

# Life at HEVREH

March 1 – April 30, 2019



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# WARM UP PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, March 20 at 6 pm

## HEVREH'S PERFECT PURIMSHPIEL-SHPIEL

All are invited to attend Hevreh's 2019 confirmation class original shpiel production. A hilarious behind the scenes farce that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Our Purimshpiel, performed by our Confirmation, is under the creative leadership of a new director, Joshua Briggs and our always fabulous accompanist, Amy Renak.

Graggers and noisemakers will be provided and delicious hamantaschen will be served following the show. This event is suited for all ages.



Sunday, March 24 at 12:00 pm

## PURIM CARNIVALOPOLY: PASS GO, COLLECT PRIZES!

Hevreh's annual Purim Carnival is sure to be a spectacular event complete with thimbles, irons, and old shoes...but more importantly, games, prizes, face painting, and more! Our seventh and eighth grade students, teachers and parents are hard at work to create a spectacular event. The proceeds will be combined with our student's yearlong tzedakah collection, donated to a designee at the end of the semester.

All families with children under 5 are invited to join us at 11:45 am, doors open at noon. Admission is free and open to the entire community. Food and game tickets will be available for purchase. Costumes are encouraged and prizes will be awarded.



FROM THE RABBI

RABBI JODIE GORDON

### "It is a tree of life for those who hold fast to it." (Proverbs 3:18)

I've been thinking a lot lately about the power of this metaphor. The proverbial voice reminds us that Torah is a life-giving force: with deep roots and strong, endless branches, it enlivens all who cling to it. It's a beautiful image to be sure: when I picture it, I see the stories of those first human families of Genesis as our roots. The tree grows upward, with the stories of Exodus and of our hard-won freedom as the sturdy trunk of our tree, the years of wandering B'midbar, in the wilderness as our branches as our story evolves and reaches forward toward the laws and the stories of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

It was this image I had in mind last month, when I had the honor of attending a very special gathering at Temple Emanu-El in New York, organized by the Memorial Scrolls Trust based in London. For over thirty years, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire has been the guarantor of a Sefer Torah as part of the Memorial Scrolls Trust. Our Torah, Scroll #759 is one of over 1500 Torah scrolls that were recovered after World War II, having been taken by the Nazis for use in a museum that they planned to call the "Museum of an Extinct Race." Our scroll comes originally from a town called Rychnov nad Kněžnou, which is a small town, about 150km away from Prague. What we know about our Torah scroll only scratches at the surface of the stories of that Jewish community in Rychnov nad Kněžnou.

The event at Temple Emanu-El was one of the largest gatherings of Czech Torah scrolls in the fifty years of the Memorial Scrolls Trust existence, and truly, it was a remarkable reunion. The event was created to celebrate the opening of a new museum exhibit on Torah yads (pointers); what better way to celebrate than with a collection of Torahs? Hevreh member Michael Shocket was instrumental in coordinating Hevreh's participation in this event. He is currently working on a very special documentary for Hevreh about our particular scroll and I am most grateful to him for his enthusiasm and dedication to the project.

Of the original cache of scrolls (1500+ Torahs), over 1000 are in North America today, with the rest having found homes in more than 25 different Jewish communities around the world. The gathering at Temple Emanu-El was for all of the communities in the Northeast who have these Torah scrolls, and the event organizers were amazed by the response of more than seventy communities which committed to coming and bringing their Torah for the processional. As the director of the Trust, Jeffrey Ohrenstein noted, it was the first time these scrolls, which all come from Bohemia & Moravia (now the Czech Republic) had been together in the seventy years since they were rescued after the war. The collation of these scrolls together was a remarkable sight: each one a little different, garbed in their special ceremonial covers, some quite large, others quite small. As I watched the processional of these Torahs carried lovingly by each community, I thought of the generations of Jews before us who had carried these scrolls- and especially of the Jews of Rychnov nad Kněžnou, who probably would never have imagined that one day their own Torah would bring Jewish learning alive in Great Barrington, MA. Our community should feel quite proud of the love and effort we have put into ensuring that our Torah, scroll #759 remains kosher and usable; we are one of a minority in that we read from this Torah each and every week, and that every student who becomes Bar/Bat Mitzvah here reads from it as well.

