



## FROM THE RABBI, Senior Rabbi, Jodie Gordon

### REMEMBERING THE ESSENCE OF B'NAI MITZVAH

As we make our way through 5786, one of the most joyful throughlines of the year has been preparing with and celebrating our B'nai Mitzvah students. Throughout this year, we have had the chance to celebrate a truly sweet class of students stepping into the circle of B'nai Mitzvah. But what makes this year unique, is that for the first time since 2013, we have a cohort of 9 adults also preparing to become B'nai Mitzvah. An Adult B'nai Mitzvah cohort is both a rarer and deeply inspiring journey of choosing. Both groups remind me, again and again, that B'nai Mitzvah is not a milestone to check off. It's a living, breathing practice of learning, belonging, and stepping into responsibility for our community and one another.

Sometimes, I hear people talk about B'nai Mitzvah in cinematic terms; inspired by movies like "Keeping Up With the Steins" or "13: The Musical," we imagine the nervous adolescent at the Torah with their voice cracking, or the parents hyper-focused on the party. And yes, there's always a little of that. But the joy for me is seeing how much more often we get it right. Students and families who understand that this isn't about performing, but about teaching and leading. About taking a place in a covenant that asks us to be part of something larger than ourselves.

Education is truly the front door of Hevreh, and B'nai Mitzvah is one of those "heartbeat moments" for our families and community. For our kids, it's their first formal step into ritual, study, and community. They practice Torah, wrestle with stories and questions that have shaped our people for generations, and take on the responsibility of planning and implementing a mitzvah project. They learn how to show up: to welcome their classmates' guests on the morning of their B'nai Mitzvah, and to collect prayer books at the end of the service. And what they come out of it with is so much bigger than any skill or technical competency: they come out of it prepared to take on a role in a covenantal life that will guide them for years to come.

Working with students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in preparation for B'nai Mitzvah is a joy—and this year, working with an Adult B'nai Mitzvah class was an invitation for me to personally re-interrogate how—and why—I do what I do with students. This is a group of adults who made a commitment to read and study on their own each week, and to show up each month, juggling work, family, and life's messiness. How to shape an experience for them that would help them feel like Jewish tradition helped them to cross a threshold?

I kept coming back to the words of Pirkei Avot:

Shimon the Righteous was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He would say, "On three things the world stands: **on the Torah, on prayer/worship and on acts of lovingkindness.**" (Pirkei Avot 1:2)



Three legs of a single stool, keeping this world of ours upright as best we can: learning, worship (or service) and lovingkindness. How true it is for learners of all ages! What we teach our young people is just as apt and compelling for us as adults. At the end of the day, it's not the ceremony, the aliyah, or even the perfect trope that matters most. It's how we teach and live Torah—modeling curiosity and integrity, wrestling with questions honestly. It's how we act with compassion, noticing and responding to each other's needs. And it's how we commit ourselves to service, taking responsibility for the world and for one another. Watching our adult students step into these pillars with intention and joy reminded me that this is what we're really cultivating in our children too: the ability to belong to a community that calls each of us to live with heart, curiosity, and purpose.

For our adult students, the journey looks different—and no less inspiring. To commit to Adult B'nai Mitzvah is to choose, consciously, to dive into learning (some for the first time ever, others for the first time in a long time), to claim a place in this community, and to say: I want to live a life that honors Torah, service, and lovingkindness. There is courage, intention, and a lot of joy in that decision. Watching adults take this step reminds all of us that B'nai Mitzvah isn't just a rite of passage—it's a living choice, available anytime we're ready to take it.

This spring, as our students—young and adult alike—step into their B'nai Mitzvah journeys, I am reminded of what really matters. It's not the ceremony, the speeches, or even the perfect trope. It's the curiosity they bring, the questions they wrestle with, the care they show for one another, and the way they step into the responsibilities of our community. That is the gift of B'nai Mitzvah: a chance to practice leading, to practice belonging, and to practice living with heart and purpose—again and again, in every generation.

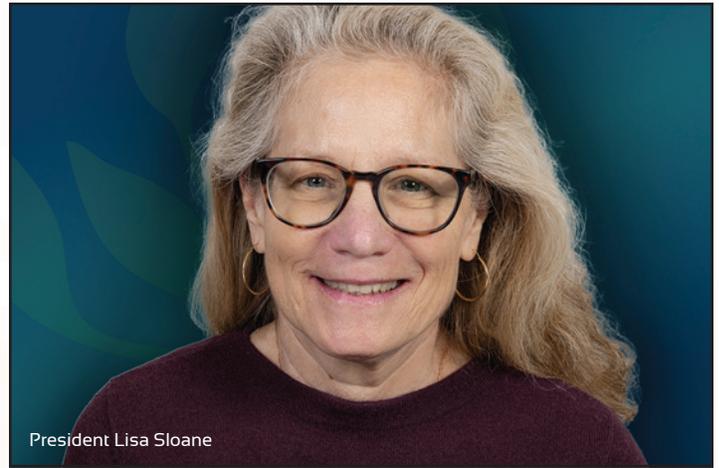
I hope to see you throughout the spring as we celebrate with our young people as they are called to Torah, as well as our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Cohort on Saturday, June 27.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Jodie Gordon

## FROM THE PRESIDENT,

*Lisa Sloane*

This spring as we celebrate Purim and Passover, holidays that acknowledge Jewish suffering in the world but celebrate our survival, I reflect on the ways in which we have “doubled” down to ensure Hevreh’s survival in our small, beautiful part of the world. First, thanks go to the more than two-thirds of our congregants who donated to the Capital Campaign to ensure the physical survival of our beautiful synagogue for many more seasons. The project is being bid now to have a contractor in place and the work will be started soon! Second, we welcome Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel as our new Clergy Educator beginning July 1st. I’m not sure who is more excited – Sarina to join Hevreh or the congregation to welcome her! I look forward to seeing you throughout the spring at Purimspiel, Women’s Seder, Second Seder and, of course, Shabbat Services. Want to share your ideas with me? Please reach out at [president@hevreh.org](mailto:president@hevreh.org). Happy to have an email exchange or coffee (IRL as they say).



