



## JULY AND AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 2	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
July 9	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship (Online only - with Cantor Debbie)
July 16	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Picnic Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
July 17	9:00 am	Torah 101
July 23	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
July 30	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
July 31	9:00 am	Torah 101

August 6	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Picnic Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
August 13	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship (Online only)
August 20	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
August 21	9:00 am	Torah 101
August 27	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
August 28	TBD	Selichot

Please join us in-person for our Shabbat Services.  
*We will also continue to stream all services on Zoom.*



## Last day of ECC and Religious School

**2020-2021**





## CONGREGANT SPOTLIGHT



Pictured above: **Marcia and Jim Carroll**. If you visit Shir Shalom on a Sunday, keep an eye out and wave to Jim Carroll riding his bike to the temple. Pictured to the right are Marcia and Jim Carroll with their daughters Lauren and Dana and their grandson Conor.

**Marcia and Jim Carroll:** TSI Legacy member-1993

Christina: *How did you find the temple and come to be congregants?*

**Jim:** I think we joined the temple about a month before we moved. I guess we didn't realize it, but the day we were supposed to move in was Rosh Hashanah.

**Marcia** (laughing): At least it wasn't Yom Kippur.

**Jim:** We had a rough negotiation about the house. So I called the guy and I said "I would like to move in the day before so I can go to Rosh Hashanah services." And he said "Yeah OK but you have to pay me \$250." So I said "OK fine it's worth it" but I always thought that it was good that we could move in and I actually went to services.

Christina: *What memories stand out from your time as congregants?*

**Marcia:** To me the Bat Mitzvahs were the highlight. You know it was such a big thing for both our daughters Lauren and Dana. We always go over and take pictures of the leaves (on the trees on the wall). I mean it was just a milestone. It was so important. We had our parents there. It was just wonderful. I was involved early on and then life kind of gets a hold of you. I remember in 1997 I was on the committee for the 35th anniversary of the temple and Rabbi Haddon's tenth anniversary as rabbi. We made this big gala event and Rabbi Haddon and Jean surprised everybody and got married at the gala. The chairs of that evening Marcia and Dean Harris knew but all the other people on the committee just thought it was going to be a gala to support the congregation. We brought in trees with the little Christmas lights and it was beautiful. It worked in this setting because it was really the Rabbi's house.

Jamie: *It's such a nice memory because it's one of the reasons you've stuck around.*

**Jim:** There was one other thing that stands out in my mind which was 9/11. Everybody was here for the High Holy Days and it meant a lot being able to gather. It meant so much more because everybody needed a little bit of community. Whatever it might be. Maybe a little bit of solace. The temple was just packed. I've never seen it that crowded before. It stands out in my mind.

Jamie: *What piece of advice would you have for someone thinking about joining Shir Shalom?*

**Jim:** Join the temple. It makes a sense of community. I'd like to think that wherever Jews go they would like to have a temple close by. The two long term rabbis of the temple have not just related to Jews at the temple but to the community entirely. You feel a part of the town and the temple is a part of the town. This temple has served us wonderfully. It tethered us here. Even just to ride here on my bike like I do on a weekly basis and just to sit outside here. I see my parents' names are out there on the blocks. It's just little connections that are important. It gives me a good feeling to just come here and sit for a few minutes.



## FROM THE CONGREGANT COMMITTEE

In this issue of the Shir Shalom Bulletin and going forward in select issues we will be featuring ***The Congregant Spotlight***, where you will have an opportunity to get to know some of our long standing congregants (those who have been part of our community for 20 years or more). Did you know there are over 80 long standing congregant families? We are inspired by the lifetime commitment these families make to our Jewish community and the Jewish presence in Northern Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Thank you to Congregants Committee members Christina Gogish & Jamie Kaplan, with the support of Bobbie Cohan, for this new feature in our newsletter. Thank you to the rabbi's assistant, Allyson for helping to coordinate this.

***Spotlight congregant photographs were taken by Jamie Kaplan.*** (Additional family photographs were provided by our participants).

**To join our Congregation or for more information, please email us at [office@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:office@OurShirShalom.org)**



### **Congregation Shir Shalom is happy to welcome new Congregants:**

Kera Rennert and David Shuster and their children, Ayala and Ezekiel, from Redding, CT.

Michael and Donna Marvin and their children, Matthew and Nicoletta, from South Salem, NY.

Sarah and Brandon Neufeld and their children, Parker and Hudson, from Ridgefield, CT.

Veronica and Chris Mcilraith and their daughter Fiona, from South Salem, NY.

Stefanie and David Alperovich and their children, Adam and Sarah, from Stamford, CT.

Rachel and Evan Starkman and their children, Dylan and Hayden, from Brookfield, CT.

Donna and Michael Marvin and their children, Nicoletta and Matthew, from South Salem, NY.

April Lee Aldama and Arel Meister-Aldama and their children, Artemis and Avery, from Ridgefield, CT, (joining grandparents and congregants Dafne Sanchez-Aldama and Matthew Meister).

We are glad that you have become part of our Congregation Shir Shalom community and we all wish you a warm welcome!

## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



While studying Parashat Tazria-Metzora (Leviticus 12:1-15:33) with one of our bright Bat Mitzvah students this past April, I happened upon a commentary by Rabbi Harvey Fields, citing the 16th Century Italian commentator Sforno: “the quarantine is meant to prompt a person to ask God’s forgiveness for his or her sins. The quarantine is a time to reconsider one’s actions, both the intentional and unintentional...” (Torah Commentary for Our Times).

Written long before the COVID-19 quarantine, Rabbi Fields (and Sforno) offer perspective on the past year. The context of their commentary is a difficult passage of Torah that includes instructions for the Israelites to quarantine upon discovery of a scaly skin infection. As a whole, the parashah is generally derided by rabbis as a challenging text for teaching and sermons, to say nothing of the challenging of relating these passages to early adolescents preparing to become Bat or Bar Mitzvah!

The Torah understood illness and infection as a manifestation of divine punishment; the scaly skin infection detailed in the Torah portion was, specifically, a punishment for slander. While we today do not always understand the cause of symptoms or disease, I dislike even the suggestion that God causes illness and infection. We turn to health professionals, using scientific research, to diagnose and treat physical disease. We can believe in the power of prayer and the power of science and medicine and I cannot accept that COVID-19 was divine punishment or that quarantine should have prompted us to seek God’s forgiveness, as our ancestors did.

As we emerge from more than a year of socially and physically distanced quarantine, many are reconsidering our intentional and unintentional actions. We are not yet able to explain how or why some very careful people were infected or not careful people never tested positive or experienced symptoms. Healthy people became very sick and died. People with severe risk factors survived or sometimes experienced minimal symptoms.

The pandemic also led many to reconsider intentional and unintentional actions beyond the pandemic. Congregants from many professions and industries have shared how their professional lives have changed in response to the pandemic. Business travel and commuting have changed for many. Medical and legal practices are operating in new ways. Education has changed significantly. Many changes were dictated by external forces. As we emerge from quarantine, there is much intentional and unintentional reconsideration of our actions and how we live and work.

It is critical for Congregation Shir Shalom, as a sacred community, to engage in the process of reconsideration as well: what intentional and unintentional changes have worked and should remain?

## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK CONT.

For example, prior to the pandemic we had begun to consider a discussion about the possibility of livestreaming worship services – it was not an imminent change. After being forced to livestream worship for more than a year, we are now exploring how we can better connect worshippers online and in person. Many in our sacred community have shared their appreciation for attending worship from the comfort of their home, to say nothing of geographically distanced congregants or congregants hesitant to venture out during inclement weather. Our hope is that people will attend worship in person and feel more connected to our sacred community, and it is wonderful that an uncle in Europe, an aunt in Africa, or a homebound great grandparent in Manhattan can attend a simcha and participate when our students become Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Guest speakers and programs in person help us feel connected, that we are part of a vibrant Jewish community, and it has been wonderful to welcome guests from around our country and the world. We want and hope to instill a strong Jewish connection and identity in our Religious School students and believe that in person learning and activities are ideal and we recognize the pre-pandemic challenges of over-scheduling and the pull of extra-curricular activities. Restructuring our Religious School offerings and including some distance learning options will help us broaden our geographical base and better meet the needs of some families.

Another comment by Sforno on the same section of Torah: “When the Jewish people are predominantly in the state of spiritual coma...the symptoms described in our portion will not appear as it would be a waste of time to hope that the people thus afflicted would see in these symptoms a... message.”

Involuntary changes during the pandemic lead us to examine and reconsider our intentional and unintentional actions. Emerging from months of social and physical distancing is an awakening. The physical, emotional, psychological, and communal impact of the pandemic, on individuals and on our sacred community, continues to manifest. As we awaken from the pandemic and examine the intentional and unintentional changes to our lives, may we also find inspiration as we reconsider and reimagine a brighter future for our sacred community.

With warm wishes,

Rabbi David L. Reiner



## RITUAL COMMITTEE

BY MICHAEL SALPETER AND LAURIE DUBIN

In January 1964, Bob Dylan released a song that would become one of the signature ballads of its time entitled, “The Times They Are a-Changin.” Almost 60 years later these words hold true relating to the COVID pandemic and to us here at Congregation Shir Shalom.

As I am writing this column in June, we have recently experienced some significant changes in the way we conduct our services. Congregants are **welcome to attend live in the sanctuary** for the first time since Purim at the beginning of March 2020. Those of us who are fully vaccinated have the option of wearing a face covering or to be mask-less during the service.

Plans are also being made to restore the Oneg Shabbat on Friday evenings in a limited format. As we plan for the High Holy Days we hope that the continued low positivity rates will allow us to have congregants attending services in the sanctuary.

Throughout the pandemic we were fortunate that we were able to continue live services, unlike other synagogues who had standard pre-recorded services repeated each week. Rabbi Reiner orchestrated our services such that there was time to chat in breakout rooms with our fellow congregants, in addition to before and after services. Returning to our building affords us the opportunity to be in proximity to our friends as well.

