22: Rose Auerbach  
Joanne Davis Slotkin

23: George Zinger

26: Sue Hanauer

28: Ellen Zimmerman  
Bryan Drago

### Anniversary wishes to:

March 25: Kate & David  
Eisenberg

April 1: Helene & Vincent  
Ciappetta

13: Myra & Lester  
Eisenberg

28: Susan and Russell  
Hearn

### How Can I support NFRS?

in numbers, from standing alongside one another, not alone in a sometimes scary situation.

"Our country is in a scary place, a spooky place today," Williams said. "Now is not the time for us to split up." During days when nuclear war is a threat, when the government is experiencing a shutdown, when 8,000 churches shut their doors last year, she said: "It's still scary but with friends beside us at least we have a fighting chance." The third strand in the cord, she said, is God. "With God, we can conquer everything," she said.

Former Mattituck-Cutchogue Union Free School Superintendent Anne Smith gave a heartfelt tribute to former ABTF member Franke LePre who, she said, "was a gift to the community. When you looked into his eyes, you saw his heart, his soul." A coach, Scout leader, foster parent, he touched countless lives, she said. Her own son, when he was small, once said he thought his coach was "too big." She smiled. "He was larger than life. He needed to be, to hold that heart," she said.

Susan Dingle called upon the community to join in a call to action, helping the needy every day.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to "quality, social justice, economic advancement and opportunity for all," said the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force. "He challenged us to build a more perfect union and taught us that everyone has a role to play in making America what it ought to be. He famously said, 'Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.'"

After the service, those in attendance joined for fellowship and conversation.

*Reprinted with permissions from Lisa Finn and the North Fork Patch.* <https://patch.com/new-york/northfork/community-joins-hands-hearts-martin-luther-king-jr-service>

## Simchas

Mazel Tov to:

*Jay P. Sheryll* for being selected as one of the Super Lawyers 2018 Rising Stars for Excellence in Practice.

*Sam Sheryll* for receiving a promotion at Progressive Insurance.

*Greg Sheryll* for making the Dean's List for the Fall Semester.

*Eric Freeman* for making Tulane University Dean's List for the Fall Semester.

## Hebrew School

### Family Shabbat Dinner & Service

*By Rabbi Barbara Horowitz-Sheryll*



This year's Family Shabbat Dinner was well attended and oozing with Shabbat warmth and love. The food was delicious and prepared lovingly by Margo Lowry, Ellen Love, Sandy Klein, Kay Freeman, and me. We welcomed Shabbat together with the candle lighting, kiddush motzi, and parents' blessing for their children before digging in to a scrumptious meal.



NFRS is grateful for membership dues and additional contributions. They help pay for our Rabbi and Cantor, rental of the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church, and the expenses of running a congregation. There are other ways you can support NFRS and help guarantee our future. Several members already chose one (or more!) of these ways to give to the synagogue.

**Gift of Stock:** a gift of publicly traded stock (long term) that appreciated in value allows you to take an income tax deduction for the full market value while avoiding capital gains taxes.

**Gift from your IRA:** Gifts directly from your IRA to NFRS (up to a certain amount) provide you an income tax deduction and avoidance of ordinary income tax on an IRA distribution.

**Bequest in your Will:** A bequest is a way to ensure that our synagogue continues, while costing nothing now. And if your circumstances change, you can always modify your will.

By selecting one or more of these options, you can impact the future of NFRS. Contact Kay 631-722-5712  
Kaywin316@earthlink.net.

**More ways to support NFRS**



The Shabbat Service started with the children leading us in Hi Nei Matov, chanting how lovely it is for us to come together as a community and pray, and it was. We were then treated to a special rendition of the Shema where the children taught us how to say it in sign language. This was followed by the sight of the children undressing and dressing the Torah.

It was a very special evening enjoyed by all! Special thanks to the children and families of our Hebrew School and our Hebrew School teacher.

## Jewish Holidays

### Tu B-Shevat Seder

Hosted by Rabbi Barbara and Helene Ciappetta



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Typically, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases.

Questions?  
Contact Margo Lowry; [margolowry@gmail.com](mailto:margolowry@gmail.com).  
She can walk you through the process.