President Lisa Sloane

## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE,

*Mike Greenberg, VP of Operations*

We are excited to provide the following update for the start of our construction project. More updates will follow as we continue to make progress.:

1. On 1/15/2026, the Building Task Force approved a set of construction documents (CDs) for the restoration project. The CDs include all of the repairs and improvements discussed over the last 18 months.
2. Our architects, Clarke & Green, are finalizing a bid specification document during the first week of February.
3. We expect to receive bids for the project from General Contractors (GCs) by 2/28/2026, with selection of a GC following this process.
4. Construction work is expected to start in the spring, pending selection of a contractor and project scheduling. It is anticipated the project will take approximately 6 months to complete. We will work with the contractor to minimize disruptions.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLERGY EDUCATOR, SARINA ELENBOGEN-SIEGEL!



Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel will officially begin her tenure at Hevreh on July 1, 2026. We look forward to sharing more information about opportunities to meet and welcome her soon.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR, Joan Goldberg Munch, Executive Director

Showing up. That is a true foundation of our Hevreh community and it has shined brightly throughout this winter. Volunteers have shown up at Hevreh in many meaningful ways: helping with parking, setting up for a meal of consolation, organizing our copy room, and more. It's wonderful to see the commitment, ownership and generosity through your volunteerism. Thank you.

Are you looking for ways to connect and volunteer? Here are a few upcoming opportunities:

- Sponsor an oneg or pre-neg. Plan to bring Challah and some Shabbat treats for a Friday night soon.
- Work on the gardens. Yes, we will be starting our building project this Spring and we want to ensure our plantings and gardens stay nourished throughout the project.
- Support our Religious School on a Sunday morning.
- Help set up and/or clean up for Women's Seder and 2<sup>nd</sup> Night Seder.

Drop an email to [info@hevreh.org](mailto:info@hevreh.org) to volunteer. Thanks to one and all for *showing up*.



Joan Goldberg Munch

## LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL WAY TO HONOR A SPECIAL OCCASION? Host a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg!

Friday night Shabbat Onegs are a time to snack, socialize, and come together as a community. Sponsoring an Oneg is a meaningful way to mark a milestone birthday or anniversary, celebrate an engagement, wedding, or baby naming, memorialize a loved one, or mark a Yahrzeit.

We will provide you with all the information you need to participate in this important mitzvah and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Please contact Aldeth Lewin at the Hevreh office at (413) 528-6378 or [info@hevreh.org](mailto:info@hevreh.org) to book your date. We look forward to seeing you soon at your Oneg!

– The Ritual Committee

## WELCOME BACK, RABBI MORI LIDAR! April 27 – May 10

As part of the HUC Golden HaNassi Fellows program, we are so excited to welcome Rabbi Mori Lidar back to Hevreh this spring! Rabbi Lidar lives in Misgav, Israel and was ordained at HUC in Jerusalem. Last summer, he joined us for a two week residency, immersing himself in the rhythms and rituals of Jewish life in the Berkshires during the summer.

For this second of his two visits, we are excited for Rabbi Lidar to have the chance to be with our Religious School community, experience B'nai Mitzvah at Hevreh and more! For now, we invite you to save the dates:

- **Two part Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Lidar. Wednesdays, April 29 and May 6.**
- **Parent Conversation Circle with Rabbi Lidar on Sunday, May 3.**



## ECC UPDATE,

*Sarah Marcus & Shanekia Richmond, ECC Co-Directors*

Learning by doing is a foundational component of early childhood education. When children experience something by participating in the activity themselves, they internalize the lessons and have an opportunity to explore the process; what if I do it this way instead? This strengthens confidence and gives the children agency. Learning by doing creates hands-on, active learners.

Learning by doing can be found in all three of the ECC's classrooms. In our youngest toddler room, the Star Room, the children can be found embracing the dramatic play area. The play kitchen allows them to incorporate their own experiences from home and further explore in the classroom. Does the big pot fit into the small one? How much of the play food can actually fit in a container? Turning the kitchen faucet on to wash their hands and dishes, making delicious creations and sharing them with friends and teachers, are all creative ways for exploration.

In the Rainbow Room, our older toddler/young preschool room, one focus has been on "things that go." Experimenting with different play vehicles, the children can roll items down the ramp. Which goes faster and which goes further? Books are always a good starting point to learn about a topic, a crowd favorite has been "Cars and Trucks and Things That Go" by Richard Scarry. Being able to take that information and make the connections to real life through manipulating toy vehicles is a great hands-on activity.

Our oldest children, in the Sky Room, are strengthening their theater skills. Having listened to different versions of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff", they are now working on acting out the story. Storytelling is an important skill. The structure of this folk tale fosters sequencing (beginning, middle, end). The Sky Room children have made puppets to take on the different roles; remembering the story and figuring out how to project their voices and become the character. Their story telling through a play reflects learning by doing at so many levels.