We look forward to welcoming everyone into our building in a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



**Join Rabbi Reiner on select Saturdays at 9AM in 2021 for Torah 101.** Please check our weekly eblast and Shir Shalom calendar for dates.



## FROM THE OFFICE

**Visiting our building:** Our office is generally open for phone calls or visits from **10AM-2PM**, Monday-Friday, or by appointment. If you would like to hand-deliver something or need to pick something up, there are clear plastic bins and a mailbox on our porch. Yahrzeit candles, prayerbooks, and Jewish calendars are available for home use. Our staff can be contacted by e-mail at the email addresses listed below. Our practice is to not e-mail on Shabbat or other Jewish holy days unless a message is related to that day.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD

### **Social Justice.....Social Consciousness.....Socialization.....**

Wishing everyone a happy late Spring and start of Summer!

**E**arly in the Spring, Sisterhood sponsored the virtual-via-Zoom Author Talk “Women of the Wall”, initiated by Cantor Debbie. For those who have not heard of the struggle of Jewish women in Israel to have the freedom to pray at the Western Wall, and to pray there from the Torah, author and activist Anat Hoffman taught us about this struggle. She along with many other courageous Jews (male and female) have made the commitment to make such prayer in Israel, legal and socially acceptable, as a right of religious freedom to practice ritual and prayer by all who wish to do so. It was an eye-opening presentation. Cantor Debbie had gifted Anat Hoffman with one of her magnificent embroidered tallit (in a coffee color) when she learned that Anat had been a victim of harassment when hot coffee was thrown on her while she prayed in her white prayer shawl at the Wall. Hearing of that incident and spontaneously and generously sending a meaningful replacement tallit, led to a dialogue between Anat and Cantor Debbie and the Author Talk.

On the lighter side, Sisterhood sponsored a lovely walk/hike at the beautiful and no-cost Leon Levy preserve in South Salem on Rte. 123. Fourteen Sisterhood women of all ages (along with Asher and Samson R.) enjoyed the hearty walk.

While the Mah Jongg group will soon be able to meet in the building for weekly Mah Jongg, some play has begun in people's homes, delighted to be able to reconnect in-person. There was also a friendly Sip & Chat via Zoom earlier in the Spring.

Sisterhood is looking forward to planning more in-person activities in the coming months and wishes all a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Margie Gorelick, Laurie Wolkin & Christina Gogish

Shir Shalom Sisterhood is meeting up in Ballard Park for two CHIRP concerts in July.  
**Join us!**

- **Thursday, July 15, 7 PM.-** Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez
- **Tuesday, July 27, 7 PM-** Shayna Steele





## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS



Hi everyone, we would like to first thank the volunteers (Ben, Jacob, and Lisa Voellmicke, Robi Margolis, Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg) who helped organized our Red Cross Community Blood Drive with Jesse Lee Church on June 19th. We also truly appreciate our congregants who donated blood during this blood drive. We are planning to hold another blood drive in August, details will go out in an email soon. *Listed below are many ways to give back locally this summer!*

**Daily Bread Food Pantry:** This Danbury-based food pantry has been open throughout the pandemic thanks to the support of the community. DBFP continues to provide more than sixty pounds of fresh, healthy food items to almost two hundred struggling households twice weekly. The pantry is always in need of enthusiastic volunteers and monetary donations to cover the costs of several thousand pounds of food each week. Please call 203-826-8252 if interested in volunteering and go to: [www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com](http://www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com) to make a donation.

**Community Center of Northern Westchester:** Located in Katonah, the CCNW's Food Pantry and second-hand clothing boutique is serving a huge number of families and would welcome socially distant volunteers. Financial donations can be made at their website: <https://communitycenternw.org/>

**Dorothy Day Hospitality House:** Your help is needed purchasing, prepping and/or serving food for hungry guests at this Danbury soup kitchen. Please consider one or both of the following!

1. Go to [www.dorothydaydanbury.org](http://www.dorothydaydanbury.org) to sign up for sandwich-making and drop-off.
2. Team up with volunteers at Temple B'nai Chaim in Wilton as they shop for meal fixings, cook and serve a warm meal to clients each month. Your assistance with any portion of this effort would be hugely appreciated! Please contact Peggy Zamore at [peggyz18@gmail.com](mailto:peggyz18@gmail.com) to volunteer or make a donation to help cover the cost of the food by going to TBC's website: <https://templebnaichaim.wufoo.com/forms/m7x3s5/>, selecting Tzedakah and typing Dorothy Day in the description field.

**Laundry Love:** This important program allows people with limited resources to wash their clothing free-of-charge at White Street Wash in Danbury. Coordinated by local temples and churches, Laundry Love has helped many struggling families in our area. Volunteer staffing of the laundromat is not needed during COVID, however, the program is currently very much in need of funds to pay for laundromat gift cards and laundry detergent for clients. If interested in donating,

1. Checks can be written payable to St. James' Episcopal Church (fiduciary of Laundry Love). Memo line should read "LLGD" or "Laundry Love of Greater Danbury". Please mail to:

St. James Episcopal Church  
Attention: Denise Holl, LLGD  
25 West Street  
Danbury, CT 06810

Many thanks everyone!

