

# Life at HEVREH

January 1 – February 28, 2019



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# WARM UP WITH SHABBAT at HEVREH

## YACHAD SHABBAT: SIGNS AND MARVELS

**Saturday, January 5 at 10 am**

Religious School families will start the new year with a special Shabbat morning experience together with the congregation. We'll begin the morning with a musical Shabbat service, and interactive Torah reading. On this first Shabbat of 2019, we read parashat Va'era. This week, Moses tries to resist God's call to be the one to save the Israelites from slavery. Eventually, Moses realizes it's on him to step up, and he becomes God's partner in pushing Pharaoh to let the people go. Following services, students will have some time back in their classrooms with teachers while parents stay for Torah study with Rabbi Gordon and student cantor Shani Cohen. We'll wrap up the day together at 12pm with a festive kiddush lunch for everyone! (as a reminder, Yachad Shabbat replaces Religious School for the week, and there will be no Religious School on Sunday, Jan 6th.)

## COMMUNITY SHABBATS

**Friday, January 18, 6:15 pm : "Justice & Joy"**

Join the choirs from Hevreh and Zion Lutheran Church, both led by our esteemed director Amy Renak, for an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat Shira, or the Shabbat of Son. Shabbat Shira marks the reading of parashat Beshlalach, which includes Moses' famous "song of the Seas". Together with student cantor Cohen, our blended choirs will lead us in a musical experience filled with joy, intention and a focus on justice. A delicious Community Shabbat Dinner, hosted by our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade religious school student will immediately follow services.

And don't miss the opportunity to see the two choirs perform again on Sunday, January 20 at the Zion Lutheran Church of Pittsfield at 10 am. It's a chance for our Hevreh members to support our broader religious community and embrace our friends at Zion Lutheran.

**Friday, February 8, 6:15 PM : "The Frozen Chosen"**

In February our Community Shabbat theme is The Frozen Chosen. Come out of the cold and warm up with your Hevreh community at this wintertime Community Shabbat! Led by our 6th and 7th grade religious school classes, as part of services and dinner, we will explore the topic of Chosenness. While some interpretations could be off-putting, this topic invites us to consider what is special and unique, on a personal level, about being a part of the Jewish community.

Community Shabbat features a catered dinner and special abbreviated Shabbat service and is sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Community Shabbat is free and open to the entire Hevreh community. Look for emails to RSVP.



# SHABBAT at HEVREH

<b>Friday, Jan 4</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Jan 5</b>	Yachad Shabbat 10 am Parashat Vaera, Exodus 6:2-9:35
<b>Friday, Jan 11</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Jan 12</b>	Tot Shabbat 9 am Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10am Parashat Bo- Exodus 10:1-13:16
<b>Friday, Jan 18</b>	Shabbat Shira and Community Shabbat 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Jan 19</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Beshalach – Exodus 13:17-17:16
<b>Friday, Jan 25</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Jan 26</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Yitro – Exodus 21:1-24:18
<b>Friday, Feb 1</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Feb 2</b>	Tot Shabbat 9 am Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10am Parashat Mishpatim – Exodus 21:1-24:18
<b>Friday, Feb 8</b>	Community Shabbat 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Feb 9</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Terumah – Exodus 25:1 – 27:19
<b>Friday, Feb 15</b>	Shabbat Service 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Feb 16</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study Parashat Tetzaveh – Exodus 27:20 – 30:10
<b>Friday, Feb 22</b>	Shabbat Service 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, Feb 23</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Ki Tisa – Exodus 30:11- 34:35

Berkshire Minyan meets weekly at Hevreh on Saturday mornings for Shabbat Services at 9:30 am

## CONTACT

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## RABBINIC STAFF

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Jodie Gordon  
*Rabbi and Education Director*

Deborah Zecher  
*Rabbi Emerita*

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Janet Lee  
*Executive Director*

Jodie Friedman  
*Program Associate*

Rebecca Wagner  
*Clergy Assistant*

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FROM THE RABBI

RABBI NEIL P.G. HIRSCH

## October 27 was not the Shabbat anyone was expecting to have.

As I finished Services & Torah Study that Saturday, I made my way back to my study and looked at my cell phone. I had a series of texts from a few family members and friends, all saying the same thing, "Have you seen the news? Are you okay? Have you locked your doors?" My mind went back to the Boston Marathon bombings, having learned of that terrorist attack similarly. I toggled my phone over to the New York Times and Twitter to see the news that morning, learning about the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

It was obvious that we needed to create a space for our members to find sanctuary in reaction to the massacre. We called you together for Havdallah, and about sixty-five of us gathered. We sang together, made Havdallah, and shared some thoughts. I was touched that both the Reverend Janet Zimmerman from Grace Church in Great Barrington and the Reverend Erik Karas from Trinity Church in Sheffield joined us that evening. Others from outside of our Jewish community also sought us out that evening to show their support and solidarity with the Jewish community.