Learning by doing is something we incorporate as we teach about the Jewish holidays as well. When Purim arrives, we are looking forward to baking hamantaschen, creating groggers, and parading in costumes. Passover also brings with it opportunities for storytelling and seder preparations. Active learning remains a cornerstone of our curriculum.



Sarah Marcus

Shanekia Richmond



# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS,

*Beth Robbins, Religious School Director*

Writing this during Tu B'shevat while we are in the throes of an apparently never-ending cold spell, I'm eagerly anticipating the thaw that I know is coming.

It's been a rich, busy winter at the Religious School with a lively and meaningful Yachad Chanukah, electives in January, joyful Community Shabbats, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Shabbaton in February. Our students are engaged and connected, both with one another and with the larger Jewish community. They demonstrated their care for one another most movingly after the death of a classmate's father. They are planning Purim events for the whole Hevreh community, celebrating more B'nai Mitzvah, eagerly anticipating Yachad Passover, and in May, we'll have our end of year celebration and confirmation.

This is my final letter as Religious School Director and it's most definitely bittersweet. I've loved being part of the



Beth Robbins

Hevreh family in this capacity and to witness the beauty and joy of our students. It has been an honor for me. I know that I will be leaving the school in the very capable hands of our inspired teachers, our brilliant Rabbi, and our new director, Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel.

Enjoy the coming warmth!



## SHABBATON FUN

About 70 brave (and slightly frozen) souls bundled up and marched into arctic-level temperatures for our annual Family Shabbaton at Eisner Camp—and not even the polar vortex dimmed the joy.

The cold tried its best. We ignored it.

From our trek to the Beit Am for Kabbalat Shabbat to a lively, laughter-filled Aruchat Erev (evening meal), our campers jumped into every moment with mittened hands and full hearts. Friday night only got brighter with a glow party that lit up the camp—followed by cozy bunk time packed with movies, stories, and the kind of late-night laughter that makes camp magic. And that was just the beginning!



out for sledding. Yes, sledding. In below-zero temperatures. Campers flew down the hill, cheeks red, spirits high, and absolutely unstoppable.

Once we thawed out indoors, we celebrated February birthdays, packed up, and brought the energy to Mini-Maccabiah and Wacky Games. We closed our unforgettable weekend with a truly beautiful Havdalah—warm, glowing, and the perfect ending to a Shabbat full of connection and camp ruach.



We're already counting down to next year—maybe with slightly warmer weather... but definitely with the same incredible spirit!



Saturday kicked off with breakfast and electives for every interest and energy level: snowshoeing through a winter wonderland, creative arts + crafts, and meaningful Torah study. After fueling up on the ultimate comfort-food combo—grilled cheese and tomato soup—everyone layered up again and headed



## UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

### Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel & Ezra

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.

All are welcome

#### GABRIEL

Hello, my name is Gabriel and I will be Bar Mitzvahed on May 9, 2026. I live in with my brother, my mom, and my dad. When I have free time, I enjoy a lot of active activities such as soccer, basketball, ice skating and skiing – basically anything where I can run around. There is one thing that I love more than sports: I love my sleep away camp called Eisner! It brings me so much joy to know that I can always look forward to it in the summer. My Torah portion is about how everything is living and that you need to let all things rest at one point. It explains how every seven years, you are not allowed to plant or harvest anything.

One day when I was driving to a basketball game, I saw at least 3 people having to bike to work in the winter. This inspired me to come up with my mitzvah project. I thought about all of the people who can't get to work. I realized if I can get bikes to everybody who needs them, they will be able to get to work in the morning. They also looked very cold in their faces and their hands. I am going to have people donate balaclavas so their faces stay warm. When I think of becoming bar mitzvahed, it means taking on a much bigger role in the Earth. It not only means becoming a man, but it gives me the feeling of being a role model. Being a Bar Mitzvah does not only give mental traits, but it also allows me to become a madrichim and teach kids what it means to be Jewish. Finally, I hope that becoming a Bar Mitzvah helps me travel along the path of making the world a better place for everyone.

#### EZRA

Hello, my name is Ezra, and my Bar Mitzvah will be on May 9, 2026. I live with my parents and my twin brother. I love almost all sports. My favorite is soccer, but I also play basketball, ski, ice skate, tennis, pickleball, and volleyball. I enjoy playing piano. Due to the current environment we are in today, I have made my Bar Mitzvah project to assist members of the immigrant community in need of transportation. To find a solution to this, I have decided to take used bikes and repair them so that others can use them. Working with Morah Rob, I have enjoyed learning new tropes and ways to read Hebrew, many interesting and valuable stories, and really appreciated his kindness towards everyone. Being with him has been a highlight of my Bar Mitzvah process. My Torah portion is Behar Bechukotai in the book of Leviticus. My portion is about how every seven years the farming land needs a resting year with no more planting. Additionally, every 49 years the land goes back to its original owners assigned by God. To me, becoming a Bar Mitzvah is a big honor. Having the opportunity to continue a Jewish tradition means a lot to me. I am committed to becoming more responsible for those around me, helping to make the lives of others better.

### Bat Mitzvah of Isabel

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.

All are welcome

#### ISABEL

Please join Isabel and her family as she is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Isabel will be chanting from parashat Emor. We look forward to celebrating with Isabel.

# SPRING AT HEVREH

## PURIM CARNIVAL

March 1 at 11:30 a.m.