Torah, is truly a tree of life to those who hold it fast. This is not just a metaphor. As we continue to bring it to life, I would encourage all who are interested to learn more about our particular Torah's roots, by visiting [www.memorialscrollstrust.org](http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org)

Fondly,

*Rabbi Jodie Gordon*

# SHABBAT at HEVREH

<b>Friday, March 1</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, March 2</b>	Yachad Shabbat 10 am Parashat Vayakhel: Exodus 35:1 - 38:20
<b>Friday, March 8</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, March 9</b>	Tot Shabbat 9 am Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10am Parashat Pekudei: Exodus 38:21 - 40:38
<b>Friday, March 15</b>	Shabbat Service 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, March 16</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Vayikra: Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26
<b>Friday, March 22</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, March 23</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Tzav: Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36
<b>Friday, March 29</b>	Shabbat Services 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, March 30</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10am Parashat Shmini: Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47
<b>Friday, April 5</b>	Shabbat Service with Reverend Erik Karas 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, April 6</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Hagigat Torah: A Celebration of Torah Parashat Tazria: Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59
<b>Friday, April 12</b>	Shabbat Service 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, April 13</b>	Tot Shabbat 9 am Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Parashat Metzora: Leviticus 14:1 - 15:33
<b>Friday, April 19</b>	Shabbat Service 6:15 pm
<b>Saturday, April 20</b>	Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10 am Shabbat shel Pesach: Exodus 12:21-51, Numbers 28:16-25

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## RABBINIC STAFF

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*Rabbi*

Jodie Gordon  
*Rabbi and Education Director*

Deborah Zecher  
*Rabbi Emerita*

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# SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS & LEARNING

FRIDAY  
 APRIL 5  
 6:15pm

## SING IT! GUEST SERMON FROM REV. ERIK KARAS

### Shabbat Service

Rev. Erik Karas is the Pastor and Rector of Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield. Christ Trinity is a combined Episcopal and Lutheran congregation. This combined congregation is an excellent fit for Erik as he has spent many of his 20 years in ministry involved in both ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Prior to serving in Sheffield, Erik served a combined church in Augusta, Maine where he worked closely with the neighboring synagogue particularly in the area of refugee welcoming, care and advocacy as more and more Iraqi and Syrian refugees moved to Augusta.

Prior to the ministry, Pastor Erik was a food scientist and worked for The Coca-Cola Company where he was known as "Dr. Slurpee" for his product development work in frozen beverages. Pastor Erik lives in Sheffield with his wife Kelly who is a JetBlue flight attendant. Their oldest daughter is currently teaching English in South Korea and their younger daughter is a junior at the University of Maine, majoring in Social Work.

The sermon is entitled Sing It! It uses Hannah's Song from 1 Samuel 2: 1-10 as the text and it explores the idea that the world around us has a "soundtrack" which is all too often a dark, disempowering and disheartening song. That song plays in our heads and hearts almost unconsciously, but it affects how we live in the world. Hannah, coming out of the Temple, chose to sing a different song! She sang it right out loud into the face of that darkness. And it turns out that her song of life and light is more powerful than the world's song of darkness for one key reason.

saturday  
 APRIL 6  
 10:00am

## HAGIGAT TORAH: A CELEBRATION OF TORAH

Join us for Shabbat morning services and Torah study. Our Torah Trope class will be chanting Torah in celebration of their learning of Torah cantillation.

FRIDAY  
 APRIL 26  
 6:15am

## PESACH YIZKOR & MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION

Friday, April 26, 6:15 am

Each year, during our Festival Services and at Yom Kippur, our community comes together to remember our departed loved ones through the brief service known as Yizkor. When we come together at Passover for Yizkor, we also dedicated those plaques on our memorial wall that have been installed since last Passover. Please join us for this touching tribute, and then stay for Friday Shabbat evening services.