After the weekend, the leaders of our Berkshires Jewish community met, and putting together an interfaith vigil expressing support and care for the victims. All of the rabbis in Berkshire county took part in the service. Many of our Christian colleagues were there. Senator Adam Hinds and a representative from the ADL both addressed the crowd. We chose Knesset Israel because of its location and ability to house as many people as possible. Over 650 were in attendance that evening, and we understand from the Pittsfield police that they turned away at least another 300 people once the synagogue was at capacity. It was powerful to see many of you there, and I am sorry that more were not able to be there in person. It was recorded, and if you have not seen the service, let me know. I will send you a link to the online video.

That week of October 27 was not the week any one was expecting to have. Since then, this shooting has sparked other conversations around the topics of security and fellowship.

Events such as this prompt us within the Hevreh leadership to examine our security practices. We want to make sure that none of us feel vulnerable when at Hevreh. We need to assure the safety of our staff, and we need to do what we can to keep one another safe when we are gathered as a community. We need our children to know that they are as secure as possible whenever they come to their spiritual home. And so, Janet Lee and members of our Board of Trustees are studying our current practices. I thank them for taking on this task, which is both necessary and sacred.

This shooting was both an overt anti-Semitic act and another example of gun violence done to innocent people. It is a movie theater in Colorado, a school in Connecticut, a church in Texas, a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, a hockey game in Nevada, another school in Florida, and now a synagogue in Pennsylvania. We--as Jews--are vulnerable because others identify us as different and threatening. And we--as Americans--who come together in public places are vulnerable because we lack sensible gun control laws. And so while we do what we can to address the physical vulnerability of our synagogue building, I also invite us to consider what we can do around advocacy. In the coming weeks, you will see announcements about the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience conference in Washington DC. We will have a delegation present at the seminar, and hope you'll join us. Or, come get involved in some of our other social action and social justice initiatives.

Pittsburgh also prompted a renewed connection with brothers and sisters from other congregations in our area. Over the last few months, Rabbi Gordon and I have received phone calls and emails from many of our Christian colleagues in the area, expressing their heartbreak and outrage. The First Congregational Church in Stockbridge sent us a letter of solidarity, with personal messages attached. If you haven't seen that letter, take a look at hevreh.org. It's posted there. The Church of Christ Congregational in Norfolk, Connecticut has also reached out to us and has donated a peace pole to our community. On January 20, as part of our religious school YACHAD Day of Service, join us at Hevreh at 11:30 am for a special peace pole dedication. We thank them for this generous gift, and for the chance to come together in fellowship. All are welcome.

The shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue should have never happened. It was a tragedy. And out of that tragedy we also find hope. I hope and pray that you will join us in affirming the fellowship that has emerged out of this sadness, and pray that you continue to be well and be safe.

With Kindness,

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch

# Learning Programs

THURSDAYS  
JANUARY  
10, 17, 24, 31  
FEBRUARY  
7 & 14  
11:30am

## HAVE YOU ALWAYS WISHED YOU COULD CHANT TORAH? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

Learn How to Chant Torah with Rabbi Gordon. This weekly class will introduce you to Trope, the melodic punctuation system that teaches us how to chant sacred text from Torah aloud. We'll focus on achieving proficiency in the names and melodies of the t'amim (trope signs) with the goal of being able to chant Torah on Shabbat! Basic Hebrew reading proficiency is recommended. If you are interested in participating in this weekly class, please be in touch with Rabbi Gordon for more information!

WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY  
30  
11:45am

## HOW TO TELL YOUR OWN STORY IN A MEANINGFUL WAY

Back for an encore session, join professional filmmakers and storytellers from Rising Moon Productions for a fun and informative program about how to tell your own story. Storytelling is a big part of our tradition as people. For tens of thousands of years, it has been the way we pass our collective wisdom down from one generation to the next. What story do you want to tell your children that they will want to share with their children?

WEDNESDAYS  
FEBRUARY  
6, 13, 20 & 27  
11:45am

## WEEKLY LUNCH N' LEARN TORAH STUDY BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

Mark your calendars, and come join in some study together.