## Board Notes

### Board Meeting Winter 2019

by Ellen Love



President Paul Gilman presented the Board with an agenda for the meeting that reviewed the management of activities required for Shabbat Services, i.e. set-up of the Bimah, hosts for the Oneg and hosts for the Rabbi; communications via newsletter, website and mailings; and Committee Reports, i.e. Financial, Education, Membership, Programs. Of particular note this month was a report by Barbara Sheryll, Education Committee, highlighting the progress of our Hebrew School classes now with 4 students and the individualized instruction provided.

In Programs, Margo updated the Board about the musical performance of the Jewish American Songbook on April 6<sup>th</sup> featuring Peggy Schwartz. Kay finalized the selections of the Cinematic Series: 3 documentaries on 2/23, 3/16/ and 4/22, with a discussion following. The Foodie Tour Committee had their first meeting on January 27 for the 2019 Foodie Tour at Ellen Z's house, led by Kay.

Respectfully Submitted by Ellen Love, Secretary.

## Chef's Corner

### Eleanor Holtz' Hamantashen

#### Dough:

- 1 cup vegetable shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tspn baking powder
- 1 tspn salt
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups flour

Mix together ingredients. Wrap in wax paper (can divide into 2 or 3 balls) and chill in freezer for 1 hour or overnight in the refrigerator

#### Filling for Prune or Apricot Hamantashen:

- 1 jar lekvar (prune) or 1 jar apricot preserves
- Handful of raisins (can use white raisins for apricot filling)
- 1/2 lemon

Grind or chop raisins and lemon and mix with lekvar or, for the apricot filling, add raisins, lemon and a few chopped apricots to apricot preserves.

Roll out dough to approximately. Use a 2"-3" circle cookie cutter (or use a 2"-3" diameter glass) to cut circles. Place teaspoon of filling in middle of dough circle. Pinch sides to make a 3-corner pastry.

Bake in 350 degree oven for approximately 20 minutes till slightly golden.



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 Attorney and Counselor at Law

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## Our Members

### Meet the Erwin Family

by Linda Hill



Welcoming a new family into our NFRS “family “ is always special. Adding two smart, beautiful children to that event makes us ecstatic. The survival of Judaism relies on educating our children. We are pleased to welcome Alison age 9 and Heidi age 7 to our religious school. They live in Mattituck with their parents Danielle Jacobs-Erwin and Bryan Erwin.

Both girls are tri-lingual, speaking fluent Spanish, French and English, and are now studying Hebrew with our religious school teacher Renee. They went to a Spanish bi-lingual school while living in Washington, DC and learned French from mom Danielle who spent years abroad in French speaking countries. Alison is an avid golfer with her own set of golf clubs; Heidi is involved in gymnastics. Both girls are studying the violin. They enthusiastically attended our Tu B'Shevat Seder and our Shabbat family dinner.



Danielle is Executive Producer of “Everybody’s National Parks” Podcasts series which promotes family adventures in our National Parks. She visits National Parks during schools holidays and breaks, seeking scientists, park rangers and historians to interview to provide families with a more informed visit.

Bryan, a North Fork native, is the current Chairman of the Long Island State Park Commission. He has been involved in progressive politics for 25 years and was selected by President Obama in 2010 to run the Trade Advocacy Center in Washington, DC. After leaving the Administration, Bryan started his own company, BlueWave Merchant Partners, named after his high school Alma Mater, to help American companies do business overseas. Bryan is also Executive Director of TASC- Taking Action Suffolk County. We look forward to sharing NFRS activities and events with this accomplished family.

### Memorialize your Departed Loved Ones

Several years ago we dedicated our second bronze Memorial Plaque, underwritten by the generosity of our members, Arlene and Ed Fox. This plaque, hanging next to our first memorial plaque in the vestibule as you enter the front door of the sanctuary, continues to offer our members the opportunity to memorialize their loved ones.

The tablet accommodates 30 individual nameplates to memorialize our departed loved ones. Each 2 inch by 10 inch nameplate features a light that is lit both on the Yartzeit of the deceased as well as on Yom Kippur. The memorialized

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## Newsletter Sponsorship

Consider sponsoring a NFRS Newsletter.