If you would like to have a plaque installed for a loved one, please be in touch with Janet Lee at jlee@hevreh.org.

wednesdays  
 MARCH &  
 APRIL  
 11:45am

## LUNCH N' LEARN – THE BOOK OF JUDGES

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. Last month, we re-introduced this regular, weekday study into the flow of our life at Hevreh. Come and join us in this regular practice. Rabbi Hirsch is leading the conversation, and everyone around the table has so much to give.

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.

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS



SATURDAY,  
MARCH 9 AND APRIL  
13, 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, March 3, at 0:00 am

## Yachad Interfaith Intergenerational Day of Service - Rescheduled

Hevreh's religious school, along with members of the Hevreh Choir, will be joining the Zion Lutheran Church congregation in Pittsfield, 74 First St, for a morning of interfaith community building through worship, song, service, and food. This event was rescheduled due to snow. Families are asked to bring a new, unopened package of adult socks.

If you would like to carpool to Zion Lutheran Church from Great Barrington, please meet in the Hevreh parking lot promptly at 9:30am.

## CONSULTATION ON CONSCIOUSNESS

It is not too late to register and join fellow congregants in Washington for this special program.

Sunday, March 24 and April 28, 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!

Sunday, April 7, at 10:15 am

## YACHAD PASSOVER: CHOCOLATE SEDERPALOOZA!

Our 5th Annual Yachad Passover will give families the opportunity to dive into the fun of Passover Seder prep with an interactive Exodus storylab, chocolate matzah making, and more! Adults and students will have time for their own learning, before we conclude the day together with a chocolate seder (think: 4 cups of chocolate milk, and more!) If you are able to volunteer for set up or shopping, please be in touch with Jodie Friedman at [jfriedman@hevreh.org](mailto:jfriedman@hevreh.org)

Sunday, May 5, 10am

## SAVE THE DATE: YACHAD YOM HA'ATZMAUT ISRAEL CARNIVAL

## BAT MITZVAH OF ALIZA MUNCH

### Alizia will be called the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 30, 10am

Hi! My name is Aliza Munch and I am in seventh grade at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School. I live in Lenox, MA with my parents, Joan and Robert, and my two older brothers, Jacob and Daniel. I am an avid athlete, having played junior varsity soccer in the fall. I also play baseball, basketball, ski, swim, climb, along with any other sport you can name. Whenever I'm not involved in a sport, I enjoy performing on stage; I have been acting for about five years now. Between all these activities, I also enjoy reading (especially historical and realistic fiction) and hanging out with friends, whether after school, on a snow day or on the weekends. I am also very dedicated to music, being a member of the middle school chorus at school, and the Western Massachusetts Junior Districts Chorus. I also play trombone in middle school band and high school jazz band.

My Torah portion is Shimini in the book of Leviticus. Along with having many rules on how to keep kosher, my Torah portion tells the tale of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu who present an offering to God. Due to the fact that God had not requested this offering, he strikes the young men down on the spot.

For my mitzvah project, I have chosen to help teens at Boston's Children's Hospital. Both my brothers and I, along with friends and neighbors have received exceptional care at Boston Children's. When I was personally receiving outpatient care there, I felt a real sense of security and trust. I would like to help other teenagers feel the same way. In order to achieve that, I encourage everyone to donate one or more of the following items: Amazon and Target \$10 gift cards, pajama pants, earbuds, teen art kits, Boston sports teams clothing/gear, portable phone chargers and mini speakers, smartphone accessories, neck/travel pillows, makeup/nail polish kits, water bottles/mugs, journals, slippers, mandala coloring books, tech gloves and fleece blankets. For medical purposes, these items must be new and unwrapped please. Thank you!



## HEVREH'S TEEN RTI: RESEARCH TRAINING INTERNSHIP

All rising 8th-12th graders are invited to apply for this 3 month Teen internship program with Rabbi Gordon & Jodie Friedman.