Our tradition teaches that when two (or more) sit together, and discuss words of Torah, God dwells with them. Study is one of the many ways we as a Jewish community experience the sacred and the spiritual. And so, we're introducing regular, weekly study (outside of Shabbat) again at Hevreh. To begin, we will study the early books of the Prophets.

Rabbi Hirsch will lead the conversation. In our first sessions we'll also discuss the best modalities for learning for this group.

If you're not in the Berkshires and would like to take part, technology can help with that. We have the capability to make these classes available via video conference or conference call. Just reach out to Rabbi Hirsch to find out how to join remotely.

For any more information, email Rabbi Hirsch at nhirsch@hevreh.org.

See you on Wednesday, February 6 for our new Lunch n' Learn!

## #HEVREH TAKES TO FLORIDA!

As in past years, for those who winter in Florida, we like to gather our community together. It's the chance to catch up with good friends, engage in some Torah study, and hear about what we've been up to back in the Berkshires and at Hevreh. Rabbi Hirsch is looking forward to catching up with everyone there!

### West Coast

Saturday, January 26 - Shabbat Lunch & Learning

Location and Time TBA. Please watch your email for details.

RSVP to ...

### East Coast

Sunday, January 27, 11:00 AM - Brunch & Learning

Location: The Home of Sheila Drill and David Davis in Palm Beach Gardens

RSVP to Sharon Hotchkiss at scwpb@comcast.net



# HEVREH HAPPENINGS

Sunday, January 27, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

## ROSH CHODESH – TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Rosh Chodesh will be doing something new this year. Julie Gale will be putting together a Tu B'Shevav Seder, an ecological holiday that reminds us of our connection to the earth and our important role as caretakers of the environment, at her home in Hillsdale, NY. This seder is not a meal, but tasty snacks that from the trees. Hopefully many of you will join in the experience. Please RSVP to Julie at [atthekitchentable@fairpoint.net](mailto:atthekitchentable@fairpoint.net) and she will assign you something to bring. Directions will be sent out to those who are attending.

SAVE THE DATE: Our next will be on Wednesday, March 6 with a presentation by Rabbi Gordon that combines art and spirituality. The evening will be hosted by Molly Sheriff at her home in Great Barrington. If you are interested and not on the Rosh Chodesh email list, please let Michèle Krieg Bauer know at [talktome8888@gmail.com](mailto:talktome8888@gmail.com).



Tuesday, February 5, 2019

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: GATHERING OF CZECH TORAH SCROLLS

### A PROCESSION OF SCROLLS EVENT

Marking the opening of The Guiding Hand, Torah Pointers Past and Present, an exhibition at Temple Emanu-El's Bernard Museum in New York City, in partnership with the Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST) of London, a procession of Czech scrolls that survived the Holocaust will take place. As the custodian of Torah Scroll number 759 from a synagogue in Rychnov nad Keznau, Hevreh congregants are invited and encouraged to attend this historic event. Scrolls from all over New England will be held by their congregants in celebration of the 1564 scrolls that were saved.



Saturday, February 16, 7:00 pm

## EGG CREAM EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The Berkshires' Jewish Festival of Books and The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival are pleased to be collaborating on an Egg Cream Eggstravaganza. We will begin with a screening of the short film "Egg Cream" by Nora Clair Miller, Peter Miller and Amy Linton. It's a bittersweet look at memory, history and the enduring meaning of a beloved chocolate soda drink born on the Jewish Lower East Side which contains neither eggs nor cream. Following the screening, we will be joined by author Barry Joseph, via video, for a taste of his book Seltzeropia: The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary Drink, which he will be presenting on the opening night of the Hevreh's book festival on Thursday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m. The book will be available for advance purchase at the February event. Great Barrington Bagel in Great Barrington will be offering an egg cream special the week of February 16 to benefit the Hevreh's Jewish Festival of Books.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 and RSVP's are requested. Please call the Hevreh office to let us know you are coming, 413-528-6378.



# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

For our Littlest Learners

## Tot Shabbat

SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 12 AND  
FEBRUARY 2  
AT 9 AM

Start your Saturday with joyful Shabbat singing, movement, storytelling, and more! Rabbi Gordon, Rabbi Hirsch and student cantor Shani Cohen (and their special pals, Shluffy the Sloth and Barak-y Raccoon) look forward sharing Shabbat together with you and your family each month. As always, we welcome interfaith families, GLBTQ families, nursing moms, babies and siblings of all ages, grandparents and special people, new members, first timers, neighbors and friends.