*Debbie Lavin, Amy Margulies & Debbie Landzberg*

## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

### A JEWISH HISTORY QUIZ

By Lewis Siegel

**1. In the late 18th century, which prominent European figure said the following?**

“Hasten! Now is the moment which may not return for thousands of years, to claim the restoration of your rights among the populations of the universe which had been shamefully withheld from you for thousands of years, your political existence as a nation among nations, and the right to worship God in accordance with your faith.”

**2. Which former American president said the following?**

“I really wish the Jews again in Judea, an independent nation, for as I believe, the most enlightened men of it have participated in the amelioration of the philosophy of the age.... I wish your nation be admitted to all the privileges of citizens in every part of the world.”

**3.** This courageous woman was born in Hungary in 1921 into an assimilated Jewish family. After seeing rising anti-Semitism, she became an ardent Zionist and migrated to Palestine. In 1943 she joined the British army and became a paratrooper. She joined an elite force and parachuted into Yugoslavia. They made their way into Hungary in 1944 to rescue British airmen. The mission was aborted but she remained in Hungary to warn the Jews of impending disaster. Sadly, she was captured by the Nazis, accused of espionage, tortured, and executed because she refused to reveal secret information. While she never was able to rescue any Jews, her effort was heroic. She left behind some memorable literary works.

**Who was she?**

**4.** This man's contribution to humanity, especially Jewish causes was extraordinary. He was born in Livorno, Italy in 1784, migrated to England as a child, and spent most of his life there. He began as an apprentice grocer, later joined a stock brokerage, and eventually accumulated a fortune. He made a total of seven trips to Palestine over the years. After the first trip he became an Orthodox Jew.

He was also active in other areas. He built an estate that included his own synagogue. He enlisted in a militia for the defense of England, in which he rose to the rank of captain. He had a stint as sheriff of London for one year, after which he was Knighted by the Queen of England. He retired at the age of 40, and spent the rest of his life in charitable and philanthropic enterprises.

He interceded in the Damascus Affair, a blood libel against the Jews of Syria. He convinced the Sultan of Turkey to give the Jews the same civil liberties as other citizens. He urged Czar Nicholas I of Russia to terminate harsh treatment of Jews. In 1840, he urged Pasha Mehmet of Prussia to eliminate the slave trade. The list goes on and on.

On his last trips to Palestine, this incredible man built a windmill, a printing press, a hospital in Jerusalem, a school for girls to learn useful trades, a Jewish living quarter, and two synagogues. He died at the age of 101

**Who was this incredible man?**

**ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON BOTTOM OF PAGE 14**

(con't. on next page)

5. This heroic Polish Catholic social worker was a member of the Polish underground in 1942. Aware of the plight of the Polish Jews, she made many precarious trips to the Warsaw Ghetto to try to rescue Jewish children whom she knew were likely to be seized by the Nazis. The parents would ask, "How do you know the children will be safe?" The answer would be, "I don't know, but if they stay in the ghetto, they will die." She used trucks provided by the underground to smuggle the children out. The children were placed in Catholic homes or orphanages.

This woman went one step further. She placed the names of the children in bottles and hid them in the ground, so the children could be re-united with their parents after the war. Unfortunately, most of the parents were killed in the death camps. About 2500 children were believed to be saved. This remarkable woman is enshrined in the Holocaust Museum at Yad Vashem.

### Who was this woman?

### ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON BOTTOM OF PAGE 14

**Relax your body,  
calm your mind,  
renew your spirit...**

**RHONDA S. LACKOW**  
Licensed Clinical Massage Therapist



Rhonda has a diverse private practice, providing a nurturing, healing experience to clients of all ages. She has been practicing therapeutic massage since 2005 and helps clients manage stress, loss, illness, and life transitions. She is trained and experienced in Swedish, Deep Tissue, Reflexology, trauma treatment, Oncology massage, pregnancy and post-natal massage, Myofascial Release, Reiki, and Hospice massage and energy work.

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"Excerpts in Jewish History" is a regular feature in our Shir Shalom newsletter, written by Lewis Siegel, who wrote a similar series for *Focus*, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury. He is also the author of *A Brief History of Modern Israel* and *The Evolution of Zionism*.

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## CANTOR'S CORNER

## CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY

**Forty Years of Cantorial Adventures**

It is hard to believe forty years have passed since I began as a cantor, one of the few (2 or 3) female cantors to serve a traditional synagogue in 1981, in Norwalk, CT. I began to think about the significance of 40. Moses wandered with our people in the desert for 40 years on the way to the Promised Land. A google search also brought up a bunch of movies, “40 Year old Virgin”, “40 Years a Slave”, “40 Years of Zen”, it seems 40 is a significant number. “40 years in the wilderness represents the time it takes for a new generation to arise.” (Numbers 32:13)

While 40 years is a significant number, I feel I am still learning, still evolving and still discovering music and prayer that uplifts and changes you. The lessons from my many years, also 40, of studying and learning from Prof. Elie Wiesel have continued to enrich my life and inspire me.

How have things changed over 40 years?