RTI is a collaborative program, designed to empower teens to create their own Jewish reality. Teens selected for RTI will learn how to use "Participatory Action Research" methods to design a research initiative to better understand the needs, and re-envision teen participation at Hevreh. This program will meet in May, June, and August 2019, and upon successful and full completion of the program, each participant will receive a stipend. Applications will be available on March 1st.

## DOUGH-NATIONS NEEDED: HELP US PREP FOR HAMANTASHEN!

We need donations of prepared hamantaschen dough. You can drop off your dough in the Hevreh freezer or fridge (make sure its labeled) any time before Sunday, March 10. Bakers needed to help on Sunday, March 10 too! Let Jodie Friedman know if you would like to join us that day.

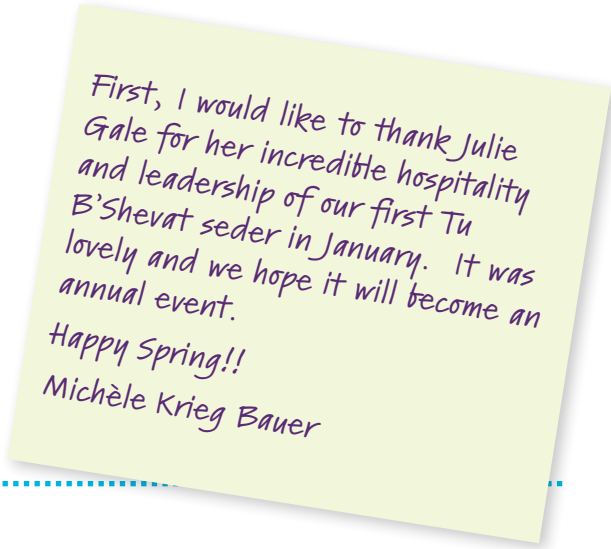
# HEVREH HAPPENINGS

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00pm

### ART AND SPIRITUALITY

Our gathering will take place at the home of Molly Sheriff in Great Barrington. Rabbi Gordon will be creating an Artists Beit Midrash for the evening, inspired by the work of the Jewish Studio Project. Using Jewish texts, personal reflection, and a wide array of art materials, the evening will give us the chance to learn about ourselves together, in a new and creative way. Light snacks will be provided by our generous host. Please RSVP by March 1 to Molly at mrssunflower1964@gmail.com so that she can plan accordingly, as space is limited.



Sunday, April 7, 4:30 pm

### ROSH CHODESH WOMENS' PASSOVER SEDER

Our annual seder is back after a one year hiatus! Join us at the beautiful Rookwood Inn in Lenox, home of Amy Lindner-Lesser. Details are still being determined so look for emails in early March. If you are interested in attending and are not on the Rosh Chodesh email list, please email Michèle Krieg Bauer at talktome8888@ymail.com.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**My introduction to Hevreh** came in the early 1980's, when I spent a couple of summers in a group house in the Berkshires, coming up almost every weekend from New York City, where I lived at the time. Over the years some of the friends I made moved here full time, and others bought weekend homes. This allowed me to return to this wonderful area frequently while still in NYC, and then as a vacation destination as I moved around the country. Over the years, I would find myself being drawn to Hevreh, and tried to attend services when I visited the area. When my husband and I decided that this was our "retirement" choice, one

"...one of my rabbis in Dallas said, 'you have to check out Hevreh...it's the best!'"

of my rabbis in Dallas said, "you have to check out Hevreh...it's the best!" I told her I already knew that and was pretty sure that Hevreh would become my new spiritual home. And so it has! From the friendliness of members when I first started attending services, to joining the choir, Rosh Chodesh, and participating in other ways, it has always felt like the right place for me, both spiritually and personally. I joined the board several years ago and now have become one of the four vice presidents. Moving forward, each vice president is responsible for oversight of various committees and projects. My responsibilities include Rosh Chodesh (of which I have been chair for some years, so that's easy!), Ritual Committee and our Social Action Committee. A commitment to social action and social justice runs deep within me – whether being socially conscious at a job, synagogue, or with various groups to which I have belonged.