Sunday, February 10 at 10:15 am

## TINY TALMIDIM

Tiny Talmidim is a wonderful way for families to experience living on Jewish time, together. This parent-child program is an interactive time of Jewish learning, activities, and snacks that is most appropriate for preschool-aged children or younger who are able to sit through a story and participate in activities. Teacher Terri Sash engages children and families in hands-on learning that is joyful, meaningful, and fun! Questions? Be in touch!

For Kindergarten through 7th grade Students

Sunday, January 20, 10 am

## Yachad Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year, as we mark our 5th Annual Day of Service to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we will turn our attention to the relationships and partnerships with our local interfaith community. Visit [hevreh.org/calendar](http://hevreh.org/calendar) for updated information on timing.



Sunday, February 10 at 10:15 am

## WHO'S READY FOR SUMMER 2019?

Hevreh is proud to support our religious school students by offering modest scholarships to any URJ Summer Camp or summer program. Scholarship Applications are available online at <https://hevreh.org/learning/youth-family-life/> or by contacting Jodie Friedman at [jfriedman@hevreh.org](mailto:jfriedman@hevreh.org). All applications must be submitted by Feb 15th in order to be considered.

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Programs for Hevreh Teens

Saturday, February 2-3

#### ANNUAL HOTY SHUL-IN

Come for dinner, stay for breakfast. Hevreh's senior youth group, HoTY, is planning our yearly overnight event where we'll eat, hang out, and usher in Havdallah together. All 8-12 graders are welcome, be on the lookout for more information as we get closer!

Sunday, February 10, 12:45-2:45 pm

#### MADRICHIM TRAINING

For our second madrichim training of the year, we'll focus on how our leadership in the classroom translates to our Jewishness outside temple. Madrichim are expected to contact Jodie Friedman if they are unable

Rehearsal begins Sunday, January 13 at 9:00 am.

#### PURIMSHPEIL

Check the Religious School calendar or the Hevreh website for the full rehearsal schedule.

Shabbat Send off,  
Friday, February 15 at 6:15 pm.

#### L'Hitraot, Pre-Confirmation!

Our Friday night service will include a special "Leich L'Shalom" – travel in peace to our pre-confirmation students heading to Israel with Rabbi Gordon on Saturday, February 16. They will be spending a week traveling through Jerusalem, Afula Gilboa and Tel Aviv. You can follow their journey on Hevreh's Facebook page.

### A TEEN'S RESPONSE TO PITTSBURG SHOOTING

by Liat Friedman

On October 27th, 2018, 11 people were shot in Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That is the event summarized in one sentence. However, there are so many stories to be heard about this devastation to the Jewish community, including that of Jews all over the world and that of the shooter himself. This is my story and my thoughts of the events.

I wasn't aware of the event when it happened because I was in temple myself. I was at a bat mitzvah in New York City and the rabbi said just before the Kaddish that he was informed of the shooting. At the time, I didn't think much of it since we continued with the service and with the celebration that followed. It wasn't until the afternoon when I began to scroll through my social media that I realized the magnitude of what happened. Upon seeing post after post of condolences, I realized that that could have been me at services that morning. As a teen living in the Berkshires, it's hard for me to imagine that there is so much anti-Semitism in this very country. It's also appalling because it seems like these kinds of events are in the past. African American slavery in the U.S., the Holocaust, and other similar events of genocide are long into the past; I am free to be a Jew in this country and I'm a citizen and I can vote like a person of any other faith. However, the country still has so far to go. If something isn't done about the people in the country like the shooter at Tree of Life, those events could very well be the future. That's why people need to speak up and make the Jewish people heard.

Although I was deeply saddened about what occurred at Tree of Life, I was happy to see how many people were responding to the tragedy. It's times like these that make me the most proud to be Jewish because when one Jewish community is affected, the greater Jewish community is affected. This is a value called "Kol Yisrael arevim zeh l'zeh", meaning that all of Israel is responsible for one another. We are connected not just by our religion, but also by our culture, heritage, and our hearts.

No one can tell for certain what the future of the Jewish people is. All I can say is that we have made it through years of anti semitism. We have gone through the exile of the Babylonians, the Persians, the Spanish Inquisition, and many more...and we're still here. What I think the young Jews of the world need to do is keep participating in programs like NFTY (part of the Jewish Reform movement for teens). Also, aim to stay Jewish and raise your kids Jewish. The only way to keep this amazing worldwide community going is to make sure others know how amazing it is to be Jewish, in whatever way that means to you.