Send a check for \$100 payable to the North Fork Reform Synagogue with the following information:

Your Name

Address

Reason for sponsorship

If memory for a loved one, please name.

If for another special occasion, please describe.

Mail to:

North Fork Reform Synagogue

PO Box 1625

Southold, NY 11971

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## Business Sponsorships

Another way to support NFRS and to get your business known is to advertise your business in the Newsletter.

Annual Fee, 6 Issues

Business Card size \$100

Double Business Card \$200

Contact Kay

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names will also be featured in our Book of Remembrance on Yom Kippur. The member may choose to have the English name of the deceased on the plaque or both the English and the Hebrew names. The donation for each nameplate is \$500.

Several of our members have already ordered nameplates for the new memorial wall. Note that due to the limited number of nameplates available, this opportunity is open only to members of the North Fork Reform Synagogue.

Please contact Irwin Freeman (kaywin316@earthlink.net or 631-722-5712) for an order form or for further information.

### Wanted:

#### Generous Person to Establish an NFRS Fund for Education

The North Fork Reform Synagogue currently has several funds that were established by generous members of our synagogue: Music (Linda and Steve Hill), Program (the late Jeanette Lewis), Program and Education (Margery Auerbach in memory of the late Gerry Auerbach), Arts (Fred Cohen in memory of the late Linda Rie Cohen); Discretionary (Stephanie Bogart in memory of the late Walter Bogart); and the Member-in-Need Fund (established by caring members for the benefit of our own who are in need.)

*NFRS is in need of a generous member (or friend) who would be willing to establish an Education Fund. This fund would help to meet the educational needs of our NFRS students, including Hebrew and Judaica/Religious Studies.\**

You can be sure that this Education Fund will impact the lives and the Jewish identity of our students. Wouldn't you want to be a part of that?

Please contact Kay Freeman at 631-722-5712 or kaywin316@earthlink.net to discuss this further. I look forward to hearing from you.

\*This fund could be established with a tax deductible donation of check, stock, or gift of your IRA.

### My Two Cents

#### Auschwitz a Symbol of Holocaust is Personal For Me

by Margo Lowry



The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. On January 27, 1944, the Red Army liberated Auschwitz- Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi death camps, perhaps best known for its infamous inscription on the main gate, "Arbeit Macht Frei" – work sets you free.

Auschwitz, was originally conceived as a concentration camp for the enemies of the Third Reich. However, in 1942 it became a mass killing center for Jews brought there from all over Europe, as a part of the Final Solution, a campaign of the final destruction of the entire Jewish population of Europe. According to most estimates about one million Jews were murdered in Auschwitz.

74 years after the liberation of Auschwitz there is an alarming increase in anti-semitism world-wide and even more alarming ignorance about the Holocaust among our young people.

The deadly attack on the Pittsburgh synagogue, desecration of cemeteries in Europe, proliferation of the neo Nazi groups, bigotry across the internet and attempts to re-write history are unprecedented in the recent history and disconcerting.

But as alarming are the results of the recent poll conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany which found that 22 percent of millennials either hadn't heard of the Holocaust or weren't sure if they had. Two-thirds of American millennials that were polled also did not know what Auschwitz was.

I feel it is my responsibility to help make sure that people know what Auschwitz was. One of the victims was a 20 year old woman, Esthera Horenstein, my mother's younger sister. She arrived in Auschwitz on May 1, 1944 on the transport train # 72 with a group of 163 prisoners from the Vittel concentration camp in France. Together with the whole group, she was taken directly from the train to the gas chamber. She was my aunt I never knew.

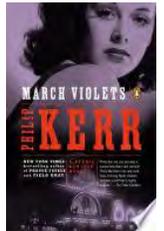
That's how it is personal for me.