Come one, come all to our annual Purim Carnival. Play games, enter the raffle, eat pizza and fresh baked goods, and enter the contest for best costume! A not-to-be missed celebration!

## PURIMSPIEL & MEGILLAH READING

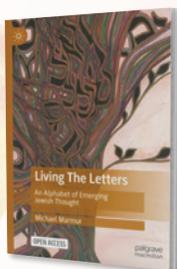
March 2 at 6 p.m.

Get ready to boo, cheer, and laugh your way through the story of Esther at Hevreh's beloved Purimspiel! This year's performance will feature our Confirmation students alongside some surprise guest stars from across the congregation — a megillah-inspired night of music, comedy, and plenty of silliness. After the show, stick around for hamantashen, a l'chaim, and lots of Purim fun for all ages. Costumes are encouraged (the more creative, the better!).

## LIVING THE LETTERS: AN ALPHABET OF EMERGING JEWISH THOUGHT – A LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI JODIE GORDON

Wednesdays 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.,  
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Join Rabbi Gordon for this lively weekly course based on Rabbi Michael Marmor's engaging new book, "Living The Letters". Each week, we'll explore big ideas through another letter of the Alef Bet.



## TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays at 9 a.m. on March 7, April 4 & May 16

Join Beth Robbins and musician Jeff Howard as they sing and tell stories to celebrate Shabbat with children 0-5 years old and their families.

## GATHERING OF HEALING

Sunday, March 8, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Join Artist in Residence Peri Smilow for our first **Gathering of Healing**. Through music, poetry, meditative reflection and prayer we will, together, create a healing space, rooted in Jewish tradition, that allows participants of all ages (over 13 years old) to experience quiet relaxation and repair of body, mind and spirit. We hope you will join us for this welcoming and nourishing program.

## MAHJONG

Thursdays at 1 p.m. on March 19, April 16, May 21

We will continue to fill our sanctuary with the sound of tiles as we play Mahjong through the seasons. All are welcome, from beginner through advanced. Registration required, \$5 suggested donation.

## FILM NIGHT

- March 19 at 6:30 p.m. – *The Illusionist* (2006)
- April 23 at 6:30 p.m. – *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1998)

Film Night is back! Enjoy curated films with your Hevreh community. Doors open at 6, the film starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. Snacks are available.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL WOMEN'S PASSOVER SEDER

Sunday, March 22 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon and Peri Smilow

Together, using the framework of our Passover Seder, we'll explore stories and practices that have often lived in the shadows; old wives' tales, home rituals, tchines (personal prayers), gestures too subtle for books but potent in memory — and recognize how these forms of knowing guide, protect, and shape us still.

This program is designed for women and those who identify as female, across the generational spectrum 10 years of age and older. Registration is required. Scholarships are available.

## SHALOM YOGA: SEATED AND STANDING CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS

Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m.

March 25, April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29,  
May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27

Please join us on Wednesdays for a 60 minute yoga class led by Hevreh member, Nina Lipkowitz. The class will focus on meditation, stretching, core strength, and alignment. Please bring your own yoga mat and/or blanket. New attendees should arrive 5 minutes early.

## CREATIVE BEIT MIDRASH

Saturdays at 10 a.m. on March 28 & May 16

The morning includes prayer and meditation, a creative experience, and an opportunity to show, share, and discuss art created in the past month. All are welcome and no experience is necessary.

## YACHAD PASSOVER

Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Through different hands-on and participatory activities, families discover new ways to enter into and deepen their appreciation for the story of Passover. Activities include creative interpretations of the story through craft and theater games.

## PASSOVER SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Come celebrate the second night seder with Hevreh as we gather together for a traditional Passover dinner. Our seder will be led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon. Dinner will be catered by The Marketplace. Pre-paid reservations are required. Friends and family are welcome. Financial assistance is available upon request. Last day to register is March 18.

## MATZAH BREI COOK-OFF & BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 4 at 9 a.m.

Calling all Matzah Brei makers! Whether you prefer sweet or savory, we're inviting you to come down to the Hevreh kitchen at 9 a.m. to cook up a batch of your Matzah Brei for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Matzah Brei Cook-off! Bring your favorite pan and toppings, we'll provide the matzah, eggs and oil. Everyone is welcome for the tasting! For more details, [info@hevreh.org](mailto:info@hevreh.org).



- Continued on page 9 -

# SPRING AT HEVREH

~ Continued from page 8 ~

## COMMUNITY SHABBAT WITH OLIM

**Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.**

Join us for the last of our popular Community Shabbats. The Saturday morning Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Gordon and the Olim (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade) religious school class. We will enjoy kiddish together after the service. This program is sponsored in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and your donations. Community Shabbat events are free and all are welcome. Please go to [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org) to register.

## POSTCARDING PARTY

**Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m.**

Join us for Women in Reform Judaism's Day of Action as we write postcards to legislators in support of reproductive rights. The postcards are provided by the National Council of Jewish Women and the event is sponsored by Hevreh's Rosh Chodesh Plus group and the Social Justice in Action committee.

## SHABBAT BA'YAYIT

**Friday, April 17 at 6 p.m.**

Be a guest at a fellow congregant's home to celebrate Shabbat and enjoy a shared meal. We are gathering for one night in homes across the Berkshires. These gatherings are an opportunity to connect with your community on a small scale and a chance to share Shabbat with your fellow congregants.