**This column** has traditionally been written by Hevreh's President but at a recent executive Committee, Suzanne Sawyer suggested that perhaps it should be rotated among the Executive Committee members both for variety and so that the congregation may become familiar with us. I volunteered to be the first.

The suggested topic was why do service for Hevreh, but perhaps the better question is why not? In my prior life on Manhattan's Upper West Side after many years of attending regular Friday night services and the alternate lay led minyan we held on Shabbat morning, I was asked to join the Board. Those were difficult times as we continued to struggle with financial difficulties on a sometimes contentious board. A couple of years later our much beloved long term Rabbi announced his retirement and I became a member of the Search Committee.

After seven years I retired from that board and years later my wife and I moved to Great Barrington and joined Hevreh, a much different, very soulful and welcoming synagogue. It was a place we could not resist and Rabbi Zecher magnetically drew us in. We soon became fairly regular Shabbat worshippers and participated in many other activities offered. After my wife completed her 500 hours of yoga teaching certification at Kripalu, Rabbi Zecher suggested that she teach at Hevreh and the Wednesday morning 10:30 gentle yoga class (open to all but geared towards seniors) began. If you are interested, give it a try.

Lunch and Learn, on Wednesday mornings following yoga, taught by both Rabbi Zecher and our Associate Rabbi Andrew Klein kept us in the building. We are both looking forward to Rabbi Hirsch's continuation of this tradition in the immediate future and to other educational programs taught by the Rabbis and others in the future.

"I serve out of a sense of gratitude for what Hevreh gives me, first and foremost a warm, inviting locus for my spiritual needs..."

When Rabbi Zecher announced her retirement I asked to become involved in the search process and as that process successfully concluded I was asked to join the board. Very recently I was asked to fill a Vice Presidential vacancy.

I serve out of a sense of gratitude for what Hevreh gives me, first and foremost a warm, inviting locus for my spiritual needs (I do feel a deep sense of relief from the week when I walk in

on Shabbat evenings or mornings for services). The feelings of friendship and caring in this synagogue are palpable. It feels like family.

But Hevreh is not self-sustaining unless we are willing to participate in its governance. We are in the process of building an Early Childhood Center, which will help fill a serious void in our community and become an avenue of growth for the synagogue. We are

reconstituting a number of our committees and are looking for volunteers who may wish to serve. A call to one of the Rabbis or to Janet in the office is a start. Hevreh has financial needs as well, as we look to expand our programming, tighten our security, install a new sound system and begin to take a serious look at our building as it enters its third decade.

I hope that all of us can agree that Hevreh is unique for many reasons. For the past thirty-five years synagogue life has been of great significance to me. Without it, both in good times and in less good times, my life would be significantly different. Thus gratitude drives me to service. Obviously not all feel this way, but each of us has very personal reasons for belonging here. We on the Executive Committee and on the various existing committees hope that many more of you will see service to Hevreh not only as an obligation but as a genuine growth opportunity and, frankly, if you can do more financially the synagogue will continue to thrive and grow.

John Lipkowitz, *Vice President*

## TREASURERS REPORT

As I write this, 7 months into the fiscal year, income and expense numbers appear in line with budget projections. The Finance Committee is about to begin its work on the 2019-2020 budget. With no extraordinary budget issues to write about at the moment, I thought I would use my space to again express thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for all their work addressing Hevreh's finances and budget. Thanks to their ongoing dedication, our meetings are always interesting and efficiently productive. Special thanks to Janet Lee, our Executive Director, for her tireless work preparing reports and staying on top of and ahead of financial and budget issues. **Finally, thanks to all Hevreh members who continue to generously support Hevreh so we can continue to thrive.**

Alan Kaufman, *Hevreh Treasurer*

**Since Winter is upon us**, so we thought it appropriate to take a cruise through the Hevreh Library. A winter walk reveals some of the many categories our books are listed under. Here is just a sampling; come and discover what other categories are here.

As you enter the Library, on the north wall, you will see shelves with Bible, Bible Commentary, Rabbinic Text, Philosophy and Ethics. Spirituality, Life in America, Jewish History in the USA appear, followed by Cookbooks, Holidays and Israel. Windows facing east, with a view of lawn and trees, light up the room. Round the corner to 10 shelves of Literature, followed by Jewish World History, Holocaust, Biography, and Reference, the latter not to be taken out, but great for a winter afternoon where you can sit with exceptional minds and study Torah. Conclude your tour with a wall of children's books—Picture Books, Read Aloud, Holidays, Young Adult, and Parenting.

