



The Bulletin

A monthly newsletter of Temple Bnai Israel

Blending Jewish Traditions

with Modern Life

May 2024

Nisan - Iyyar, 5784

Temple Bnai Israel Willimantic, CT

Yom Hashoah Service
(In-Person and Virtual)

NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 7:00PM

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Temple Bnai Israel invites you to its annual observance of
Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day.

Our annual service is dedicated to the memory of six million Jews
who perished in the Holocaust.

We also recognize those who survived, and honor our allies who
risked their lives to save our brothers and sisters.

This is a night of mourning, but also of
dedication to life, community, and freedom for all humankind.

Members of the greater interfaith community are warmly encouraged to join the Temple
Bnai Israel congregation to remember,
and to dedicate ourselves to building a better, safer world for all.

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To Request Zoom Access, please email Office@TempleBnaiIsrael.org.

— *We stand together to work for the dignity of all humankind* —



THE BULLETIN

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Temple Bnai Israel

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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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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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Monday - Thursday

11:00A - 5:00P

Friday 10:00A - 2:00P

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Temple Bnai Israel

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Reconstructing Judaism

ReconstructingJudaism.org

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2023-2024 Fiscal Year (7/1/23 to 6/30/24) Donations:
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May Calendar Back



MAY SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, May 4th at 9:30 AM - Bagel & Bible - See page 6

Sunday, May 5th at 7:00 PM - Yom HaShoah Service - See Front Cover

Thursdays, May 9th & 23rd at 7:00 PM - Intro to Judaism Class at UConn Hillel

Friday, May 10th at 6:15 PM - Jewish Meditation Shabbat - See Page 6

Saturday, May 11th at 10:00 AM - Nature Shabbat - See Page 6

Tuesday, May 14th at 5:45 PM - JFEC Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration

Sunday, May 19th at 5:00 PM - Dinner & Silent Auction sponsored by Jewish Explorations - More Info Soon!

Friday, May 24th at 6:30pm - Shabbes Dinner

Friday, May 31st at 7:30pm - Fifth Friday Theme Shabbat: You're the Tsadik - See Page 6

A time for celebration is coming; Rav Jeremy is approaching his 25th anniversary with Temple Bnai Israel! His anniversary will be in August 2025. The Temple has flourished in wonderful ways in the nearly quarter-century of Rav Jeremy's leadership. Our celebrations of Shabbat and holidays have become diverse and creative. Our learning for young and old is meaningful and varied. We've developed ways to care for each other throughout the life cycle. And our tikkun olam ("world-repair") commitments have become broad and deep. State-wide organizations now consider little Temple Bnai Israel in Willimantic an important player to be included at the table, especially on environmental issues.

Those accomplishments and the long bond of our Temple with our rabbi are worth celebrating! They also present an opportunity. We know there are many who will want to honor Rav Jeremy both within our Temple community and in the broader communities of Northeast Connecticut and the Reconstructionist Movement, so our celebration will both honor Rav Jeremy and support the future flourishing of Temple Bnai Israel. If you're interested in helping to plan our celebrations, please let Hillary know.

Rav Jeremy's long tenure at Temple Bnai Israel brings up another topic we'd like you to know about; while his youthful good looks and frequent bursts of youthful joy may have fooled you into thinking he's younger than he actually is, he will turn sixty-four this summer. He has let the Board know that he intends to retire when he's sixty-seven, in the summer of 2027. Congregations with long-serving clergy benefit from a thorough and deliberate planning process for transition to new leadership, so the Board will establish a transition team this summer to begin planning. While transitions can be difficult, we are also excited by the opportunities that change brings. We're grateful to have three years lead time to minimize the difficulties and maximize the opportunities.

Again, please join us in celebrating Rav Jeremy's long tenure at Temple Bnai Israel and let Hillary know of your interest in helping to plan! Hillary can be reached at hillarystern21@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



Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents

When the Creating One returned with the return to Zion, we were like dreamers. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with joyful song. Then, among the nations, they said "God has done great things with them." God has done great things with us and we were happy. Return, Adonai, with our return, like watercourses in the Negev. Those who sow with tears shall reap with joy. The one who is walking, walking and crying, carrying the length of the planting, will come, come with joyful song, carrying the sheaves.

