



The Bulletin

A monthly newsletter of Temple Bnai Israel

Blending Jewish Traditions

with Modern Life

January 2024

Tevet - Shevat 5784



Help Us Support Local Families In Need!

The Tikkun Olam Committee needs help supporting 20 families from Central America who have found themselves in Willimantic through the Nurturing Families Network, sponsored by Day Kimball Health Care with funding from the CT Early Childhood Department. Our own Techy Gochros is working to support this group of women and young children who no longer have support due to the ending of the American Rescue Plan Act. Although these families receive support from many amazing Willimantic community social service agencies (WAIM, Access Agency, Planned Parenthood, and Generations), **more is needed!**

Here are the specific needs that we can support:

- **Walmart Gift Cards – Smaller denominations will allow more families to be helped!**
- **Winter Clothes: Boys/Girls, 3 months – 3 years, New/Gently used**
- **Diapers: Size 1 – Size 7**
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Vegetable Oil**
- **Salt**
- **Maseca Flour (found in the Goya aisle at Stop & Shop)**
- **Small bags of white rice**

Please leave donations in the basket in the Temple lobby (next to the Bean Box.) Please give Gift Card donations directly to Jackie in the office. If you have any questions or need help in getting your donation to the temple, please don't hesitate to contact Doreen Simonsen for more information or assistance at (860) 420-9890 or doreensimonsen@gmail.com.



THE BULLETIN

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Temple Bnai Israel

383 Jackson Street

P.O. Box 61

Willimantic, CT 06226

Phone: (860) 423-3743

Fax: (860) 423-7594

www.templebnaiisrael.org

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Submission Deadline:

The 15th of each month.

The Rabbi and the editor reserve the right to reject submissions due to space limitations or content.

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Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz

ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org

Phone: (860) 423-3743 Ext. 1

(You may leave a confidential voice mail at that extension.)

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Office Administrator

Jackie Slorach

(860) 423-3743, Ext. 0

office@templebnaiisrael.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

11:00A - 5:00P

Friday 10:00A - 2:00P

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JANUARY SAVE THE DATES:

Thursdays, January 4th & January 18th at 7:00 PM - Intro to Judaism Class at UConn Hillel

Saturday, January 6th at 9:30 AM - Bagel & Bible - See Page 6

Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 PM - Temple Talks on Zoom

Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 PM - Brews, Views, Schmooze at Willimantic Brewing Company - All Welcome!

Friday, January 26th at 6:30 PM - Shabbat Shirah Dinner with the Young Emissaries Course - See Page 5

Saturday, January 27th at 10:00 AM - Shabbat Shirah Poetry Service - See Page 5

"WE WILL NOT BE SILENT"

This month, at the end of Hanukkah and before a new and uncertain year begins, this column is difficult to write. On October 7th, Israelis, and many Jews all over the world, lost their sense of security and safety. We have witnessed shocking demonstrations on college campuses and elsewhere calling for "genocide" for the Jews. It is the Pandora's box that is now wide open, its evil unleashed to reawaken ancient hatreds and fears of "the other". And as we know, these fears and hatreds are not just for the Jews (the canary in the coal mine), but for anyone that is different from the majority or from one's own social and ethnic group.

Hate crimes against Jews have surged, but so have attacks and hate crimes against Muslims. And injustices towards people of color, towards anyone who is different from a mythical norm, also are fomented. Is it that people in general do not feel safe?

So the question is, what do we do? We cannot sit silently, retreat to our own armed fortresses, take down our mezuzahs, not wear our Soloman seals or any other identifying symbols. Nor can we turn inward, ignoring the threats and harm to others. In 2016, the Temple was the prime organizer of an Interfaith Working Group in the Windham Region. We called

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TREE OF LIFE - INSCRIBER NEEDED!

In the Greer Auditorium in the Temple are two beautiful wall hangings of the Tree of Life. One of the Trees of Life has room for names to be added, but we need someone who has good handwriting and can paint the names on the Tree. A ladder is needed to reach the wall hanging, so you would need to be secure on a ladder.

Please let me know if you can help--
sheilabamdur@gmail.com.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising and Development Committee invites membership!

Currently looking for help with an initiative to get advertisers on our website and public Facebook page.

Contact Sheila Amdur:

sheilabamdur@gmail.com

Library Committee invites volunteers!

Have updated computer hardware, now we need people to breathe life back into the library.