All members of the congregation are welcome to sign up - individuals, couples, and families. Each host has determined how many people they can host - the hosts will prepare the main dish and the guests will bring the rest of the meal. Once you sign up, your host will be in touch by email with further details on location and what you can bring.



## HEVREH HIKES

- **Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 p.m.** – Bob's Way (bring a bag lunch)
- **Sunday, May 31 at 9 a.m.** – Questing Reservation Loop

Back by popular demand- we are hitting the trails this spring! Join our intrepid group of hikers as we explore the beautiful Berkshires one trail at a time. We are an inclusive group and encourage families to join in! Feel inspired and renewed as we trek along some great trails and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Our hikes will be approachable for all levels; while most hikes will be easy, there will be some hills to conquer. Recommended: water, sturdy footwear and bug spray. Please go to [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org) to register.

Please go to [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org) and check your emails for programming details and registration information.

Questions? Email [info@hevreh.org](mailto:info@hevreh.org).

## LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI MORI LIDAR

**Wednesdays, April 29 and May 6 at 12 p.m.**

Join HUC Golden Ha Nassi Fellow, Rabbi Mori Lidar for a special Lunch n' Learn series.

## TEACHER APPRECIATION SHABBAT & L'HITRAOT TO BETH ROBBINS

**Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m.**

Join us for a special Shabbat as we celebrate and give thanks for the incredible educators who nurture, inspire, and sustain our community. We'll honor our faculty as well as our teen madrikhim for their contributions to our Religious School community.

This Shabbat, we will also mark a l'hitraot—a "see you later"—to Beth Robbins, recognizing her years of dedication and the many ways she has shaped lives at Hevreh. Together, we will acknowledge the work of teaching, share our gratitude, and wish Beth well as she moves into her next chapter.

## CONFIRMATION & SHAVUOT 5786

**Friday, May 22 at 6 p.m.**

Our celebration of Shavuot is elevated each year by the participation of our confirmation class students, as we celebrate our graduating seniors with the ritual of Confirmation. Shavuot celebrates the gift of Torah at Sinai, and here at Hevreh, we celebrate that on-going gift of Torah and meaningful learning.

This year, our graduating seniors are Ava Mozian and Sadie Honig-Briggs. Both Ava and Sadie have grown up at Hevreh, celebrating their B'nai Mitzvah during COVID, and continuing on as important young leaders in our community. Together with their entire class (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), they will lead a festive Shavuot Shabbat service, which will feature personal Divrei Torah (words of Torah and personal reflections) from Ava and Sadie.

Following our service, all are invited to share in a festive and celebratory dairy oneg!

## SAVE THE DATE

- **FRIDAY, JUNE 5 AT 6 P.M.** – New Member and Welcome Back Shabbat, with a Pre-Neg at 5:30 p.m.
- **FRIDAY, JUNE 12 AT 6 P.M.** – Shabbat Across the Berkshires at Anshe Amunim. No services at Hevreh.
- **SATURDAY, JUNE 13** – Lee Pride Shabbat. No services at Hevreh.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION, Michele Krieg Bauer & Carol R. Noble, Co-chairs

Since the last bulletin, the state of social justice in our nation has suffered numerous blows, as you all know. While many people seem to be feeling despair about the situation, Rebecca Hart Holder, president of Reproductive Equity Now, told us at Repro Shabbat, on January 23, **despair is not an option if we want things to change.** We found her words uplifting and an important reminder that action is the best antidote to despair and helplessness.

On January 15, we met with our local state senator, Paul Mark, to discuss the RAC-MA campaign to enact the **Dignity Not Deportations** bill of which Senator Mark is a co-sponsor. It was welcome news to learn that he has been on board with legislation protecting immigrants since 2011 when it was the Trust Act. He told us that there are two other bills, the Safe Communities Bill and the Immigrant Defense Bill (which will increase funds for immigrant defense) that are likely to be combined with **Dignity Not Deportations.**

We are in the process of setting up a Zoom meeting with Leigh Davis, our state representative from South County, in conjunction with RAC-MA also focused on immigration rights. Representative Davis is also a sponsor of **Dignity Not Deportations** and we plan to talk about the status of this bill and the possible combination of pieces of three immigration related bills.

On Sunday, April 12, WRJ's Day of Action, SJA and RCP will sponsor a big (we hope!) postcarding party in Hevreh's library from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.. Postcards will be provided by NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women) focusing on legislation for reproductive rights. Coffee, bagels and camaraderie while we do important work - we hope you will join us!



We are also waiting for a date for an in-person presentation on Freedom of Speech and Expression by Teddy Manning, an organizer from JALSA (Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action). This will occur in late May or early June. This presentation includes a focus on anti-semitism and book banning. Details to follow.

It has become apparent that many of us who are so active in social justice work are feeling despair and burn out. We hope by coming together to support one another during these difficult times will help us reenergize for the necessary fight ahead for justice and preserving our democracy.

If you are not already on the Social Justice in Action mailing list, please send an email to [sja@hevreh.org](mailto:sja@hevreh.org) and we will add your email.

## BREAKING BREAD KITCHEN

We want to give a huge thank you to Barry and Robin Kriesberg who have dedicated their time and energy to heading up the BBK project for Hevreh for the last several years. Thank you for nourishing our community! We have not had anyone volunteer to take over as project lead, so Hevreh's participation in this community feeding program will end at this time. If you are interested in helping this program continue, please contact [sja@hevreh.org](mailto:sja@hevreh.org).