When I was contemplating a cantorial career, the conservative movement hadn't fully accepted women as cantorial students wasn't giving the same degree as men, or acceptance into the Cantors Assembly, the organization that places cantors in jobs and provides much support and comradery. I wasn't interested in the reform movement at the time, wanting to sing my grandfather's music in a more traditional synagogue. Luckily the synagogue in Norwalk accepted me (over 18 male candidates) and I took the one class my father couldn't teach me, cantillation at the Jewish Theological Seminary Cantor's Institute. My grandfather, Cantor Adolph Katchko, had composed an entire thesaurus for cantors that is still used as a textbook in the cantorial schools. I was very fortunate to study with my father, Cantor Theodore Katchko who studied with his father. I also felt my studies with Prof. Elie Wiesel gave me a unique perspective on Jewish history, prayer and identity.

When I started in 1981, I was the second woman to serve a full-time conservative pulpit in this country, Cantor Elaine Shapiro, a graduate of the Cantor's Institute was the first in West Palm Beach, Florida. It was national news and the Associated Press splashed it across the country, as a fourth-generation female cantor it seemed to make the news. I remember the feeling of isolation, of being watched and measured carefully to see how I would do. Before I accepted the position at Congregation Beth El in Norwalk, I remember auditioning for a synagogue and they asked me if I was going to “breastfeed on the bima?” Imagine anyone asking that today! When I got the job, a nearby reform rabbi proclaimed, “what will you do next? Go topless on the bima?” An elderly man once asked me after the morning minyan when I was very pregnant, “Nu? Hazzante, how do you feel? How're the nippelech?” It still shocks me today and provides a huge laugh at late night convention gatherings. There seemed to be a fixation on breasts and the idea of a woman cantor. The thinking that once you started with a woman cantor, you were going down the slippery slope of vulgarity! That seems insane today! Insane and illegal! Imagine the lawsuits today! I can say, “ME TOO!”

I founded the Women Cantors' Network in 1982 to help bring women cantors together, and I'm proud to say it continues to grow and embrace women (and a few male) cantors in a nurturing, open and supportive way.

In 1984 the New York Times did a story on the Women Cantors' Network and the writer chose a title, “Female Cantors Fighting Professional Isolation”. I had nothing to do with the title, but it infuriated a local cantor so much that I was banned from any local concerts or organizations for many years. He felt it was undignified for the cantorate to be stained with that article title. I had nothing to do with it, but I was punished. I doubt that would happen today. Today women cantors are a majority in reform and equally present and active in the conservative and reconstructionist movements. In 1984 I got in Glamour Magazine's column called something like, “You Won't Believe What Happened to Me.”

A little girl about 3, went to another synagogue and saw a male cantor and proclaimed, “I didn't know men could be cantors!” In 1984 this was news. Today it happens all the time! 40 years later, I still believe I have the best job in the world. It never feels like work, it is an honor and a delight, a privilege and a way of life. Imagine filling your life with the beauty of Jewish music, of prayer, of helping people celebrate beginnings, and helping them mourn the ends of life. It is a roller coaster ride I've been on for 40 years and I don't want to get off just yet. There's so much more to do, learn, share and sing!

## CANTOR'S CORNER

## CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY

**Remembering Elie Wiesel on his Fifth Yartzeit**

It is hard to believe five years have passed since the world lost the great teacher, humanist, and writer; Elie Wiesel. With the surge of antisemitism and acts of anti-Israel fueled hatred, I'm conflicted between being grateful he is not here to witness this, and sad that he isn't here to respond and inspire us to be loud and proud.

I often turn to his teachings through my class and lecture notes, carefully written during over 35 years of being his student. I've gathered pages of quotes from these years and divided them into sections: Learning, Holocaust and Memory, Hope, Faith and Belief, and Literature and Music. I'm beginning to write a book on how his teachings impacted my life, with the hope that it will help inspire others to see the world with his lessons as a guide.

I'll share two quotes from each section as we remember a master teacher, philosopher and peace-loving Jewish activist.

Learning:

"Education is not education without ethics."

(Boston University class, "The Jewish Response to Jewish Persecution" Sept. 13, 1976 )

"Judaism is by definition anti-racist. Racism is biological, a matter of law, humanity. Anyone who accepts (our) religion can be a Jew from any society, any country."

(Boston University class, " Holocaust: Memory and Conscience, Nov. 7, 1977)

Holocaust and Memory:

"Abraham Joshua Heschel at Auschwitz said, "Ask 6,000,000 for forgiveness, we can't forgive."

(Boston University class, " The Jewish Response to Jewish Persecution, Sept. 28, 1976)

"If the Holocaust would not put an end to anti-Semitism, nothing will."

(Boston University class, " the Jewish Response to Jewish Persecution, Sept. 21, 1976)

Hope:

"We must learn how not to hate, not how to hate. To abolish hate in our hearts won't do, it must be (abolished) in our enemy's heart. Outlaw fanaticism."

(Boston University class, " The Jewish Response to Jewish Persecution. Sept. 21, 1976)

"I don't have the right to live in despair. No one lives alone. Everyone is my hope. Especially my students."