Contact Rochelle Marcus:

rochelle.marcus@gmail.com

Grounds Coordinator position open!

Looking for volunteer(s) to oversee the maintenance of the Temple grounds. Work with the Beautification Committee in coordinating the vendors who mow the lawn, prune the plants, plant flowers and shrubs, and keep the grounds tidy.

Contact Temple Office:

(860)423-3743

office@templebnaiisrael.org

Caring Committee invites volunteers!

Help in the effort to offer support to our congregation members in need.

Contact Ellie Shane:

shaneellie01@gmail.com

or Fran Jaffe:

franjaffe@earthlink.net

Ritual Committee invites volunteers!

Help enrich our shabbat and holiday gatherings.

Contact Judy Stein:

jstein@medicareadvocacy.org



For a few years now, I've been trying to promote a renewal and reconstruction of an obscure Jewish fasting practice called Tsom Shovavim. Why do I do it? I mean, I barely make a dent promoting what the tradition considers one of the most important holidays, Shavuot, and that is a celebration with cheesecake! So 12 days of fasting over six weeks?! Seems like a hard sell.

I do it because Tsom Shovavim seems very suited to our times, offering a ritual practice for the very necessary turn from despair to hope. It's so easy to beat ourselves up! So easy to give up! And here, hiding in the corners of Jewish tradition, is a practice of discovering that beating ourselves up is itself the sin to repent of, a practice of cleansing ourselves of despair.

The story associated with Shovavim (in my version) (this year): After Adam and Eve ate the fruit and were expelled from the garden, and Cain killed Abel, Adam gave up. He thought he and the whole human enterprise were doomed. So he refused to sleep with Eve for a hundred thirty years. God thought that was terrible. It damaged the world. The tikkun (the repair) for that damage began much later in Egypt. The Israelites had been there also a hundred thirty years and Moses' mother, Yocheved, was a hundred thirty years old, when she gave birth to Moses. She dared to reclaim God's hopefulness from the days of Eden by seeing that Moses "was good – ki tov," in spite of Pharaoh's decree that he was so dangerous he should be thrown in the Nile. Over the next six Torah portions, Moses (with God's help) will defeat Pharaoh and teach the Israelites and the world that it is possible to build a society that is good and just.

Those six Torah portions have names that form the acronym "*Shovavim*," which means "wayward" or "rebellious." There's a passage in Jeremiah in which God says, twice, "*shuvu banim shovavim* – return wayward/rebellious youth." In what way are we "wayward?" Rebbe Nachman says in our believing about ourselves that we're somehow separated from God, the SOURCE OF HOPE. And so we're called to return, as Yocheved and Moses did. I'm also interested in the translation "rebellious." In one sense, it might be read as calling those who rebel against God to return to God. But we might also understand it as a call to return to rebellion – against modern Pharaohs and the forces of despair. 'Come back, rebellious youth! We need you!'

So the practice: Over the six weeks of *Shovavim*, the first six Torah portions of the book of Exodus, one might fast from dawn to sunset each Monday and Thursday. (There are alternative versions in the tradition that replace fasting with going vegetarian, giving tzedakah, or fasting from un-useful talk.) This year, the first Monday fast would be New Years Day (one doesn't fast on holidays – does that count?) and the last Thursday would be February 8th.

And why fasting? In Judaism, fasting is associated with return (*teshuvah*). In general, fasting is a powerful spiritual practice that promotes awareness,

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024**25 TEVET, 5784**

Parashat Shmot

Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

This year: 3:1 - 4:17

Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024**3 SHEVAT, 5784**

Parashat Va'era

Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

This year: 7:8 - 8:15

Haftarah: Joel 3:1-5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024**10 SHEVAT, 5784**

Parashat Bo

Exodus 10:1 - 13:16

This year: 11:4 - 12:28

Haftarah: Isaiah 19:19-25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024**17 SHEVAT, 5784**

Parashat B'shalah

Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

This year: 14:15 - 16:10

Haftarah: Judges 5:1-31

SHABBAT SHIRAH - THE SHABBAT OF POETRY AND SONG

Shabbat Shirah is the Shabbat at which the Song of the Sea, the triumphant song celebrating the Exodus from Egypt is read as part of the Saturday morning service. This year, we'll celebrate it both Friday night and Saturday morning. **Friday January 26th**, join us for Shabbes dinner with the Young Emissaries. They'll be sharing some songs from Israel. For many years, the Emissaries have shared some Israeli music at a T.G.I. Shabbes celebration and it's always very well-received, so this year we're giving them two opportunities for musical sharing: Shabbat Shirah and the March T.G.I. Shabbes. Come celebrate!