Two years ago, soon after the election of our current president, I attended my first Consultation on Conscience in Washington, DC, with about a dozen other Hevreh members and with eight hundred others from around the country. This is sponsored by the URJ's Religious Action Center and was an amazing, motivating experience. It made all of us feel like we were not helpless and that even small efforts could make a difference. Delegates from Massachusetts got together while in DC and worked on criminal justice reform in our state – the first steps have made a difference. We heard from several senators and representatives, who were inspiring, and had the opportunity to go to Capital Hill to meet with our congress people.

Consultation on Conscience is happening again this May. Currently we have ten Hevreh members going, and would love to share it with more of you. There are also workshops and activities for teens – it is never too early to learn and begin your own fight for justice! If you are interested, whether teen or adult, please seek me out and I would be glad to talk to you about going.

We are already thinking of how to do more in our community and I'm sure we will come back with lots of ideas for projects, talks, etc. If you have any passions and ideas in any area of social justice, I would love to hear from you. All are welcome to take part in this important aspect of life at Hevreh.

Michele Krieg Bauer, *Vice President*

## TREASURERS REPORT

As I write this report, the close of the fiscal year is still two months away, but based on our best conservative projections it looks like the budget year will close with close to a balanced budget. This is due to our continued strong dues support, our very successful fundraising efforts this year which include our Gala and our High Holy Day appeal, and to careful control of expenses. As we move forward into our next budget year please consider all that Hevreh means to you and your family and to the community.

**We need your continued support** in dues, fundraising and your participation in Hevreh's many programs and events to keep Hevreh strong, vibrant and thriving.

Alan Kaufman, *Hevreh Treasurer*

Thursday, May 9, 6:00 pm  
**SAVE THE DATE: HEVREH'S ANNUAL MEETING**  
Updates, Israel Independence Day Celebration, Food and Friends—see you there!

For, lo, the winter is past  
the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing is come  
*Song of Solomon*

The sun is shining, wild geese are headed north, the crocuses have bloomed — Spring is upon us. Get out your candle and feather, rid your home of chametz, and prepare for Pesach.

We have some extraordinary picture Haggadot as well as booklets for family and friends to use at the Seder table. You can check these out at the Hevreh Library and return them when you are done.

First, there is the newly acquired treasure by Edgar M. Bronfman, *The Bronfman Haggadah*, a large format book full of amazing watercolor paintings created especially for this book by artist Jan Aronson, Bronfman's wife. Edgar M. Bronfman is a renowned philanthropist and Jewish leader, who supports "initiatives that inspire a renaissance in Jewish life." His philosophy is woven throughout the pages of the Haggadah, which is filled with meaningful readings, quotations and poetry by well-known and lesser-known writers and philosophers. The illustrations, some representational, some abstract, but all equally stunning, highlight the rituals and story of the Exodus from Egypt that we retell generation after generation.

One example: the opening of the door for Elijah is accompanied by a small and simple painting of an open door, revealing glowing candles on a table inside. On the other hand, the Ten Plagues are revealed in a two-page abstract spread of monochrome blues and geometric shapes.

Here is a sample of one of Bronfman's ideas included in the text, following the Ten Commandments: "The Hebrew words for 'freedom', *cherut*, and for 'engraved', *Charut*, are linguistically similar and are linked in the tradition. This suggests that there can be no freedom without moral and ethical laws, the kind of stark and universal principles engraved in stone and revealed to the Israelites in the burning wilderness of Sinai."

And then, with the pause in the story for the Passover meal, we get an illustration of clusters of grapes—an abundant, joyful image of fruition and wholeness.