(Boston University final class lecture Dec. 11, 2007)

Faith and Belief:

"Everyone can have a relationship with God, therefore there is hope. Through prayer there is direct contact-prayer awakens your spirit."

(Boston University class, " Rabbi Nahman, March 15, 1978)

"Every moment can be a miracle. Each person's humanity, each spark of humanity is a miracle." (92nd St Y Lecture, " Personal Reflections of Elie Wiesel," March 25, 2001)

Literature and Music: "A poet and a non-poet can say the same things yet. A poet makes words sing!"

(Boston University class, " Rabbi Nahman," March 15, 1978)

"Rabbi Nahman believed if we knew how to sing we could be closer to God."

(Boston University class, " Rabbi Nahman," March 15, 1978)

May his name and memory be a blessing and an inspiration. The world needs his voice and his teachings more than ever.

*Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray*

## ***We Appreciate Your Generosity!***

### **General Fund**

Robert & Terry Henry  
 Moreton and Marisol Binn  
 Jack Wilson & Marjorie Schiff  
 Robi Margolis  
 Bernie Peckman  
 Arlene Brown  
 Barbara and Jerry Rizzo  
 David Amerling

in honor of Leslie Gottlieb  
 in memory of Marisol's father, Jack Fernandes, z"l  
 in honor of Miriam becoming Bat Mitzvah  
 in memory of Arthur Margolis, z"l  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Barbara Manners  
 Joe Ellis  
 Michael & Gale Berman  
 Martin Weisberg and Tracey Weisberg  
 Religious School Parents  
 Richard and Linda Vendig  
 Richard and Linda Vendig  
 Michael & Rona Salpeter  
 Carol and Ed Halpern  
 Marilyn and Brenda Jablonski  
 Richard and Jennifer Carter  
 Jeffrey and Fredda Sharfstein

in memory of Fay Goodman Weisberg, z"l  
 with gratitude  
 in memory of Hilda Vendig, z"l  
 in memory of Walter Vendig, z"l  
 in memory of Mary Salpeter, z"l  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah  
 in appreciation of Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Debbie  
 in honor of Andrew becoming Bar Mitzvah  
 in honor of their grandson, Andrew Carter,  
 becoming Bar Mitzvah

### **Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Martin Weisberg and Tracey Weisberg  
 Richard and Jennifer Carter

in memory of Fay Goodman Weisberg, z"l  
 in honor of Andrew becoming Bar Mitzvah

### **Education Fund**

Religious School Parents  
 Judy Waller  
 Ellen and Stuart Borker

in honor of Leslie Gottlieb  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah  
 in honor of Joe Ellis on his second Bar Mitzvah

### **ECC Fund**

Alex and Deborah Perry  
 Bottomline Technologies, Inc.

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## **ANSWERS TO A JEWISH HISTORY QUIZ FROM PAGE 10-11**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Napoleon      | 2. John Adams       |
| 3. Hannah Senish | 4. Moses Montefiore |
| 5. Irena Sendler |                     |
-



## A PRAYER FROM OUR NEW RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR CATHY DEUTCHMAN

### Traveler's Prayer: The Prayer for a Safe Journey

Recently, my mentor and I had lunch to celebrate my new position at Shir Shalom, and chatted about our travel plans for the summer. She mentioned that she keeps a copy of the Traveler's Prayer (Tefilot Haderech, Babylonian Talmud Berachot 29b-30a) in her wallet for good luck. She said, "You know, this prayer was important thousands of years ago because it was really dangerous to travel."

As life opens up after an unprecedented year of a global pandemic, we're all facing certain risks in the journeys we take this summer. There are many considerations, especially for those more vulnerable to infection. For some, it may feel confusing, uncomfortable and scary. There's no guide book for this particular journey so we're leaning on articles, friends, families and our own instincts to help guide us as we re-enter the world.

On a personal note, the journey to Shir Shalom feels like an honor, and I'm excited and hopeful. The lay leaders and staff have been warm and welcoming, with offers to help and support me in this new role. I look forward to having Leslie's guidance and wisdom as I step into the new role of Director, and know she has made a lasting impact.

As a Jewish educator for most of my career, I've engaged people of all ages, building a sense of community wherever I go. I'm passionate about creating meaningful and content rich learning experiences that help connect people to each other and to their Jewish community. If you haven't yet seen the announcement, you can link to the article [here](#).

If you have summer travel plans, or are starting a new job (or returning to an old job for the first time), maybe, like my mentor, you'd like to have the traveler's prayer tucked in your wallet for good luck. Perhaps reading it will provide some comfort and help you connect with a higher power.

*See below for the translation of Tefilat Haderech/Traveler's Prayer.*

May you be safe, and find gladness and peace in the journeys ahead this summer. I look forward to meeting you and your families throughout the summer and fall.