On **Saturday January 27th**, as is usual on Shabbat Shirah the service will be filled with poetry. We'd love to have your input. Do you have a poem (by yourself or someone else) to contribute? It should be on one of the themes of the service:

- waking up, getting ready for the day, our physical bodies and world, housing the divine
- connection through language, poetry, song, emotion,
- morning, the passage of time, day and night, creation, the cosmos and nature
- love, learning, mutual responsibility
- unity
- hope or freedom or justice or the Exodus from Egypt
- ancestors
- the power of love, the possibility of deep change
- holiness
- Shabbat
- Holy space, prayer
- gratitude, everyday miracles, peace

If you'd like to contribute a poem for Rav Jeremy to consider using, please send it to him (ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org) by Tuesday, January 23rd. Thanks!

JANUARY SHABBAT SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS

Please note Zoom and In-Person availability for each week and watch your email for last minute changes!

Friday, January 5, 2024 **5:30 PM** **Community and Family Potluck - In Person**
6:15 PM **Family Friendly Service**

We're inviting the entire community to participate in a potluck dinner with our Jewish Explorations families at 5:30 PM! Can't think of a dish to bring? Your presence and conversation itself is the perfect addition to dinner. A Shabbat service for young and old will follow at 6:15 PM.

Saturday, January 6, 2024 **9:30 AM** **Bagel & Bible - In Person/by Zoom**

At the Burning Bush, God tells Moses that Its name is "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*," generally translated "I am that I am" or "I will be what I will be." What kind of name is that?! We'll discuss. The implications for both spirituality and action in the world are many.

Friday, January 12, 2024 **6:15 PM** **T.G.I.Shabbes - In Person, Zoom opens at 6:45 PM**

Saturday, January 13, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Friday, January 19, 2024 **7:30 PM** **Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Saturday, January 20, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Friday, January 26, 2024 **6:30 PM** **Shabbes Dinner - In Person**

Join us for dinner with the Young Emissaries! We will begin Shabbat Shirah with the emissaries sharing some songs from Israel. This month's Shabbes Dinner will be hosted by Bill & Doreen Simonsen.

Saturday, January 27, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Shabbat Shirah Poetry Service - In Person & by Zoom**

A Shabbat Shira Service filled with poetry! Don't forget to submit poems to Rav Jeremy by January 23rd for consideration! See page 5 for more details.

JEWISH EXPLORATIONS SAVE THE DATE!

Jewish Explorations families will be joining the Temple Emanu-El families for a nature-focused Tu BiShvat activity on the morning of Sunday, January 21st! Keep an eye on your emails for further details next week. This event replaces the Shabbat Experience scheduled for January 20th.



TEMPLE FAMILY NEWS



Refuah Shleyma - Get Well רפואה שלימה

To Grace Adams, who is recovering from illness.

To Ellen Diane Cushing, who is recovering from surgery.

We wish you both a swift recovery!

CARING COMMITTEE - Caring For Each Other In Times Of Need

Fran Jaffe
860-228-2390
franjaffe@earthlink.net

Ellie Shane
860-428-5392
shaneellie01@gmail.com

We had no “official” leader in December, but we had several volunteers who distributed Hanukkah gift bags to our local assisted living facilities. Thanks to Margi Mossberg, Carol Kraus, Susan Meisler and Debbie Stoloff and to all the volunteers who have been visiting Grace while she recovers from illness.

Sheila will take on leadership in January. Ellie will be in Florida for the winter, and Fran will be away from January 6th through January 21st. We will both have email access although Fran’s might be spotty. After that, she should be around to help.

Let’s continue to check in with each other and reach out to those who we know need some assistance. Our monthly leaders will know who is currently in need. As always, please contact the committee co-chairs, Fran Jaffe or Ellie Shane, if you have any questions or concerns.

We hope you all had a lovely Hanukkah and wish you a healthy and joyous new year!

Fran and Ellie

THE RITUAL COMMITTEE THANKS FAYE RINGEL

The Ritual Committee thanks Faye Ringel for stepping into the role of finding service leaders to fill in for shabbats when Rav Jeremy is away. Please say yes when Faye calls! The committee would like to thank Gloria Gerald as well, who is stepping down from that role.