The second large format Haggadah we are featuring is *An Israel Haggadah for Passover* adapted by Meyer Levin. (Bonus: We have smaller versions of this Haggadah that you can also check out for use at your Seder.) The 70 illustrations, including 58 in full color, highlight Springtime in Israel, with awe-inspiring photographs of the mountains, sky and desert, as well as joyful pictures of children with chicks, closeups of birds, fruit and blossoms. Families from many places are featured at their Seders in the section, "A Portfolio of Israeli Seders"— a Jerusalem family, Jews from Kurdistan, a kibbutz Seder with children marching around the tables holding greens, to name a few.

The Preface explains that "this Haggadah is presented not in disagreement with tradition, but to restore to our Passover observance something of its earlier tradition of spontaneity, of connection to current life, and hence to universal freedom efforts. It is called an 'Israel' Haggadah because such a renewed and enlivened tradition has already come into being in Israel, particularly in the kibbutz movement where a variety of texts is in use." This collection of words, images and music truly emphasizes this point!

And so we conclude this survey with words of freedom by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, quoted in *The Bronfman Haggadah*:

May you enjoy freedom of speech  
May you enjoy freedom of worship  
May you enjoy freedom from want  
May you enjoy freedom from fear

Let freedom ring! Chag Sameach to all. The Library Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month, 11:00 am. All are welcome.

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

## Ritual Speaks

### Why do we have an *Oneg* following Erev Shabbat Services?

*Oneg* is Hebrew for "pleasure." With the *Oneg* we delight in the start of Shabbat by having something to eat and drink with family and friends. It is an unspoken invitation for congregants to stay, even for a few minutes, chat, and introduce themselves to guests and visitors. Clergy and Board members can easily engage guests in conversation and make them feel at home.

Sponsoring an *Oneg* or making a donation to the *Oneg* Fund are simple ways you can contribute to the ongoing welcome of Hevreh to members and visitors. For more information, please contact the Hevreh office.

## weEngage

**Notice our heading?** That is exactly what the Membership Committee is all about. Our goal is for every member of Hevreh to engage with our community to whatever extent or in whatever way they are most comfortable. If you are simply interested in coming to services, let us (or the Ritual Committee) know how we can make the experience more meaningful for you. If you are the parent of a religious school student or pre-religious school student, have you explored our family programs and parent learning opportunities? Are you interested in Torah study? Consider joining the rabbis in Lunch N' Learn sessions on Wednesdays or Shabbat morning services on Saturdays. If you want to discuss finances, politics, or a myriad of other topics, we have planned discussion groups meeting all summer. Perhaps you would like to join a friendly game of canasta or Mah Jong. We are always looking for new ways to create opportunities for Hevreh members to connect with each other with common interests. Please know that congregants on the membership committee are also available to meet one-on-one informally to learn more about you and what you are seeking at Hevreh. Consider joining our membership committee as we are always looking to add more members.

Some dates to keep in mind; Shabbat on Friday, May 3 we will call our newest members to the bima for a special blessing, Sunday, June 23 we are sponsoring our first Hevreh 101 event to discover different ways to engage with our community, Shabbat on Saturday, July 27 will include a challah bake-off as part of our kiddush following morning services. Please watch our weekly emails and future bulletins for more details.

Please know, if you have an idea for an event or study group you would like to see happen, contact us. We look forward to engaging with you.

Co-Chairs;  
Debbie Harris  
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Julie Gale  
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Shelley Rolf  
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*In memory of Dora and Charles Gladstone*

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Murray Levine

Sharon & Matt Mozian

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

Judy Karpen

*In Memory of Sy Karpen with Thanks to Rabbi Hirsch*

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*In honor of Judy and David Lazan's new granddaughter, Violet Skye*

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*In honor of Sue and Jay Weintraub's new home*

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Toni Front

*In loving memory of Sig Front*

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*In honor of Hilda and Marty Levine's new home*

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*In celebration of the birth of Rabbi Deborah Zecher's granddaughter,*

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James Sinkoff

*In Memory of Marvin and Alice Sinkoff, in the name of Emma Sinkoff.*

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*In honor of Hevreh's Hospitality*