May it be Your will, Lord, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace, guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace. May You rescue us from the hand of every foe, ambush along the way, and from all manner of punishments that assemble to come to earth. May You send blessing in our handiwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. May You hear the sound of our humble request because You are God Who hears prayer requests. Blessed are You, Lord, Who hears prayer. ~Traveler's Prayer, Tefilot Haderech, Babylonian Talmud

## Our Early Childhood Center

by Sarah Denyer (ECC Director)

On June 4th the ECC had their last day of school for the 2020/21 school year and celebrated accordingly. After the year we have all had, a year where our students' parents couldn't join us in person for our traditional Young Community Shabbat every Friday, it was so very special to gather in the sanctuary with our families to celebrate and sing Shabbat songs and blessings together. Families were also able to visit the annual ECC Art Show. The morning ended with a surprise ice cream truck, playground play and our parents enjoying connecting with each other in person... finally! Have a wonderful summer everyone!



## JULY YAH RZEITEN

**Friday, July 2nd, 2021:**

Belle Baker	aunt of Carlyn Bergman	Lawrence Besserman	husband of Judith Besserman
Josephine Blumberg	grandmother of Dr. Martin Kutscher	Jack Cohen	grandfather of Tiffany Zezula
Milton Kempler		Harold Margolis	father of Elise Aries
Anita Mishkin	mother of Richard Mishkin	Harold Pecker	father of Sunnie Colen
Ethel Price	grandmother of Terry Henry	Alan Rubinfeld	father of Adam Rubinfeld

**Friday, July 9th, 2021:**

Lena Bank	grandmother of Arnold Leitner	Annette Belsky	
Rose Kaplan Davis	mother-in-law of Elyse Davis	Paula Fulton	mother of Shara Birn
Joseph Goldberg	father of Jacob Goldberg	Lillian Kutscher	stepmother of Dr. Martin Kutscher
Mona L. Rymberg	aunt of Judith Strom	Abe Lederman	father of Linda Lederman
Joseph Orlan	father-in-law of Adrienne Orlan	Oscar Ratner	uncle of Judith Strom

**Friday, July 16th, 2021:**

Rheba Alpert	grandmother of Karen Blum	Richard Dutka	
Helen Eydenberg	grandmother of Susan Westlake	Minnie Fremed	mother of Charles Fremed
Sam Ginsberg	grandfather of Jamie Garrett	Carol Held	mother of Lindsay Held
Diane Kalish	mother of Jonas Kalish	Sheldon Kempler	brother of Felice Kempler
Katharine Reynolds	mother of Jean Haddon	Max Schattner	
Minnie Sherr	grandmother of Elyse Davis	Carl Sonnett	father of Meridith Sonnett

**Friday, July 23rd, 2021:**

Al Arenson	father of Linda Arenson	Susan Aufsesser	
Seymour Barth	father of Edward Barth	Stanley Bergman	father of Michael Bergman
Kenneth Bookspan	father of Dawn Roberts	Paul E. Busch	friend of Barbara Manners
Laura Fiderer	wife of David Fiderer	Lenore Gorman	mother of Martin Gorman
Harold Hagen	father of Ellen Lipton	Norman Hirt	father of Judy Hirt-Manheimer
Charles Karsch	grandfather of Karen Blum	Shirley Lazarus	mother of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley
Fannie Rotenberg	grandmother of Elise Aries	Hannah Vandervelden	daughter of Steven and Judy Vandervelden
Herbert Waldman	father of Alan Waldman		

**Friday, July 30th, 2021:**

Sarah "Sally" Kalem	grandmother of Beth Waldman	Beatrice Alper	mother of Lonnie Shapiro
Jerry Blum	father of Joshua Blum	Sadie Dutka	
Milton Feldman	father of Stuart Feldman	Warren Isman	father of Ken Isman
Lillian Kayser	grandmother of Laura Leitner	Henry Langer	grandfather of Karen Gerard
Joel Levitt	father of Audra Emmerich	Jennie Mirsky	grandmother of Carlyn Bergman
Minnie Teitler	grandmother of Laura Leitner		

## AUGUST YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, August 6th, 2021:**

Michael Brodsky	father of Karl Brodsky	George Brody	great uncle of Joan Isman
Sam Feinleib	grandfather of Leslie Gottlieb	Pearl Feldman	mother of Stuart Feldman
Kathy Goodman	mother of Victoria Friedman	Edward Gray	father of Scott Gray
Edward Joel Mendell		Philip Manners	father of Barbara Manners
Joseph Salpeter	father of Michael Salpeter	Hugo Sternberger	grandfather of Alice Gottlieb
Matthew Weber	brother-in-law of Barbara Manners		

**Friday, August 13th, 2021:**

Seymour "Bud" Sapadin	father of Brian Sapadin	Helga Allen	mother of Rona Salpeter
Belle Baier	mother of Shelby White	Jack Darvick	father-in-law of Elinor Darvick
Richard Glass	brother of Michelle Blum	Julius Goodman	
Colette Horvilleur	mother of Laurence Furic		

**Friday, August 20th, 2021:**

Pauline Binstock	relative of Moreton Binn	Charlotte Broder	mother of Stanford Broder
Reuben Ginsberg	great uncle of Jamie Garrett	Robert Hammer	father of Michael Hammer
Joseph Hodas	father of Elinor Darvick	Lucille Levenson	grandmother of Karen Brenner
Claire Markham	aunt of Richard Mishkin	Goldie Mitzelman	grandmother of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz
Helen Orlan	mother-in-law of Adrienne Orlan	Betty Rettberg	mother of Valerie Rich
Mitchell Perrin	father of Charles Perrin		
Ruth Schichman	grandmother of Joe Altman		