**WHAT IS INVOLVED:** Hevreh participates in this important undertaking along with many other local religious organizations. Approximately every 6 weeks, the project lead plans the menu, shops for the food and with volunteers prepares and packs dinners for approximately 75 people at the kitchen of the The American Legion Hall at Cook Road off Route 7 in Sheffield.

Please consider stepping up to head this vital project.





## ROSH CHODESH PLUS,

*Michele Krieg Bauer, Julie Gale & Shelley Rolf, Co-chairs*

### CHANUKAH GATHERING AT HEVREH

Rosh Chodesh Plus hosted a festive Chanukah celebration at Hevreh, welcoming many longtime and new members. The evening included a meaningful teaching by Rabbi Gordon, joyful Israeli dancing with Janet Lee, and a delicious potluck with an impressive spread of latkes. Lively conversation filled the room — another true 5-star potluck!

### JANUARY LEARNING WITH DR. BONNIE SAKS

We explored Sexual Wisdom for Women in an insightful Zoom session with Dr. Bonnie Saks, covering women’s sexuality throughout the life cycle and how to speak with children and grandchildren about their bodies. It was a meaningful learning experience and a chance to connect with congregants joining from warmer winter locations.

### WINTER WRJ PROGRAMS

Many participants joined Women of Reform Judaism’s winter programming, including Rabbi Marla J. Feldman’s four-part series, *Hearing the Voice of Biblical Women Through Midrash*, and a program about the making of *Fiddler on the Roof*. A heartfelt thank-you to Elisa Schindler Frankel for serving as our WRJ liaison and curating these rich learning opportunities.

### TU B’SHEVAT SEDER AT JULIE GALE’S HOME

On February 8, many women gathered for one of our most beloved traditions — the RCP Tu B’Shevat Seder. We celebrated “the New Year of the Trees” with spiritual readings, singing, and the warmth of our RCP community. Each participant contributed something to share, and together we enjoyed fruits from four symbolic categories. This program remains a bright spot in the heart of winter.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- **FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 8:00 p.m.** — WRJ Virtual Program: What’s in the Box? Unwrapping WRJ’s Programs-in-a-Box
- **MARCH 10, 2026, 7:30 p.m.** — WRJ Virtual Program: Building Strength-Based Cultures of Upstanders
- **MARCH 22, 2026** — The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Intergenerational Women’s Seder
- **MARCH 23, 2026, 7:30 p.m.** — WRJ Virtual Program: Cooking Outside the Matzoh Box: Unique Passover Recipes & Demonstration
- **APRIL 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m. AT HEVREH** — WRJ Day of Service (with Social Justice in Action), featuring postcarding in support of reproductive rights, sponsored by NCJW
- **MAY 26, 2026** — A Shavuot-themed program and potluck



# BLESSINGS & SORROWS

## BLESSINGS

### *Mazel Tov to...*

Mitchell Shames on the birth of his granddaughter Charlotte Grace

Indiana and Aniston Newman on becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Sasha Dresner on becoming Bar Mitzvah

Noah Lord on becoming Bar Mitzvah

Beth Morganstern and Andrew Polsky on the baby naming of their granddaughter Ellie

Mark Andrews on the birth of his granddaughter Rosalind Edythe

Marilyn Armour and Scott Blech on their wedding

Jonah Sanabria on winning the Congressional App Challenge for the 1st District of Massachusetts

## SORROWS

*Our heartfelt condolences go out to all who have lost a loved one over the past months.*

Brandon Messina on the death of his grandfather

Diane Pearlman, Matt and Jake Diamond on the death of Jeff Diamond

Robin Weiser on the death of her husband Peter Bodnar

Barbara Ellis on the death of her husband Joseph Ellis

Aaron Thier and Sarah Trudgeon on the death of Aaron's grandfather Samuel Thier

Karyn, Isabel, Zak, Eliana and Aaron Gunnet-Shoval, Susan and Judd Shoval on the death of Tim Gunnet-Shoval

Bob Tutnauer on the death of his wife Alba Tutnauer



## RABBINIC STAFF

Jodie Gordon, *Senior Rabbi*  
Deborah Zecher, *Rabbi Emerita*  
Jamie Gottlieb, *Rabbinic Intern*

## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Peri Smilow

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joan Goldberg Munch, *Executive Director*  
Beth Robbins, *Religious School Director*  
Sarah Marcus, *Early Childhood Center, Director of Operations*  
Shanekia Richmond, *Early Childhood Center, Director of Family Learning & Engagement*  
Ellen Marcus, *Programming Coordinator*  
Shoshana Goldberg,  
*Administrative Assistant / Office*  
Aldeth Lewin,  
*Administrative Assistant / Office*  
Kate Van Olst,  
*Administrative Assistant / Office*  
Bill Litchfield, *Custodial & Maintenance*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

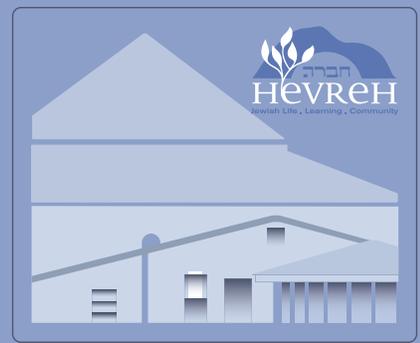
Lisa Sloane, *President*  
Larry Frankel, *Immediate Past President*  
Steve Klein, *First VP*  
Joshua Briggs, *Secretary*  
Michael Greenberg, *VP of Operations*  
Amy Richman, *VP of Ritual*  
Shira Nichaman, *VP of Finance*  
Chris Meador, *VP of Education*