Our return to Zion was, indeed, like a dream. Actually, there was incredible hardship, but it was still like a dream. Imagine: Jews living as Jews on their own terms. Not on the Christians' terms or the Muslims'. Not even on the rabbis' terms. Working the land, building. Dreaming of an egalitarian, just, and peaceful society. Reclaiming their ancient language and making it speak modern words. And the nations were amazed! Nina Simone sang "*Eretz Zavat Halav*;" Pete Seeger sang "*Zum gali gali*;" Everyone sang "*Hava Nagilah*" – Let's rejoice!

But there were, and are, tears. Tears caused by war and terrorism, tears of displacement of both Jews and Palestinians. We need God – the PROMISE OF POSSIBILITY, the POWER OF LOVE, the FORCE OF LIBERATION to return with us. Change is hard. Even love and liberation are often costly and hard. It's like the hard work of sowing and tending. There are tears. But with that PROMISE/POWER/FORCE, "those who sow with tears shall reap with joy." Let's keep walking together, carrying one another's burdens, planting, tending, and singing until we're carrying the sheaves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L44yZkbGjc>

Rabbi Jeremy



SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

26 NISAN, 5784

Parashat Aḥarei Mot

Leviticus 16:1 - 18:30

This year: 17:1 - 18:30

Haftarah: Ezekiel 22:1-16

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

3 IYYAR, 5784

Parashat Kedoshim

Leviticus 19:1 - 20:27

This year: 19:1-22

Haftarah: Ezekiel 20:2-20

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

10 IYYAR, 5784

Parashat Emor

Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23

This year: 22:17 - 23:22

Haftarah: Joel 4:12-16

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

17 IYYAR, 5784

Parashat B'har

Leviticus 25:1 - 26:2

This year: 25:29 - 26:2

Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-22

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

The committee continues to take part in the JFEC Friendly Visitors Program, delivering gift bags for Passover. We'd like to thank Debbie Stoloff, Carol Kraus, Margi Mossberg and everyone else who has helped with this program! Thank you all so much for taking the time to show some love to our Jewish friends in need for Passover.

As always, our committee welcomes new members. Why not consider joining us in lending a hand to our fellow congregants when they're in need? It's a simple commitment and extremely worthwhile and rewarding. Call our monthly leaders, the committee co-chairs, Fran Jaffe and Ellie Shane, or Rav Jeremy if you or anyone you know needs some assistance. Communication is key. We can't help our community if we don't know that they need it!

JFEC COMMUNITY YOM HAATZMA'UT CELEBRATION

May 14, 2024 from 5:45 - 9:30 PM

Beth Jacob Synagogue, Norwich, CT

Celebrate Israel's 76th Birthday with JFEC's Young Emissaries Hila & Netanel! There will be a torch lighting ceremony, activities, dinner, games, music, and more! For more information, including ticket pricing, please go to:

<https://www.jfec.com/calendar/community-yom-haatzmaut-celebration>

MAY SHABBAT SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS

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

Friday, May 3, 2024 **5:30 PM** **Community and Family Potluck & Family Friendly Service - In Person**
6:15 PM

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. Please join us!

Saturday, May 4, 2024 **9:30 AM** **Bagel & Bible - In Person & by Zoom**

When does saving a life take precedence over any other mitzvah (traditionally)? Nearly always. Learn more at Bagel & Bible!

Friday, May 10, 2024 **6:15 PM** **Jewish Meditation Shabbat - In Person & by Zoom**

Join Hillary Stern for a Jewish Meditation shabbat experience.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Nature Shabbat - In Person**

Join us for a Nature Shabbat hike and prayer! We will meet at the Mansfield Hollow Dam at the end of Mansfield Hollow Road in Mansfield. Dress for the weather and bring a snack. This hike has a moderately challenging hill but is mostly flat. If it is raining we will have a regular Shabbat Service at the synagogue.