Sharon and Matt Mozian

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

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*In Honor of Shira Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah*

Linda and Shelly Zelizer

*In Memory of Our Parents*

## SOUND SYSTEM

*Congregants and friends who heard our call since the last bulletin:*

Leonard and Barbara Blum

Larry and Joan Brotman

Gloria Fried

Jeffrey Lazarus and Phyllis Cohen

Wendy Robbins

Suzanne and Tom Sawyer

Susan and Judd Shoval

Michael and Joan Ury

# SIMCHOT AND SORROWS, ONEG THANK YOUS

## S'MACHOT

A huge Mazel Tov goes out to...

Alba and Bob Tutnauer on the birth of their great grandson, Maximiliano Jayden Montiel

Alan Kaufman & Debbie Roth on the birth of their granddaughter, Fiona Scarlett Aiese

Judy and David Lazan on the birth of their granddaughter, Violet Skye Lazan

Rabbi Debbie Zecher and Dennis Ross on the birth of their first granddaughter,

and to Adam and Eliya on the birth of their daughter, Libi Rut Freund-Ross

Shelley and Marty Rolf and Zach Rolf, on Zach receiving the Wexner Fellowship

Julie and Peter Gale and Elizabeth, on Elizabeth receiving the Urban Adamah Fellowship

Shani Cohen on her engagement to Kylynn

## SORROWS

Our heartfelt Condolences go out to...

Jan and Rik Kabel on the passing of Rik's uncle,  
The Rabinowitz family on the passing of Wendy Rabinowitz

Alan and Cheryl Binder on the passing of Alan's Step Father,

Joe Reich on the passing of his wife, Carol

## ONEG

Thank you for sponsoring an oneg in  
January and February

Michele Krieg Bauer and Rebecca Wolin

Our Rosh Chodesh Group

Our Hevreh Choir

Julie and Peter Gale

Shelley Rolf

Carol and Barry Beyer

# HEVREH'S GEARING UP FOR SUMMER

The Discussion Communities portion of Hevreh's 2019 summer programming draws on knowledgeable and talented people within the Hevreh and greater Berkshires communities. We've got another amazing summer planned including;

## Thursday, June 6, 4 pm –

Fred Rutberg, president and publisher of the Berkshire Eagle, and Executive Editor Kevin Moran will discuss the challenges of operating a Berkshires newspaper in a changing environment.

## Monday, June 24, 4 pm –

Harvey Granat and Music Director Rob Kelly will talk about and play the music of Jewish composers who created the great American songbook.

## Thursday, July 11, 4 pm –

Stu Schweitzer will discuss FDR and the Holocaust.

## Thursday, July 25, 4 pm –

Steve Schreier will review a series of Israeli military vignettes and their implications on the Middle East.

## Thursday, August 1, 4 pm –

Part two discussion with Stu Schweitzer on US Jewry and the Holocaust.

## Thursday, August 8, 4 pm -

Richard Kirsch will provide an early analysis on the 2020 race for President .

## Select Mondays in June and July, 9:30 am –

Various presenters will discuss finance and investments.

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE IN FLORIDA

This past January, our Florida Hevreh gathered together when Rabbi Hirsch visited in Naples and in Palm Beach. It was wonderful to be together. Rabbi Hirsch led a conversation and Torah study, and we shared a meal together.

We look forward to welcoming back all those who have spent this winter away from the Berkshires!

Our appreciation and gratitude go out to Sheila Drill and David Davis for hosting the East Coast gathering at their home, as well as, Sue and Jay Weintraub, Deborah and Steve Schreier, and Hilda and Marty Levine for hosting the West Coast get-together. Your willingness to help make this event happen and keep our Hevreh ties long distance is a mitzvah.



# HEVREH UPDATES

## CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO PRAGUE

From April 11-15, 11 of our Confirmation Students will travel with Rabbi Hirsch and Jodie Friedman for an amazing tour of Prague. While there, they'll tour the Old City and the Jewish Quarter, visit Terezin, and take in some of the amazing contemporary culture that this amazing European city has to offer.