## Book Club

### Bernie Gunther in the Footsteps of Philip Marlowe

by Margo Lowry

If you enjoyed Philip Marlowe, or are simply a fan of the genre, you may want to reach for Philip Kerr's *March Violets* and get to know Bernie Gunther, a hardboiled wise-cracking private detective, not unlike Philip Marlowe. Kerr borrows from Raymond Chandler the noir gritty background which, in this case is not Los Angeles, but Berlin in 1930's. Hitler is already in power and Berliners are already falling in line supporting his National Socialist policies. Bernie is of course the exception, but he manages to navigate the chaos of Berlin and even profit from the new political reality. When we meet him he specializes in missing persons, mostly Jewish. But soon gets involved in a high profile case, involving a millionaire industrialist, a murder, stolen diamonds, Goering and Himmler.



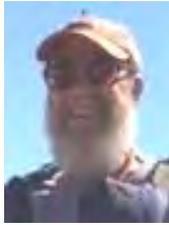
I won't say anything else, so as not to spoil it for you in case you want to read it. And it is worth it. Noir at its best.

A few words about Phillip Kerr. Not a household name, but surprisingly, a very prolific English writer. In addition to Bernie Gunther series, he wrote a mystery novel involving Sir Isaac Newton, and thrillers set in the world of soccer. But his success and fame came with the twelve book Bernie Gunther's series, which started with *March Violets*. He died last year at the age of 62 from cancer. The last in the Bernie Gunther series, *Greeks Bearing Gifts*, has been published posthumously.

## Jerry's Reflections

### "Give me ... Your huddled masses yearning to be free"

By Jerry Levin



Emma Lazarus' immortal words were not inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty until many years after its erection and then amid tremendous controversy. They give a wrong impression of American attitudes toward immigration which has been ambivalent or worse from the start. Most current American Jews descend from Eastern European Jews largely fleeing from Czarist oppression during the years of open immigration from 1880 to 1920. They were not entirely welcome even by the "up town" German and Sephardic Jews except as a source of cheap labor. Nevertheless, since America had been the "land of the free" for the ancestors of so many American Jews we tend to see our immigration policies and history through rose colored glasses.

And this at best mixed reception for new comers has been the case since our beginning. The Puritans fleeing not religious oppression -- they had already escaped that in Holland -- but seeking economic opportunity relentlessly persecuted Quakers, among others, as soon as they were established in the new country. Outsiders were not welcome. And Blacks were welcome in the colonies only as slaves. By the 1840s anti-immigration sentiment had found political support in a strong "Know-Nothing" party that was powerful enough to force Lincoln to reach a compromise with them.

And things did not get better after the Civil War. The Chinese Exclusion act of 1882 effectively barred Orientals and was unapologetically racist in spite of its economic origins. The Irish were allowed to come only to be greeted by "Irish need not apply" employment ads. After World War One Congress enacted stringent quotas virtually eliminating immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, a law that cost God knows how many Jews their lives during the Holocaust. One of the alleged justifications for this legislation was the low IQ scores and high rates of retardation among the "Russians", i.e. the Jews. Of course, the IQ tests on which this judgement was based were administered in a language of which they had little or no comprehension.

During the twenties the Ku Klux Klan that had enormous political power and not only in the South mounted huge marches in Washington. It was no less anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, and anti-immigrant than it was repressive of Blacks. And in the thirties Charles Lindbergh's "America First" movement was as anti-immigrant as it was isolationist.

And then there was the St. Louis, a ship of European Jewish refugees that was turned back within sight of the lights of Miami. Most of its passengers died in the "camps."

So Donald Trump's attitude toward and policies against immigrants are as American as apple pie.

Robert Frost's 1914 poem, *Mending Wall*, sheds light on this issue.

### **Mending Wall by Robert Frost**

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.  
The work of hunters is another thing:  
I have come after them and made repair  
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,  
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,  
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,  
No one has seen them made or heard them made,  
But at spring mending-time we find them there.  
I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again.  
We keep the wall between us as we go.  
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:  
"Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"  
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.  
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,  
One on a side. It comes to little more:  
There where it is we do not need the wall:  
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.  
My apple trees will never get across  
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.  
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbours."  
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder  
If I could put a notion in his head:  
"Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it  
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.  
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know  
What I was walling in or walling out,  
And to whom I was like to give offence.  
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him,  
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather  
He said it for himself. I see him there  
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top  
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.  
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,  
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.  
He will not go behind his father's saying,  
And he likes having thought of it so well  
He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."

E.E.J.C.C.



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