Friday, May 17, 2024 **7:30 PM** **Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Saturday, May 18, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Friday, May 24, 2024 **6:30 PM** **Shabbat Dinner - In Person**

This month's Shabbes Dinner will be hosted by Marjorie Golden-Mossberg.

Saturday, May 25, 2024 **10:00 AM** **Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom**

Friday, May 24, 2024 **6:30 PM** **Fifth Friday Theme Shabbat: You're the Tsadik - In Person & By Zoom**

One possibility: A tsadik is a righteous one, one who practices right living. Another possibility: In Hassidism, the Rebbe, the sect's leader, is also their Tsadik. He is the great connector, finding and gathering the holy sparks of his followers and raising them to their source in God. Or, according to the Psalm for the Sabbath Day: "A tzadik blossoms like a date palm." But what if each of us is a tsadik? What if you're gathering sparks, connecting worlds, blossoming. This week is the period between Passover and Shavuot associated with the aspect of divinity called Tsadik (or Y'sod - Foundation). For our Shabbat service, we'll try that aspect on and blossom a little.



Congratulations Temple Bnai Israel! Many of you have taken on the commitment to get your EnergizeCT energy audit and begin the process of making energy efficiency improvements to your homes. Of course our weatherization event on April 7th, was just the kick-off event to encourage most of our households to begin this process. There are many of you who can still commit to this significant action. Terri Eickel, the executive director of Inter-religious Ecojustice Network, reminded us that shoring up the energy efficiency of our homes makes a significant difference in reducing carbon emissions and slowing down climate change. It's easy to sign up if you've been waiting - please go to this website - you will save energy and money: <https://energizect.com/energy-evaluations/HES> I've recently learned that if you heat with oil they are booking into the autumn, whereas gas and electric are booking sooner, so please sign up as soon as possible and take advantage of CT's rebates.

WAIM's 40th anniversary is upon us and there will be a big celebration at the Franco-American Club in Windham on June 23rd from 2:00-5:00 pm. This will be a community celebration and all are welcome! Temple Bnai Israel will have a table there to highlight our synagogue. We are generating some fun ideas for our table but if you have something to add, please contact Peggy Beckett-Rinker. Please also look out for more details about our WAIM Garden work day this summer and a planned Service and Service in partnership with the Ritual committee that will take place at WAIM this summer on an erev Shabbat.

To get involved and to bring your tikkun olam ideas to our community, please contact Merle at jermerle@att.net or 860-450-0435.

JEWISH EXPLORATIONS**Morah Dara Bowling**

Shalom, chaverim!

Spring has sprung! The days are getting longer, the earth is waking up in patches of green, and before you know it, summer will be here! I cannot believe that our academic year wraps up in less than a month.

This month, we had a before-services Shabbat breakfast spearheaded by Morah Becca featuring delicious pancakes, bagels and cream cheese, and fruit. It was so much fun to be able to hang out and share a meal with our students and their families! Many thanks to all who came!

Did you know that we're going to have a spaghetti dinner and silent auction fundraiser on May 19th? Stay tuned for more information on this - we hope you will all join us to support our school program! Special thanks to Alex Wilkinson for coordinating and planning, and warmest thanks to everyone who has helped!

If you are a school parent, you should have received a survey from the Temple Office requesting your feedback about the program this year. Please take a moment to complete it at your earliest convenience. We greatly appreciate it! Your feedback will be used to help us reflect on our year and to fulfill our goal of continuous quality improvement.

We've had a lot of April showers, so I'm looking forward to all of the May flowers! I hope you all enjoy this VERY quick transition into the first day of summer!

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

Donations received through January 20, 2024.