Thank you to all who helped to underwrite this experience! The Confirmation Class looks forward to sharing updates and photos once they're back.

## CANTORIAL INTERNSHIP

Hevreh has long prided itself on being both a singing congregation and a spiritual laboratory. Because of that, we have also been an excellent training ground for future rabbis and cantors. For the last two years, we have benefited from having Shani Cohen serve as our cantorial intern. At the close of this school year, Shani will be moving on to another internship. While we'll be saying *l'hitraot*, we are looking forward to seeing what is next for her! Mark your calendars for Friday, June 7 for a special musical Shabbat, and the opportunity to say thank you to Shani.

Our congregation now begins our search for a new cantorial intern. Our application has been submitted to the Hebrew Union College. Interviews will be held this month. If you have any questions or feedback as we begin this process, please be in touch with Rabbi Hirsch at [nhirsch@hevreh.org](mailto:nhirsch@hevreh.org). We look forward to sharing more once we have matched with our new intern!

## PEACE POLE DEDICATION

On February 3, 2019 Hevreh welcomed in parishioners from the Church of Christ Congregational of Norfolk, Connecticut. As part of that day, we dedicated a new Peace Pole, which you will see on display outside of the building.

In reaction to the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the church wanted to build a stronger relationship with their local Jewish community. Their Pastor, Erick Olsen, reached out to Rabbis Hirsch and Gordon, and began a meaningful connection between our two congregations. The Peace Pole was chosen as a sign of the connection and the meaning behind our relationship. When we dedicated the Peace Pole, we also welcomed in the church with open arms. Our religious school prepared an incredible welcome team, learned new music to share during the dedication service, and most importantly—cooked an incredible lunch for us to share together.

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF PHYLLIS WEISS TO BUY MORE SHABBAT PRAYER BOOKS

Phyllis Weiss z"l loved Hevreh, and was dedicated to making our congregation a destination for Jewish life, learning, and community. She showed this in her leadership, serving as the chairperson of our Ritual and Lifelong Learning committees among many other roles she filled. Her presence is truly missed. Phyllis wanted Hevreh to be a place where individuals could find a sense of the sacred. She knew one way we did this was through prayer and Shabbat.

This March, we mark Phyllis's first *yartzeit*. In honor of her memory and others who have given their time, energy, and passion to our congregation, we would like to expand our collection of *Mishkan T'filah*, our Shabbat prayer book.

Please consider honoring someone you love with a donation of \$40 toward our prayer book fund. Each \$40 donation represents one prayer book. Name plates will be placed in each prayer book to honor the memories of those you name.

A specific prayer book dedication & donation form has been created and is available online or can be emailed to you directly.



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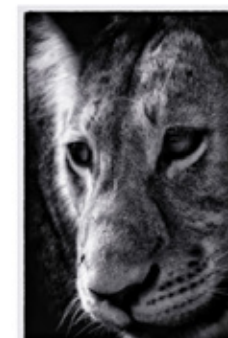
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# Second Night Seder

Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 5:30 pm

Led by Rabbis Hirsch and Gordon

Advance Reservations Required

Visit [Hevreh.org](http://Hevreh.org) for sign up

Seder plates, matzoh, ceremonial wine, and grape juice will be provided.

All are welcome to bring your own table wine  
Friends & family are all welcome

Our Seder is catered by Simon's Catering.

Pre-paid reservations are required by Sunday, April 14

Adults: \$40, Children ages 6-12: \$18, and Children under 5 are free  
Financial support is available, call the Hevreh Office at 413-528-6378



## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL TZEDEK CIRCLE OF HONOR PROGRAM

On Friday, July 5 as part of our Shabbat Service there will be a special dedication to Shelley Rolf, a member of Hevreh who has been a role model, someone who has exemplified audacious hospitality and a true leader of our congregation. Prior to services, there will be a picnic fundraiser event starting at 4 pm. Look for more details coming soon.



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