(continued from page 3)

together faith leaders from the three Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—to combat rampant anti-Muslim sentiment being propagated in the national media. We said this was not who we are as a community, and over the next several years, we held public forums, blanketed the area with “Welcome the Stranger” signs and banners with quotes from each of the Abrahamic faiths, and shared our traditions with one another. Then the pandemic caused us all to turn inward.

Now may be the time to turn outward again, to organize with other people from the broader community, to dialogue, to combat hatred and fear of “the other.” Rav Jeremy has already started this outreach. Let us know what you think and what you can do. We need willing hands and hearts to build bridges and to face what I believe will be a difficult journey ahead. And we need those of you who can lead. I will help and support. Please contact me at sheilabamdur@gmail.com.

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz

(continued from page 4)

purposefulness, and the sense that one has some control over their own life. I first discovered Tsom Shovavim when seeking a Jewish tradition that might offer some of the spiritual benefits I noticed of the extended fasting of Ramadan in Islam.

I’ve created a short liturgy to recite each morning of the fast. It understands that passage in Jeremiah as rejecting un-useful shame, urging a “just do it” attitude of return to God, truth, justice, and equity. It goes like this:

Jeremiah 3:22-4:2

“Return, ye backsliding, rebellious children, I will heal your backslidings.”

“Here we are, we have come to You; For You are the HOPEFUL our God.

Truly the hills have proved false, The mountains a confused uproar; Truly the salvation of Israel lies in the LIBERATING our God.

But shame has devoured our parents’ labor since our youth; Their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters:

‘Let us lie down in our shame, and let our confusion cover us; For we have sinned against the ETERNAL our God, we and our ancestors, From our youth even unto this day; And we have not hearkened to the voice of the ETERNAL our God.’”

“If you would return, O Israel, says the ETERNAL, return unto Me; And if you would remove your detestable things from My sight, and not waver; And would swear by the life

continued next page

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of the ETERNAL in truth, in justice, and in equity; then shall the nations become blessed by It, and by That One will they become praised.”

Rebbe Nachman :

Gevalt, Jews! Do not despair! The main thing is to be as strong as you can, for there is no despairing in the world!

Have mercy on us and hear us crying out! And let us merit to bring forth awareness and knowledge and general redemption!

Come back, rebels! Come back, youth!

May the Merciful One who answered Eve answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Yocheved answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Miriam answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Nachshon answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered King David answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Judah the Maccabee answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Clara Lemlich answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Manya Shochat answer us!

May the Merciful One who answered Abraham Joshua Heschel answer us!

Sfat Emet (Shabbat Shuvah)

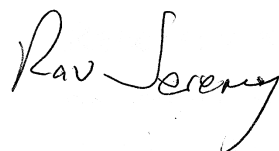
Let us return, Adonai, to you, to cleave to the divinity that dwells with us. And then, *we* – It and I, as it were – will return

השיבנו [ה'] אליך להתדבק בזה האלקות ששוכן עמנו ואז נשובה -כביכול אני והוא

השיבנו ה' אליך ונשובה חדש ימינו כקדם:

Hashivenu adonai eleha venashuva hadesh hadesh yamenu kekedem

[Bring us back to you, POSSIBILITY, and we will come back. Make our days new as before.]



Happy Secular New Year! There is much that our committee is and will be doing this year and we invite our larger community to join with us as much as you are able.

First, THANK YOU ALL for your response to WAIM's call to support energy and rent assistance funds for our neighbors in need. Your contributions and fundraising efforts for the Walk for Warmth allowed WAIM to raise over \$40,000 for their energy assistance and rent fund. It is possible that Temple Bnai Israel will once again be recognized as a faith community that has raised one of the highest levels! Thank you for your generosity.

On Friday, February 2nd, our synagogue's Dayenu Circle is sponsoring a climate march along with others partners including IREJN (Interreligious Eco-Justice Network), Sierra Club CT, CT League of Conservation Voters, Save the Sound, and many others. After a lackluster session in 2023, folks that care about the climate, the planet, and the wellbeing of all people in the state are coming together to put pressure on our elected officials and regulatory agencies to Keep Connecticut's Climate Promise. Focusing on issues like greenhouse gas reduction, clean energy, housing, job creation, and corporate responsibility, we will come together to **march through Hartford on February 2nd** and will keep up pressure on the legislature throughout the 2024 session. We are hoping for an enormous turnout to remind the powers that be who they work for and of our inalienable rights to a safe, healthy, and sustainable world. Please join this effort. We will arrange carpooling to Hartford. Look out for a poster and sign-making event prior to the event and share this information widely.