Here is a sampling from some of these categories: Under Rabbinic Text, an extraordinary volume, *Printing the Talmud: A History of the Earliest Printed Editions of the Talmud* by Marvin J. Heller. This is a big and beautiful book, with 97 large plates, all in black and white, that trace the history of the Talmud from the first Spanish and Italian editions in the 15th century to the last Polish editions of the mid-17th century. A book to flip through and decode, as you follow the fascinating journey of awesome printings through the centuries.

The four shelves on Israel contain history, biography, politics, glorious picture books and oversized texts. If you can't make a trip to Israel this winter take a virtual tour of the country, sit in the sunshine and dream yourself away to the land of dates and oranges.

Browsing is encouraged in our Literature section. Authors from Agnon to Zusak are sure to provide intriguing reading of fiction and poetry.

Our Holocaust collection is one of the best. We have history, biography, and documents, some familiar, others little-known. One treasure of this section is *Vichy France and the Jews* by Michael Marrus and Robert Paxton. This landmark study is "the definitive account of a dark chapter in recent French history and a major contribution to the history of the Jewish tragedy in wartime Europe," according to historian Walter Laqueur.

This fascinating account speaks volumes for our present day.

Return to the shelves of Jewish World History, where award winning author Simon Schama tells *The Story of the Jews: Finding the Words 1000 BC — 1492 AD*.

As the book jacket states, "It is a story like no other: an epic of endurance in the face of destruction, of creativity in the face of oppression, joy amidst grief, the affirmation of life despite the steepest of odds." This is a fabulous book to conclude your journey through the shelves of the Hevreh Library. Here is just a sampling of the riches to be found. We invite you to spend the dark winter days traveling the pages of our collection.

Library Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, 11:00. All are welcome.

Sharon Flitterman-King, Ph.D.  
*Library Committee Co-Chair*

## TO BORROW A BOOK

You must sign the book card with your name and phone number.

If you do not write on Shabbat you may clip a business card to the book card.

*Please return books promptly.*

## NEW BOOKS RECENTLY ADDED

*Dear Zealots*  
by Amos Oz

Amos Oz writes about the role of fanaticism in the modern world and its effects on the survival of Israel today.

*The Chosen Wars*  
by Steven R. Weisman

The Chosen Wars is a history of the Jews in the U.S. from Colonial days to the present including the Civil War and the mass migration in the late nineteenth century.



Save the date for next year's Jewish Festival of Books - July 18-21, 2019

## HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL ADDITIONAL DONORS

Thank you to those who have contributed to the High Holy Day Appeal since our last bulletin listing.

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Rachel Shapiro  
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Roberta Silman

## ONEG SPONSORS

Thank you to all those congregants and committee members that have helped to provide onegs after our Friday night Shabbat services. We are grateful to all of you for keeping this long standing tradition at Hevreh going. We are always in need of sponsors. If you are celebrating a simcha or honoring a loved one, please consider sponsoring an oneg.

Gail Grollman  
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Suzanne and Tom Sawyer

## SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM DONORS

Thank you for "hearing" our call for help

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Stephen & Elaine Mack  
Robert Nason & Lisa Sloane  
Amy Richman & Jim Caron  
Martin & Shelley Rolf  
Elizabeth & Eugene Rosenberg  
Sue Rudd  
Ben & Elaine Silberstein  
Michael & Arlene Symons  
Lori Thaler-Cohen & Rob Cohen  
Susan and Sydney Weinstein



# DONATIONS

## CARING COMMUNITY

Elie and Marilyn Katzman

## BUILDING PRESERVATION

Gail Grollman

*In memory of Rik Kabel's uncle, Daniel Kabel*

## CARING COMMUNITY

Elie and Marilyn Katzman

*In celebration of Shira Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah*

Linda and Bob Noonan

*In memory of Gertrude Moskowitz, mother of Linda Noonan*

The Pratt Family

*In Memory of Matt Mozian's father, Paul Mozian*

Barry and Carol Beyer

*In memory of Matt Mozian's father, Paul Mozian*

Carole Landau

*In honor of the birth of Miles, grandson of Helice and Steve Picheny*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Debra and Benjamin Freund