## TRUSTEES

Silke Aisenbrey  
Jadwiga Brown  
Michael Citrin  
David Goldstein  
Amy Handelsman  
Barry Kriesberg  
John Lipkowitz  
Emily Maple  
Irene Rosenzweig  
Jeff Rothenberg  
Yaron Sadan

# OUR HEVREH OUR HOME

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2025



### HEVREH'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS AN AMAZING SUCCESS!

The "Our Hevreh, Our Home" Capital campaign concluded at the turn of the year. To date, we have raised just under **\$2.9 million** and expect to ultimately achieve our original goal of **\$3 million**. We have over half of our total in the bank already with the balance to come in installments over the next 4 years. Among the campaign highlights are:

- We received over 215 donations from members, over two-thirds of the entire congregation. We truly are a congregation of giving!
- Our match program raised \$250,000 from over 35 donor-to-donor matches.
- Our phone-a-thon raised over \$25,000 from over 40 donors in the final weekend of the campaign.

This impressive set of results reflects the breadth and depth of support from across our congregation. Following is a list of all new donors who have given since our last Bulletin. A complete list of donors is available on the Campaign page of the Hevreh website.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave and a reminder that new donations are still being accepted. Just note "Capital Campaign" on your contribution.

Now we move to the project itself! Final drawings for the work have been approved and bids will be solicited from contractors. Work is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Finally, thanks to all of those who donated their time and energy to making the campaign a success:

- Larry and Elisa Frankel
- Mark Lefenfeld
- John Lipkowitz
- Lisa Sloane
- Jeff Rothenberg
- Jeff Blaugrund
- Howie Jaffe
- Chris Meador
- Josh Briggs
- Bethany Baron
- And of course, Rabbi Gordon, Joan Goldberg Munch and the entire office team

*Steve Klein & Shira Nichaman  
Co-Chairs*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2025 DONORS\*

Jean Altshuler	Susan Magazine
Heidi Auerbacher	Hannah Markos & Evan Williams
Rabbi Carole Balin	Ronald & Susan Match
Jerry & Christine Baral	Lynn Meyers
Philip & Anne Becker	Estelle Miller
Laura & Steven Bedford	Ronni Monsky
Lisa Berman & Richard Berg	Beth Morgenstern
Karen Beyer	& Andrew Polsky
Jonathan Biller &	Nan Morrison
Victoria Rand Biller	Robert Nobel &
Cliff & Nancy Blaugrund	Orly Ben-Yoav Nobel
Linda Blum & Jeremy Merrin	Andrea & Daniel Patel
Mimi & Jim Broner	Diane Pearlman
Paul Cashman	Paula Pevsner
Leslie & Paul Chesloff	Steven & Joyce Pyenson
Michael Citrin & Tracey Mack	Jonathan & Ingrid Raab
Maureen Cohen	Doug & Janice Robbins
Donna Conforti & Paul Rissman	Karen & Michael Rosen
Robert & Irene Dvorchik	Barbara & David Rothenberg
Donald & Cindy Elitzer	Stephen & Helene Sacks
Ann & Myron Falchuk	Pamela Sandler
Eileen & Warren Feldman	Robin Schletter
Sharon Flitterman-King	Stephen & Deborah Schreier
Donald Fox & Julie Gabriel	Tracy & Benjamin Seckler
Steven Freed & Emily Maple	Michael & Bradford Simon,
Larry Friedman & Aviva Wichler	Marte & Paul Singerman,
Toni Front	Joanna Slater & Joel Lee
Joan Gellert	Turbi Smilow
Susan & Marc Goldman	Carol Smoler
Karen & Jonathan Goldstick	Frank Sommerfield & Jason Wu
Sherri Gorelick	Rabbi Michael Strassfeld &
Laura Gratz	Sharon Ramella
Jane Greenman	Elley Strehl & Adam Eisenberg
Judie & Joel Grossman	Rachel & Avinash Tantri
Dave Halley & Heidi Katz	Robin Taub Williams
Ellen Heffan	Mark & Laura Urken
Gail Hirschenfang	Kate Van Olst & Ben Skeen
& Daniel Polish	Phyllis Vine & Gary Burke
Jane Jacobs	Richard & Tina Wasserman
Sandra Josel	Audrey Weiner & Jeffrey Solomon
Herb Kantor & Maria Sirois	Robin Weiser
Andre Klein & Adam Mastoon	Robert & Suzanne Werner
Stephen & Pat Latzman	Robin Wilson
Taryn & Mark Leavitt	Rebecca Wolin
Timothy & Janet Lee	Debbie Youngelman
Pommy & Gerry Levy	& Stuart Schwartz
Roberta Liebowitz	Rabbi Irwin & Anne Zeplovitz
Rabbi Ari Lorge	

\* This list comprises donations and pledges made since Nov. 17, 2025.