The following day, **Saturday February 3rd, is our annual HIAS REFUGEE SHABBAT**. On this very special Bagel and Bible, we will have a guest speaker from HIAS and another very impressive guest. Please come to learn about the state of refugees and the work of HIAS – more details are coming.

Please also help our efforts to support young Guatemalan mothers who Techy Gochros works with. Please see the adjoining article with specifics that are needed for these moms and their babies, and as always, thank you for your tremendous support. Please contact Merle at jermerle@att.net with questions or ideas.



Shalom, chaverim/ot!

As I write this to you, our program is on a well-deserved winter break. I hope that all of our students and their families are finding some time to rest and reboot during this rather busy time of year when so many different areas of our lives demand our attention. We've been working hard in Jewish Explorations, and I wanted to share some of the highlights from this past month.

Our Jewish Explorations K-2 cohort met this past month at Shabbat Experience and had a lot of fun learning parsha Miketz with Morah Becca! Not only did we traverse the playground looking for elements that we saw in the Torah portion, but we also learned some fun games to go with it. We also had a nature walk discussion during which we brainstormed what "seven years of good" and "seven years of bad" would look like. All of this, plus some impermanent art and some dramatic play, added up to a great time!

What does it mean to spread light in the darkness? What does it mean to pray "correctly"—is there a "right" way to pray? How do we "do Shabbat" in a way that is personally meaningful and important?

These are only some of the questions our grade 3-6 classes have been discussing. They have wrestled with some pretty intense concepts and are creating some intriguing responses! From writing their own prayers to designing their own "homegrown" Shabbat activities, these students are demonstrating critical thinking and problem-solving to address these important questions. It's inspiring to see them!

Additionally, our attendance increased for this month's Shabbat Experience, which is super exciting! The more the merrier was definitely true this month as we sang, discussed, played, and learned. In addition, we've been learning the prayers from the Saturday morning Shabbat service. You should hear our Modeh/Modah Ani!

Rav Jeremy's class continue their exploration of the idea of *mitzvah*. They learned the different denominations' approaches to "what Jews do and why". Denominational bingo and memory games were a way to review the topic.

And of course, our students learned with Netanel and Hila, our amazing Israeli emissaries. In addition to fun games and activities that teach us about Israeli culture, we did a great activity with Netanel, who helped us to make beautiful paper lanterns and then illuminate them using a cell phone flashlight.

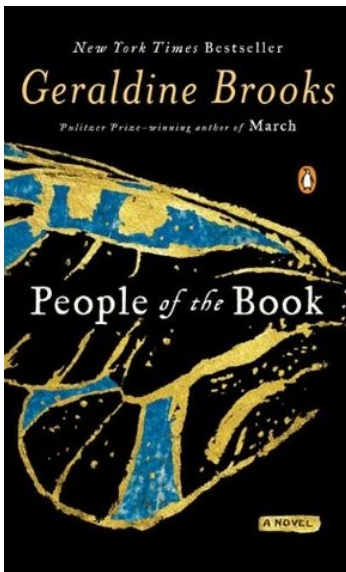
I wish that for all of us this year. Let's all focus on spreading some light in 2024.

Happy secular New Year, chaverim/ot. Every best wish for a beautiful 2024 filled with joy and illumination.

B'shalom,
Morah Dara

People of the Book--Insights About Passover

As part of our Passover celebration, the Hochberg Committee on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education invites you to read Geraldine Brooks' *People of the Book*. On April 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM, we will meet together to discuss this book, the Sarajevo Haggadah, and the stories you would like to share about the Haggadahs that your family has used.



People of the Book, a novel by Geraldine Brooks reimagines the history of the Sarajevo Haggadah through the eyes of Hannah Heath, an Australian book conservator. (The Hochberg Committee purchased a replica of this unique 14th C Haggadah whose extraordinary illuminations accompany the history of the Jewish people from Creation.) The context that Brooks imagines makes the characters—some of them based on real people--more memorable.

The novel describes how Hannah arrives in Sarajevo to restore this historic Haggadah. As she studies its pages she notes evidence of its use—salt crystals, a wine stain mixed with blood, a stray hair from a cat and the remnants of an insect's wing. The author then uses these fragments of evidence to spin an intriguing story about what might have happened to the Haggadah's hosts. The characters in her story occupy four different locations and time periods from 1996 back to the fifteenth century.

In Bosnia during WWII, a Muslim risks his life to protect the manuscript from the Nazis. In early 1900's, Vienna, the Haggadah becomes a pawn in the struggle against antisemitism. In fifteenth century Venice, a Catholic priest rescues it from the sparks of the Inquisition. In Barcelona when Spanish Jews are forced into exile, the Haggadah's scribe barely survives.

People of the Book is available from your library, on Kindle, or can be purchased online at a low cost. Watch for date and time when we will gather to share our Passover stories. We will also have the replica of the Sarajevo Haggadah on display, and invite you to bring your favorite Haggadah to share.

If you would like to RSVP early, please contact Susan Meisler at susanmeisler15@gmail.com.



JEWISH GATHERINGS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

You are welcome to submit short notices about upcoming, non-partisan Jewish gatherings or opportunities for Jewish learning that you think would be of interest to other members of the congregation. Please keep listings to 100 words or less.

Disclaimers: This column reflects submission and so is **not** unbiased or comprehensive and does **not** reflect the endorsement of the Temple or the rabbi. We reserve the right to edit submissions or to not include submissions that conflict with important Temple events or with the Temple's officially stated values, (although if you don't think it conflicts, we'll probably publish it).

Holding on to Hope

Wednesday, January 3
12 pm ET | 11 am CT | 10 am MT
9 am PT | 6 pm Europe | 7 pm Israel

Mohamad Kundos
Principal of the Hand in Hand School, Kfar Saba
יד ביד
25
HAND IN HAND

May Pundik
Israeli CEO of A Land for All
ארץ לכולם
بلاد للجميع

Alon-Lee Green
National co-director of Standing Together
נקפּ מַעַם
עומדים ביחד

Moderated by Rabbi Elliott Tepperman,
B'nai Keshet Reconstructionist Synagogue,
Immediate Past-President of the RRA and
current Co-chair of the JStreet Rabbinic Cabinet

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM
Reconstructionist RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

Register at: <https://bit.ly/HoldingHopeRegistration>



Choosing a shared future - a conversation with Standing Together

Sunday, January 21st, 11AM EST

In the midst of war, turmoil in Israeli society, and an increasingly polarized global discourse, must we take the side of exclusively #freepalestine or exclusively #standwithIsrael, or can we instead stand united with people on both sides who want to live in peace and security?

Join SAJ and a group of other Reconstructionist congregations for a special online panel with **Standing Together**, a grassroots movement in Israel/Palestine organizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens towards peace, equality and social justice.

Featuring two Standing Together leaders from the two communities, Sally Abed and Nadav Shofet. Contact Rav Jeremy for the link at ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org.

2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR DONATIONS (JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024)

Donations received through November 20, 2023.

HABONIM

Lester E. and Phyllis M. Foster Family Foundation,
Directors: David & Marilyn Foster

SUSTAINER

Judy Stein & Ken Dardick

PATRON

Sheila Amdur
Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Martin & Randee Berliner
Carol Colombo
Stuart & Joan Seliger Sidney

BNAIFACTOR

Gerry Berkowitz
Sharon & Bruce Brettschneider
David & Ellen Brodie
Karen Drazen & Jim Baber
Jeanne Morascini
Robert & Jane Moskowitz
Rita Pollack
Jerome & Nina Rosen
Sandra Roth
Rav Jeremy Schwartz & Merle Potchinsky
Ravit & Ishay Stein
Michael & Anne Willenborg
David Wollner

General Fund

Anat & Aaron Becker, in honor of Ze'ev Herscovi
Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Mona & Todd Friedland
Gloria Gerald
Joscha Jelitzki
Jill & Jim Marocchini
Susan Meisler
Sharen & Tom Peters
Ilene Reiner, in memory of Hyman and Sonny Reiner
Ruth Rosensweig
Beverly Sims
Steve & Nora Stein, in memory of Joe Petrowsky
David & Debbie Stoloff, in honor of the wedding of Fay Stoloff and Matthew Istrin
Eugenia Winokur, in honor of her sister Grazia Di Veroli

5784 Chai Appeal

Sheila Amdur
Peggy Beckett-Rinker
Randee & Martin Berliner
Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Sharon & Bruce Brettschneider
Ellen Cushing
Mark & Marla Hauslaib
Shoshana Levinson

2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR DONATIONS (JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024)

Donations received through November 20, 2023.

5784 Chai Appeal (cont.)

Moshe & Sima Lessner
Susan Meisler
Faye Ringel
Doreen Simonsen
Judy Stein & Ken Dardick
Fran Storch

5784 Yizkor Memorial Booklet

Sheila Amdur
Martin & Randee Berliner
Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Ken Dardick & Judy Stein
Carl & Elaine David
Mona and Todd Friedland
Gloria Gerald
Carol & Yves Kraus
Peter & Stephanie Malinow
Susan Meisler
Jane & Robert Moskowitz
Marjorie Golden-Mossberg
Alex & Ramona Nishball
Sharen & Tom Peters
Jerome and Nina Rosen
Sandra K. Roth
Rav Jeremy Schwartz & Merle Potchinsky
Ellie Shane
Doreen Simonsen
David & Debbie Stoloff
Fran Storch
Michael & Anne Willenborg

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on January 5th and 6th			
Bess Hochberg		25 Tevet	January 6
Tammie Brodie	Mother of David Brodie	25 Tevet	January 6
Neal Friedland	Brother of Todd Friedland	25 Tevet	January 6
Michael Ostrofsky		26 Tevet	January 7
Joseph Hochberg		27 Tevet	January 8
Joseph Kaplan	Father of Roberta Schwane	28 Tevet	January 9
Lenore Sagan	Aunt of Paul Shapiro	28 Tevet	January 9
Melvyn Klein	Stepfather of Hillary Stern	28 Tevet	January 9
Lillian Rubin		29 Tevet	January 10
Charlotte Lewis	Mother of Barry Lewis	29 Tevet	January 10
Reuben Rothblat		1 Shevat	January 11
Chaya Rose Moskowitz		1 Shevat	January 11
Jack Meslin	Grandfather of David Meslin	1 Shevat	January 11
Hyman Frankel	Great Uncle of Michael Lassow	2 Shevat	January 12
George Hazlehurst	Father of Sharon Brettschneider	2 Shevat	January 12
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on January 12th and 13th			
Melvin J. Goldberg		3 Shevat	January 13
H. Louis Mandell		6 Shevat	January 16
Frances Zarowitz		7 Shevat	January 17
Simon Meisler	Father-in-Law of Susan Meisler	7 Shevat	January 17
Selma Halperin	Mother of Randee Berliner	7 Shevat	January 17
Joseph Glanz		8 Shevat	January 18
Michael Gerald	Husband of Gloria Gerald	9 Shevat	January 19

CHEVRA KADISHA

After a Jew dies, a burial society, the *Chevra Kadisha* (literally, "holy society") prepares the body for interment. This process, called *Taharah* (purification), involves the ritual cleansing and subsequent dressing of the body, by men for males and by women for females, in preparation for burial. This requires training in the traditions and prescribed methods involved in traditional Jewish burials. This is a very personal and meaningful mitzvah we perform to support our fellow members.

We welcome anyone interested in joining us in this sacred work. Please contact Fran Jaffe (franjaffe@earthlink.net) or Ken Dardick (kdardick@gmail.com), Co-Chairs, or Rav Jeremy (ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org).

JANUARY YAHRZEITS (continued)