**Friday, August 27th, 2021:**

Rose-Mary Binstock	relative of Moreton Binn	Esther Gerard	grandmother of Ira Gerard
Lev Gogish	husband of Serafima Dashevskaya, father of Ilya and Vlad Gogish	Jacob Levine	grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman
		Alfred Pilch	father of Alan Pilch
Perry Reynolds	father of Jean Haddon	Fred Schwartz	father of Vicki Yolen
Rochelle Simson	sister of Andrea Jacobs		

## Condolences

*To Marisol Binn on the death of her father, Jack Fernandes*

*To Meg Weissmann on the death of her mother, Norma Abrahams*

*To F. Scott Gray on the death of his cousin, Howard Gray*



## CONGREGANT SPOTLIGHT

### **David and Vicki Yolen:** TSI Legacy member - 2000

**Christina:** *How did you choose the temple and become congregants?*

**David:** I grew up in a Conservative synagogue in Port Chester, NY and Vicki grew up in a more Reform synagogue. We looked around and this was the right feel for both of us.

**Jamie:** *What memories stand out to you from your time as congregants?*

**David:** The four boys having Bar Mitzvahs there were really big memories. Rabbi Haddon did all four and we gave him a glass tombstone plaque that said Bar Mitzvahed Four Yolen Boys.

**Vicki:** He and Cantor Katchko-Gray were very helpful and kind to my son Sam who became a rabbi. They were very instrumental.

**Christina:** *What keeps you connected to the community?*

**David:** I'm not a believer that you only join when your kids are going through Religious School. Our son Charlie is in California and I've often talked with him. Go to a synagogue because they will be welcoming to you. You are a Jew and all synagogues welcome Jews. You might meet some people there.

**Vicki:** We believe our temple is like a tree. You must invest in it and fertilize it for the future. Whether you actually sit under it, eat its fruit and nuts, look at it, or pass it by, you have to keep feeding it and caring for it or it will die. In this world, with so much antisemitism and hatred to all Jews, we need to feed our synagogues for those who come after us. David and I believe that it is the obligation of every Jew in the world, whether they are practicing or not, active or not religious at all, to act as the gardeners of our tree - the temple and its community. We plant a tree now, so that the next generation may enjoy its shade. In this way, we honor all those who came before us and died because they were a Jew, and we protect all those who come after us because they are a Jew.

### **Mark and Debbie Lavin:** JFC Legacy Member - 1996

**Christina:** *How did you find the temple and become congregants?*

**Mark:** I remember a Sunday brunch for prospective congregants. It was very pleasant because I spent a lot of time at work with a bunch of engineers who I really like a lot but meeting a completely different slice of people was great.

**Debbie:** We met Kathy and Paul Storfer who were on the committee for welcoming potential congregants. We had a long conversation and of course the plan for me to join the choir and then we joined. Our daughter was 7 and we figured she should go to Hebrew school. He (Mark) had the typical feeling about Hebrew school and I actually liked Hebrew school. We went to the same synagogue and Hebrew school. We're high school sweethearts.

**Christina:** *What memories stand out and keep you connected to the community?*

**Debbie:** The thing that keeps me connected is singing in the choir.

**Mark:** I remember the excursions for Midnight Run. For some reason I have fixed in my mind the idea of being in the basement of the (JFC) building and collecting all the clothes that were then going to go out in the vans. It was quite a contrast from being at the synagogue going to services. It was a lot of fun.

**Debbie:** The social action committee has been a very cool thing that we've done for years and years. The Midnight Run is very meaningful. I'm hoping we'll get more volunteers for the Midnight Run next spring. In the Midnight Run you collect second hand clothing and make meals. You are assigned stops to go in the city where the homeless are bedding down for the night. They know that the Midnight Run comes every night to certain places. They really appreciate being able to get a particular piece of clothing and a meal. It's very gratifying to know that you can really help them. It's just one lost job between us and the clients.

**Mark:** One thing that came to mind which is much more recent is the Zoom services. When we started I wasn't that familiar with Zoom. It was nice. One thing particularly struck me. In a regular service you sit and you look at the rabbi. In the Zoom services you see pictures of everybody and what they're doing. It was very communal. It was just a wonderful example of taking a very difficult situation for everybody and finding a homey aspect of it. For me it was especially acute because I had retired not that long before COVID set in. I was really feeling isolated. Having that community was a plus.



*Pictured on right:* When you walk into Vicki and David Yolen's backyard you can immediately tell that they are avid and knowledgeable gardeners. Growing everything from a wide variety of trees to garlic to beautiful flowers that will be used at their son's upcoming wedding. Pictured here in their backyard with one of their two dogs Buddy.



*Pictured on left:* When not singing in the choir or volunteering with the Social Action Committee you might find Debbie & Mark Lavin taking ballroom dancing lessons together. Can you spot their grandson Mars (pictured below) on Mark's shirt?





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