*In memory of Estelle Wolk*

## GENERAL FUND

Elise and Michael Richman

*In celebration of Roz and Ed Kolodny's wedding anniversary*

Agnes Cardoni

*In memory of all those lost in the Tree of Life shooting*

Sharon Wiles

*In celebration of the birth of Ziva Lydia, Sharon Wiles' granddaughter*

Joan and Larry Kleinman

*In memory of Berni Schur*

Bonnie Saks & Bradley Minnen

*In memory of Bonnie's father, Seymour Saks For Hevreh*

Elletra and Ken Rosen

*In celebration of their wedding*

Toby Levine

*In celebration of Howard and Judy Levin's 50th Anniversary*

Kathy Ward

*In Memory of Stanley & Rebecca Marcus*

## HEVRA KADISH

Sustiel Family

*In memory of Andrew Sustiel*

Marion Adler

## LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

Carole Landau

*In honor of the birth of Eli, Heidi Katz's grandson*

Carol and Don Welsch

*In honor of Gail Natoli's conversion*

## MADRICH YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Maurice and Judy Joseph

*Thanking the Caring Community, Shelley Rolf and Hevreh Kids for their concern and blanket*

Tom & Susan Sawyer

*In honor of Janet Lee & Jodie Friedman for their help preparing for Shira's Bat Mitzvah*

Sharon Hotchkiss

*In celebration of the birth of Miles Zion, Helice and Steve Picheny's grandson*

## MUSIC FUND

Dr and Mrs. Martin Zweifler

*In celebration of Alan Binder's 70th birthday*

Wendy Robbins

*In celebration of Shira Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah*

Tom and Suzanne Sawyer

*In honor of Shani Cohen's musical presence at Shira's Bat Mitzvah*

## RABBI GORDON DISCRETIONARY

Tom and Suzanne Sawyer

*In celebration of Shira Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah*

## RABBI HIRSCH DISCRETIONARY

Linda and Bob Noonan

*In memory of Gertrude Moskowitz, mother of Linda Noonan*

Tom & Suzanne Sawyer

*In celebration of Shira Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah*

Carol & Steve Noble

*In celebration of Abigail Noble & Paulo Caserta's marriage*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Tom and Suzanne Sawyer

*In honor of Betsy Gross and Joan Goldberg Munch helping with Shira's Bat Mitzvah*

Barry & Carol Beyer

*In celebration of Ben Gross' Bar Mitzvah*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Toby Woodard

*In celebration of Gail Natoli's conversion and special birthday*

Carole Landau

*In honor of a speedy recovery to Mel Greenberg*

*In honor of the birth of Eliza, great-granddaughter of Anne Schnesel*

## S'MACHOT

### A huge Mazel Tov goes out to...

Amy and Ken Arlein on their grandson Nate becoming a Bar Mitzvah and their granddaughter Sophie becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Beth and Julian Gott on their grandson becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Brian and Karen Grossman on their daughters Evie and Aria becoming Bat Mitzvahs

Jeff Rothenberg and Sarah Feldman on the birth their daughter, Rose

Suzanne and Tom Sawyer on their daughter Shira becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Betsy Gross on her son Ben becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Cindy and Chip Elizter on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Monroe

Jeff Blaugrund on being elected to the Southern Berkshire School Board

Susan Harper Weinstein on being elected Vice President of Great Barrington's People Plantry.

## SORROWS

### Our heartfelt Condolences go out to...

Rik and Janice Kabel on the passing of Rik's uncle, Daniel

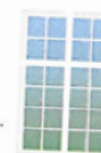
Martin and Sharon Lewis on the passing of Martin's mother, Ruth Lewis

Rebecca Wagner & her family on the passing of her father, Richard Wagner

Robin and Peter Goldberg, on the passing of Robin's uncle, Ed Botwin

Ed Abrahams, Lily and Anna on the passing of Ed's father, Donald Abrahams

Melanie and Joel Levitan on the passing of Melani'es father, Jerome Weiss



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To our Friends at Hevreh,

Our hearts and minds go out to you in these tragic and fear laden times. We sit with you in compassion and solidarity and stand ready to serve in any way we can. In the face of things beyond our understanding, in the space of time that rends the heart we, like you turn to God in prayer.

We offer these two prayers in solidarity and in hope. We offer them in faith in the God who hears the cries of the people and responds in love and grace. May they be a source of comfort and a reminder of our ties as neighbor.