HABONIM

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

SUSTAINER

Judy Stein & Ken Dardick
Estate of Edith Prague, in memory of her husband Franklin Prague

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 Herscovici
Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Jesse Brockell, in memory of her father John G. Brockell
Mona & Todd Friedland
Gloria Gerald
Halderstein Owl Trust
Joscha Jelitzki
Jill & Jim Marocchini
Susan Meisler
Michael S. Orenstein
Sharen & Tom Peters
Ilene Reiner, in memory of Hyman and Sonny Reiner
Ruth Rosensweig
Beverly Sims
Judy Stein & Ken Dardick in honor of our grandson, Henry Hirschman's Bar Mitzvah
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

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

Donations received through January 20, 2024.

5784 Chai Appeal (cont.)

Harry & Honey Birkenruth
Sharon & Bruce Brettschneider
Ellen Cushing
Mark & Marla Hauslaib
Shoshana Levinson
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

MAY 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 May 3rd and 4th			
Hyman Pollack	Father-in-Law of Rita Pollack	26 Nisan	May 4
Milton Braslow	Step-father of Merle Potchinsky	26 Nisan	May 4
John G. Brockell	Father of Kathleen Brockell	26 Nisan	May 4
George Rubin		27 Nisan	May 5
Jim Stern	Father of Hillary Stern	27 Nisan	May 5
Frances Miller	Grandmother of Debra Sarazin	28 Nisan	May 6
Ida Fannie Weinstein	Grandmother of Carol Colombo	29 Nisan	May 7
Aaron Stein	Father of Steve Stein	29 Nisan	May 7
Annie H. Sandler		30 Nisan	May 8
Rose Winter Sherman	Great-aunt of Debra Sarazin	30 Nisan	May 8
Abraham Krug		2 Iyar	May 10
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on May 10th and 11th			
Rhea Kronisch	Mother of Marc Kronisch	3 Iyar	May 11
Sarah Russian		3 Iyar	May 11
Nathaniel Weinschel	Father of Marla Hauslaib	3 Iyar	May 11
Ya'akov Dardick	Brother of Ken Dardick	3 Iyar	May 11
Lidia Nepor	Mother of Nina Rosen	3 Iyar	May 11
Robert Kenneth Blumenstein	Father of Glenn Blumenstein	3 Iyar	May 11
Arthur Berkowitz	Father of Gerry Berkowitz	5 Iyar	May 13
Joyce Vinson	Aunt of Hillary Stern	6 Iyar	May 14
Jennie Israel Horwitz		7 Iyar	May 15
Shirley Bader	Mother of Jane Moskowitz	7 Iyar	May 15
Blanche Potchinsky	Grandmother of Merle Potchinsky	8 Iyar	May 16
Morris Kerachsky		9 Iyar	May 17
Abraham Kronisch	Grandfather of Marc Kronisch	9 Iyar	May 17
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on May 17th and 18th			
Joseph Anthony DeLuca	Stepfather of Grace Adams	10 Iyar	May 18
Evelyn Tuchman	Mother of Gaye Tuchman	10 Iyar	May 18
Samuel Horn	Uncle of Roberta Schwane	11 Iyar	May 19
Leopold Gottlieb		11 Iyar	May 19
Carl Zenchoff		12 Iyar	May 20
David Isaac Hochberg		12 Iyar	May 20
Lester Foster	Father of David Foster	12 Iyar	May 20
Joseph Sitkin	Uncle of Sharen Peters	12 Iyar	May 20
Hyman Seplowitz		13 Iyar	May 21
Florence Stoloff	Mother of David Stoloff	13 Iyar	May 21
Mary Harriet Allen Berman	Mother of Ellen Diane Cushing	13 Iyar	May 21
Marian Solotaroff Sherman		15 Iyar	May 23

