

Shabbat

Voices

with:

Rabbi

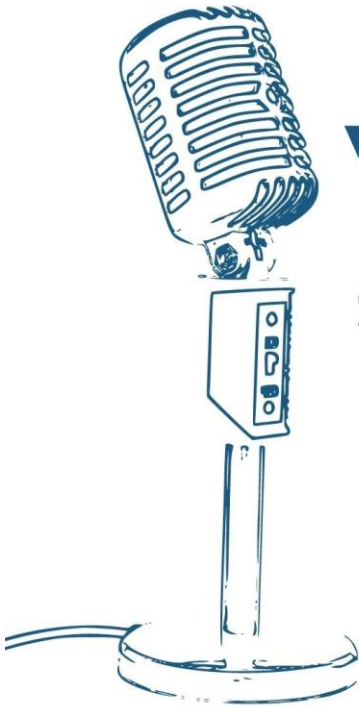
Shira Stutman

March 11, 2023

Coming Next!

April 15, 2023: Dr. Derek Goldman

May 20, 2023: Rabbi Bec Richman



Today's program is underwritten by
Myrna Seidman

In loving memory of her brother, Samuel N. Seidman



Rabbi Shira Stutman is a nationally known faith-based leader and change-maker with more than twenty years of experience motivating and inspiring groups large and small, most recently as the founding rabbi of [Sixth & I](#) in Washington DC. She teaches Torah and speaks nationally on topics including growing welcoming Jewish spiritual communities; building the connective tissues between different types of people; and the current American Jewish community zeitgeist. She and the actor Joshua Malina host the PRX podcast “[Chutzpod!](#)” which since its launch has consistently been

ranked in the top five Jewish podcasts nationally, and which aims to provide Jewish answers to life’s contemporary questions and help listeners build lives of meaning. Shira is also the founder of [Mixed Multitudes](#), an organization that exposes diverse groups of Jews and fellow travelers to the beauty and power of Jewish life, tradition, and conversation.

Shira is currently working on a variety of projects including: helping launch a new [minyan](#) in Aspen, Colorado; leading a year-long class to support synagogue members in having less reactive and more heart-centered conversations about Israel; and working with the Jewish Federations of Greater Washington and Greater Philadelphia to lead year-long programs for the next generation of philanthropic leadership. She was named one of “America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis” by *The Jewish Forward* and a T’ruah Rabbinic Human Rights Hero, among other awards. Rabbi Shira graduated from Columbia University and the [Reconstructionist Rabbinical College](#), where she was a [Wexner Graduate Fellow](#). She also is a proud graduate of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

Morning Presentation:

“Jewish Proselytization: Past, Present and Future”

Among the very few things that Jews agree on is that we are proud of the fact that we do not proselytize. But why? Is Judaism not a meaning-making technology that improves people's lives? This text study and discussion will begin a conversation, to be continued after lunch, about the history of the Jewish approach to proselytization, and how that should (or should not!) affect our approach to non-Jewish outreach today.

Afternoon Presentation:

“Beyond Welcoming: Why America Might Be Ready for Judaism”

Mordecai Kaplan was prophetic in his argument that Jews need America for all of its freedoms and new ways of thinking. But perhaps it is just as true that America needs Judaism, which prioritizes holy dissent, sacred rest, human interconnectivity, the pursuit of learning, and even a justice-oriented market economy. We will continue our conversation about what outreach-- especially to millennials and Gen Z--looks like now, and consider what it can become.



Samuel Seidman, died quietly at home on January 4 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson’s disease. A graduate of Brooklyn College, he received his Ph.D in Economics from NYU and served as a Fulbright scholar in the Philippines. He taught at Rutgers University and was a member of the Graduate faculty, Bernard Baruch School, City University of New York. As Vice-President, Lehman Brothers International, (1962-1971) he executed the initial foreign financings for the Governments of the Philippines, Ivory

Coast and Iran, and worked with numerous foreign governments and multinational lending institutions. As founder of Seidman and Co. he provided a broad range of investment banking services including financial analysis and valuations, private financings, and debt restructuring. He served on numerous corporate boards, was trustee of the Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, and Trustee and Treasurer of the Mental Health Association of New York City. In 2004, Mr. Seidman was honored as Trustee of the Year by the United Hospital Fund. He also generously contributed to Jewish institutions, including the Adat Shalom Capital Campaign, during Myrna's presidency.

Mr. Seidman, grew up in modest circumstances in Brooklyn, the eldest son of immigrant parents from Eastern Europe. He attended Boys High School, and during his high school years helped out in his father's hardware store. He played stick ball on the Brooklyn streets, and was a fervent Dodgers fan... that is....until they "abandoned" Brooklyn for LA. In his teens he worked as a counselor at Surprise Lake Camp, where he was introduced to tennis, which became one of his life-long passions along with racquet ball and playing the accordion, especially for the family. His sense of humor, wit and his word-play agility, among his most lovable qualities, fortunately survived to the end.

He was a prodigious reader and traveled widely for work and pleasure. He took his responsibility as eldest child seriously, mentoring and advising his younger sister and brother through their studies and careers.

He was thrilled when nieces and nephews started arriving, expanding his role of watchful eye to caring and interested uncle, and then great uncle and step grandfather. He traveled with his nieces and nephews, taking my son Jonathan to France and Italy and his nieces to the Yucatan. He relished his position as a benevolent and loving paterfamilias, and the love and affection he received and returned.

He lived a big, full and interesting life, and the family's memories of him are truly a blessing.