The first is a prayer from our shared treasure the Psalms. They are words from the beginning and ending of Psalm 30 (verses 1-2 & 11-12):

*I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.*

*You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.*

The second is from a treasure of our local church, Reinhold Niebuhr. It is a prayer that is a touchstone and guidepost for us on our faith journey. We hope it brings blessings to you too.

*Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;  
therefore we must be saved by hope.  
Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;  
therefore we must be saved by faith.  
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;  
therefore we must be saved by love.  
No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint.  
Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.*

May God pour out blessings upon you in waterfalls of tenderness. With love, the people of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Stockbridge.

*Elizabeth Young: You are not alone: never again.  
Cinn & Liz Murray - Our prayers are with you.*

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Sunday, May 19 through Tuesday, May 21

## CONSULTATION ON CONSCIENCE 2019

Consultation on Conscience is a conference for the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, held over three days in Washington, D.C. This is a powerful opportunity to learn about the intersection of social justice and Jewish values. The conference empowers the Reform Jewish Movement through leadership development; opportunities for network and community building; and active dialogue culminating in an afternoon of advocacy on Capitol Hill. In 2017, over 800 people gathered together. This year, they expect at least 1,000 participants.

Two years ago, twelve of us from Hevreh went. We are putting together a wonderful delegation again. If you would like to join us for this important trip, there is currently a discount for registration.

Reach out to Michele Krieg-Bauer (talktome8888@ymail.com) to learn more or to sign up today.

## HAMENTASHEN PROJECT

It takes a village to make the thousands of Hamentashen that roll out of Knesset Israel's kitchen every winter. This year the combined forces of Knesset Israel's bakers, the late Joe Madison's friends from the Monday Morning Mountain Boys, Federation volunteers (adults and campers), and Knesset Israel Hebrew School students will meet every Sunday morning 9:30 to noon and every Thursday evening 5:30 to 8:00 from January 20th until February 28th to fill Knesset Israel with the warmth of volunteering and the wonderful aroma of just baked cookies.

If you are would like to volunteer to help, please contact Cindy Helitzer at chelitzer2012@gmail.com or call (413) 499-1202 or Susan Frisch Lehrer at slehrer@jewishberkshires.org or (413)442-4360 X 14.

Prepaid orders will be available for pick up at Hevreh on Monday March 18 and Tuesday March 19 from noon- 4:00 pm. Other locations are in north and mid county as well. Order forms are available at Hevreh or online at Hevreh.org.

Monday, January 28, 7 pm  
**HEVREH HIPSTERS: WE DON'T ROLL ON SHABBAS**  
 Beat the winter blues with your favorite millennial Jews, bowling at The Cove in Great Barrington. \$10 to bowl, \$15 for bowling and pizza. Contact Jodie Friedman (jfriedman@hevreh.org) to get on the Hevreh Hipsters mailing list.

## Ritual Committee: Shabbat 360 is coming soon...

The Ritual Committee is excited to launch Shabbat 360, an initiative for individual, family and communal exploration of Shabbat. We will be reaching out to every Hevreh member (online, in discussion groups or one-on-one – whatever best suits your style) before the 2019 High Holidays, to get to know, "How Do You Do Shabbat?" Your thoughts and stories will help enhance our community Shabbat experience. Stay tuned for further details.

Co-chairs Carol Beyer and Heidi Katz

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has recently taken on new leadership, with Julie Gale, Debbie Harris and Shelley Rolf as co-chairs. We would like to begin by thanking Molly Sheriff and Cheryl Binder for their stewardship of the committee over the past four years.

We see our mission as three pronged:

- Recruiting new members
- Engaging all existing members
- Retaining current members

One of the first changes we have made is bring the Caring Community under the aegis of Membership. The familiar caring notes will continue, but we are also looking into ways to bring issues of both joy and concern to all congregants in a timely manner while still respecting the privacy desires of those concerned.

Our first major strategic goal is to identify ways to engage all members. To this end, we believe it is necessary to allow members to have an ownership interest in where the congregation is going with the ultimate goal of building leaders in the Hevreh community. Our tactics in this regard will initially be centered on holding events where people can meet each other and exchange ideas and stories. We also hope, where appropriate, to partner with other committees.

In this regard, we are hoping to plan a Super Bowl Party and looking for a Hevreh member to host, preferably with a fairly large screen TV. The Super Bowl is on February 3, and all ideas and offers to help are most welcome. Committee members will help plan the event, if you are willing to open your home. If you are interested please contact Debbie Harris at witchdeb@gmail.com.

Co Chairs Julie Gale, Debbie Harris and Shelley Rolf

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