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on January 19th and 20th			
Max Rosen		11 Shevat	January 21
Joseph Starger		12 Shevat	January 22
Abraham Stutz		12 Shevat	January 22
Rodney Gochros	Father of Stephen Gochros	12 Shevat	January 22
Bethany Green Dumais	Sister of Faith Kenton	13 Shevat	January 23
Joseph Tashlik		13 Shevat	January 23
Pauline Cohen	Grandmother Miriam Drew	13 Shevat	January 23
Joseph Weiner		14 Shevat	January 23
Max Frankel	Great Grandfather of Michael Lassow	15 Shevat	January 25
Bessie Rosenstein		15 Shevat	January 25
Rebecca Ganci	Good Friend of Judy Stein & Ken Dardick	15 Shevat	January 25
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on January 26th and 27th			
Michael Weinschel	Brother of Marla Hauslaib	17 Shevat	January 27
Jennie Rothenberg	Grandmother of Sandra Roth	17 Shevat	January 27
Myron Berkowitz	Father of Cheryl Lejfer	18 Shevat	January 28
Rachel (Roxanne) Cohen	Mother of Steven Cohen	18 Shevat	January 28
Benjamin Hager	First Cousin of Joan Sidney	18 Shevat	January 28
Samuel Zucker		21 Shevat	January 31
Blima Glass		22 Shevat	February 1
Milton Greenfield	Father-in-Law of Art Kirschenbaum	22 Shevat	February 1
Eve Ellen Cutter	Mother of Martha Cutter	22 Shevat	February 1
Ruth Horowitz	Mother of Mitzi Horowitz	23 Shevat	February 2
Stanley Ballon		23 Shevat	February 2



May their memories be a
source of strength
and a blessing.



KEEP CONNECTICUT'S CLIMATE PROMISE MARCH

**FEBRUARY 2ND, 12PM, OLD STATE
HOUSE, 800 MAIN STREET, HARTFORD**

JOIN OUR MARCH TO DEMAND STATE LEADERS KEEP THEIR
CLIMATE PROMISE AND HONOR EVERYBODY'S RIGHT TO A
SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE CONNECTICUT!!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ANN GADWAH,
SIERRA CLUB CONNECTICUT AT 860-733-2249 OR
ANN.GADWAH@SIERRACLUB.ORG.**

January 2024 20 Tevet 5784 - 21 Shevat 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 20 TEVET  New Year's Day	2 21 TEVET	3 22 TEVET 4:45pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Ritual Committee	4 23 TEVET 7:00pm Intro to Judaism: UConn Hillel	5 24 TEVET  4:14 5:20pm Temple Potluck 6:15pm Shabbat Service	6 25 TEVET 9:30am Bagel & Bible
7 26 TEVET 9:30am - Tikkun Olam Comm. Mtg	8 27 TEVET	9 28 TEVET	10 29 TEVET 4:45pm Jewish Explorations	11 1 SHEVAT  Rosh Chodesh Shevat	12 2 SHEVAT  4:21 6:15pm T.G.I. Shabbes	13 3 SHEVAT 10:00am Shabbat Service
14 4 SHEVAT	15 5 SHEVAT  Martin Luther King Day BULLETIN DEADLINE	16 6 SHEVAT 6:00pm Brews, Views, Schmooze at WilliBrew All Welcome!	17 7 SHEVAT 4:45pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Board Meeting	18 8 SHEVAT 7:00pm Intro to Judaism: UConn Hillel	19 9 SHEVAT  4:29 7:30pm Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service	20 10 SHEVAT 10:00am Shabbat Service
21 11 SHEVAT 10:00am Mussar Va'ad TBD (9:30/10:00am) Tu BiShvat at Emanu-el	22 12 SHEVAT	23 13 SHEVAT	24 14 SHEVAT 4:45pm Jewish Explorations	25 15 SHEVAT  Tu B'Shvat	26 16 SHEVAT  4:38 6:30pm Shabbat Shirah Shabbes Dinner	27 17 SHEVAT 10:00am Shabbat Shirah Poetry Service & Jewish Explorations Shabbat Experience
28 18 SHEVAT 10:00am Sandwich-making at Soup Kitchen	29 19 SHEVAT	30 20 SHEVAT	31 21 SHEVAT 4:45pm Jewish Explorations			

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR
15th ANNUAL



AND NOSH FEST! IT'S NOT
JUST FOR CHILI LOVERS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH,
5:00 P.M.

TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL
383 JACKSON STREET
WILLIMANTIC, CT
ALL ARE WELCOME!



**TASTE & VOTE: LOTS OF
GREAT VEGETARIAN CHILI!
(WINNER GETS A \$50 GIFT
CERTIFICATE TO WILLI BREW)**



**NOSH ON SOME NON-CHILI
GOODIES**



**SIP DELICIOUS BEER DONATED
BY WILLI BREW. MUST BE AGE
21 OR OLDER. WE'LL HAVE
SODA TOO!**



**ENJOY AN OVER-THE-TOP ICE
CREAM BAR! BUILD YOUR
OWN SUNDAE!**



**BUST OPEN A PIÑATA
(YOUNGSTERS ONLY!)**



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