MAY 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 May 24 th and 25 th			
Annie Segal	Grandmother of Herb Segal	17 Iyar	May 25
Irving Golden	Father of Marjorie Golden-Mossberg	17 Iyar	May 25
Jacob Holin		18 Iyar	May 26
Minnie Berkman	Grandmother of Eleanor Shane	20 Iyar	May 28
Gertrude Chus Stone		20 Iyar	May 28
Beatrice Polsky	Mother of Carol Polsky	20 Iyar	May 28
Solomon Flaum		21 Iyar	May 29
Rachel Rabinowitz		22 Iyar	May 30
Estelle Mossberg	Mother-in-law of Marjorie Golden-Mossberg	22 Iyar	May 30
Chester Nessel	Father of Marsha Hilsenrad	22 Iyar	May 30
Jacob Brettschneider	Second Cousin of Bruce Brettschneider	23 Iyar	May 31
Norman Drazen	Father of Karen Drazen	23 Iyar	May 31
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on May 31 st and June 1 st			
Saul Narotsky	Father of Debbie Stoloff	24 Iyar	June 1
Isaac Moskowitz		24 Iyar	June 1
Norman H. Prague		24 Iyar	June 1
Sophie K. Nessel	Mother of Marsha Hilsenrad	24 Iyar	June 1
Abraham I. Rubinstein		25 Iyar	June 2
Martin Shapiro		25 Iyar	June 2
Helen Berkman	Mother of Eleanor Shane	25 Iyar	June 2
Karma Steinman	Sister of Scott DeShong	25 Iyar	June 2
Leon Brettschneider	Great-Uncle of Bruce Brettschneider	26 Iyar	June 3
Dorothy G. Kirkham	Mother of Sue-Ellen Kirkham	26 Iyar	June 3
Henry Berman	Father of Gary Berman	26 Iyar	June 3
Rebecca Rothblatt Cohen		27 Iyar	June 4
Isaac Rosen		27 Iyar	June 4
Michael Greenfield	Brother-in-Law of Art Kirschenbaum	27 Iyar	June 4
Eva Rosen	Mother of Jerome Rosen	27 Iyar	June 4
Jeffrey DeLuca	Brother-in-law of Grace Adams	27 Iyar	June 4
Anne Miller Sidney	Mother of Stuart Sidney	28 Iyar	June 5
Miriam Milevitz		29 Iyar	June 6
Amber Blumenstein	Sister of Glenn Blumenstein	29 Iyar	June 6



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



May 2024

23 Nisan 5784 - 23 Iyar 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 23 NISAN	2 24 NISAN	3 25 NISAN	4 26 NISAN
			4:45pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Ritual Committee Meeting		 7:31 5:30pm Temple Potluck 6:15pm Shabbat Service	9:30am Bagel & Bible
5 27 NISAN	6 28 NISAN	7 29 NISAN	8 30 NISAN	9 1 IYAR	10 2 IYAR	11 3 IYAR
7:00pm Yom HaShoah Service	 Yom HaShoah		 Rosh Chodesh Iyar 4:45pm Jewish Explorations	 Rosh Chodesh Iyar 7:00pm Intro to Judaism: UConn Hillel	 7:39 6:15pm Jewish Meditation Shabbat	10:00am Nature Shabbat at Mansfield Hollow Dam
12 4 IYAR	13 5 IYAR	14 6 IYAR	15 7 IYAR	16 8 IYAR	17 9 IYAR	18 10 IYAR
	 Yom HaZikaron	 Yom HaAtzma'ut 5:45pm JFEC Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration	BULLETIN DEADLINE 4:45pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Board Meeting		 7:46 7:30pm Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service	10:00am Shabbat Service
19 11 IYAR	20 12 IYAR	21 13 IYAR	22 14 IYAR	23 15 IYAR	24 16 IYAR	25 17 IYAR
5:00pm Jewish Explorations Dinner & Silent Auction				7:00pm Intro to Judaism: UConn Hillel	 7:52 7:30pm Shabbes Dinner	10:00am Shabbat Service
26 18 IYAR	27 19 IYAR	28 20 IYAR	29 21 IYAR	30 22 IYAR	31 23 IYAR	
 Lag BaOmer 10:00am Sandwich-making at Soup Kitchen	 Memorial Day				 7:58 7:30pm Fifth Friday Theme Shabbat: You're the Tsadik	