# DONATIONS WITH THANKS

## CARING COMMUNITY

Jerry & Christine Baral  
Eugene Rosenberg

### *In Honor of*

Suzanne Sawyer from Elisa & Larry Frankel  
The birth of grandson, Donovan Sinkoff, from The Rolf family

### *In Memory of*

Dora and Charles Gladstone from Bette & Philip Gladstone

## ECC DONATIONS

### *In Honor of*

The birth of grandson, Donovan Sinkoff, from Shelley and Marty Rolf  
Julie and Peter Gale's two new grandchildren. from Shelley and Marty Rolf

## EVENT / PROGRAMS, ADULT

### *In Memory of*

Tim Gunnet-Shoval from Jim Caron and Amy Richman

## GENERAL DONATION

Joseph Chiplock  
Mara Koven-Gelman  
Yigal Litvin  
Nance & Andy Ebert  
Robin & Barry Kriesberg  
Suzanne & Tom Sawyer  
Lisa Berman & Richard Berg  
Howard Jaffe & Irene Rosenzweig  
Amy Handelsman  
Amy Dattner-Levy  
Alan & Cheryl Binder  
Larry Friedman & Aviva Wichler  
David Goldstein & Sherri Greenbach  
Carol Beyer  
Amy Richman & Jim Caron  
Steven Freed  
Helene & Michael Greenberg  
John & Nina Lipkowitz  
Jerry & Christine Baral  
Amy Taylor  
Kenneth Fishman & Lisa Wendell  
Stacy & Matt Linick  
Rabbi Janet Liss & Grace Blank  
Tim Likarish  
Rob Cohen & Lori Thaler-Cohen  
Anne Rabinowitz & Donald Chabon  
Ronni Monsky  
Elise Abrams  
Robert & Elisa Bildner  
Janice & Rik Kabel  
Ellen Herman  
Gerald & Phyllis Greenbach  
Marilyn & Elihu Katzman  
Ken and Robin Baer  
Robin & Peter Goldberg  
Rabbi Deborah Zecher & Rabbi Dennis Ross  
Martin & Shelley Rolf  
David & Ellen Gibbs

### *In Honor of*

Joan Goldberg Munch from Ron Goldberg  
Mark Blumkin from Sam and Robin

### *In Memory of*

Cecil Abraham from Carol Beyer  
Helen Fox from Donald Fox  
Alba Tutnauer from Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Match  
Jeffrey Diamond from Eric & Stacey Shore  
Sy and Leah Karpen from Judy Karpen  
Stanley & Rebecca Marcus from Kathy Ward & Helen Ward-Cole  
Lois Lasky from Rhea & Ken Werner  
Jeffrey Diamond from The Diamond Pearlman Family  
Alba Tutnauer from Toby Levine

## HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Mark & Taryn Leavitt  
Robin Taub Williams  
Susan Magazine  
Cathy Bezozo  
Beth Morgenstern  
Joan Gellert  
Diane Weiser  
Daniel & Andrea Patel  
Betsy & Richard Honig  
Ken & Edie Schechter  
Karen Tucker  
Michael Gordon  
Rachel Hertzman & Rabbi Rex Perlmeter  
Kenneth Fishman & Lisa Wendell  
Ellen Heffan

## MUSIC FUND

### *In Memory of*

Moshe Kruger from Cheryl & Alan Binder  
Moshe Kruger from Elisa and Larry Frankel

## RABBI GORDON DISCRETIONARY FUND

David Kasakove  
James Sinkoff  
Sheri Ginis  
Elisa & Larry Frankel  
Nancy Barbe & Steve Klein  
Maurice Blaustein & Julie Somers  
Eugene Rosenberg

### *In Memory of*

Joseph Ellis from Barbara Ellis  
Jeffrey Diamond from The Diamond Pearlman Family  
Lillian Smilowitz from Sandra Josel

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

### *In Honor of*

Noah Lord's Bar Mitzvah from Shelley and Marty Rolf  
Sasha Dresner's Bar Mitzvah from Shelley and Marty Rolf

### *In Memory of*

Tim Gunnet-Shoval from Carol Beyer

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

Malcolm and Jackie Mazow

**PLEASE NOTE:** This list covers the dates from Nov. 15, 2025 to Feb. 12, 2026. If there are omissions or errors, please contact Aldeth Lewin in the Hevreh office at (413) 528-6378.



**518-325-3331**

**Serving MA, NY, CT for 60 years**  
Your Local, Family-Owned Hauler

**Residential & Commercial Pick Up,  
Dumpsters, and Roll-Offs**  
Transfer Station Open to the Public



Steve Erenburg  
Your Realtor® in the heart  
of the Berkshires.

413.475.9166



BIRCH Properties is a modern real estate firm that synthesizes the warmth of a small-town brokerage with the agility of a startup.

Though we're tech-forward in temperament, we're connectors at heart who work tirelessly to ensure that you can start the next growing season of your life on fertile soil.



**BIRCH**  
PROPERTIES

**WE GET RESULTS**



CAMPOLI • MONTELEONE • MOZIAN  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

268 Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Phone: (413) 644-0159  
Fax: (413) 644-0182

**WWW.CAMPOLILAW.COM**

**Daily  
Money  
Management**

Your finances -- simplified,  
stress free, under control



**We work with seniors and their  
families and busy professionals**

**Our Services**

- ✓ Bill Management
- ✓ Expense Tracking
- ✓ Financial Reporting
- ✓ Insurance Claims Management
- ✓ Mail Management
- ✓ Tax Organization
- ✓ Fraud Review
- ✓ File Organization and Management



shira@everydaymm.com



413-717-9829



www.everydaymoneymanagement.com



270 State Road  
Great Barrington  
Massachusetts 01230

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #95  
Great Barrington  
MA 01230



HEVREH OF SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE

SECOND NIGHT  
PASSOVER SEDER

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2 AT 5:00PM**

SEDER LED BY RABBI GORDON

PLEASE GO TO [HEVREH.ORG](http://HEVREH.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION