חברה
HEVREH
Jewish Life . Learning . Community

2026 – 2027 Winter

Life at HEVREH

DECEMBER 1, 2026–FEBRUARY 28, 2027 – 5787

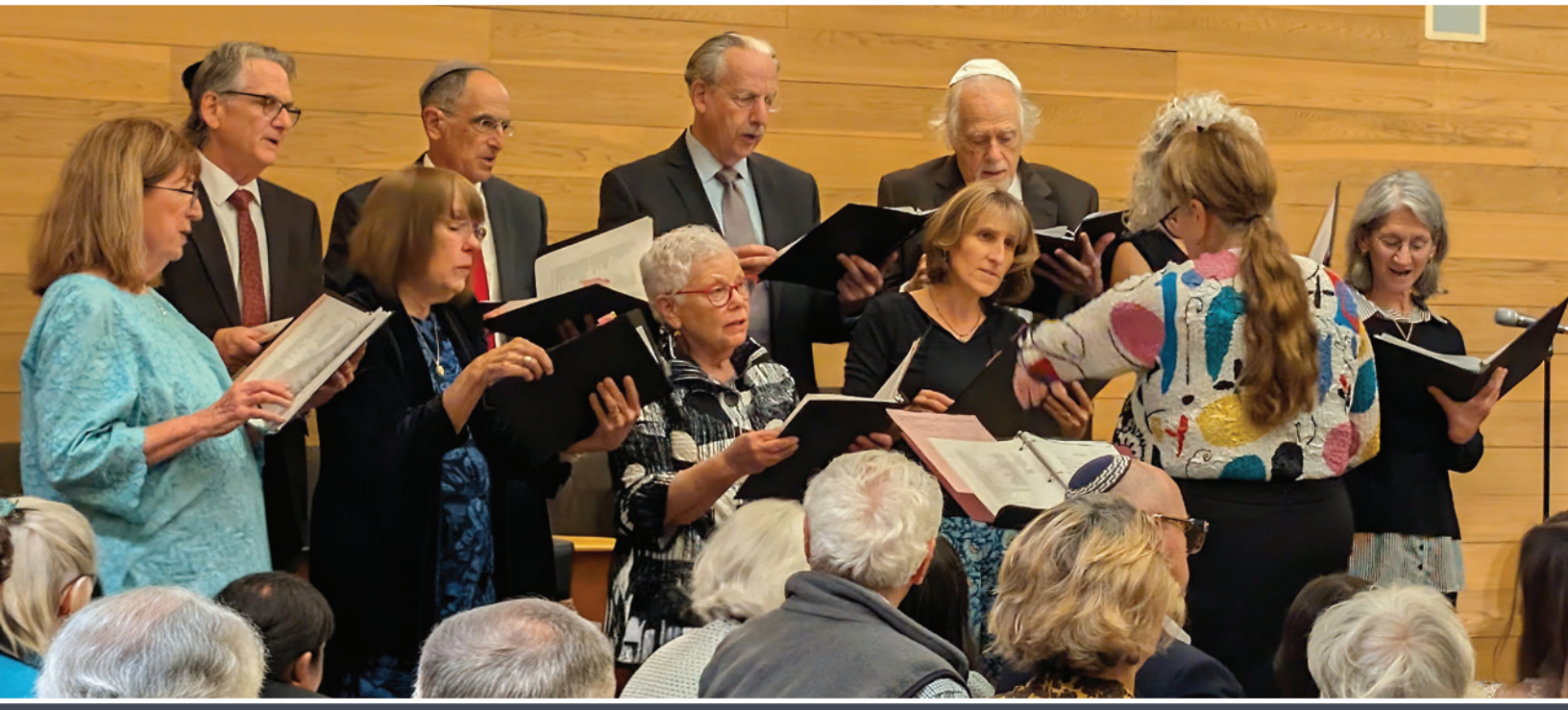












FROM THE RABBI,
Senior Rabbi, Jodie Gordon

BARUCH SHEKEVANTA

Sometimes, when I find myself burdened by the world, I remind myself that I am not the first person in the history of the world to feel this way. I am not among the first generations to look out at the violence, bigotry, and subjugation around us and feel pained and disillusioned. I am not the first to experience hopelessness, or to wonder how we might possibly make our way toward a more just and compassionate world.

And, frankly, I find that comforting. Self-soothing? Perhaps. But comforting nonetheless, to imagine the generations that came before me, looking out at their world with the same pains and worries. To remember that people who lived centuries ago also struggled to reconcile their hopes for humanity with the realities they encountered. That they, too, wrestled with questions of faith, justice, responsibility, and what it means to keep going.

Recently, I learned something new from a rabbi whose writing I have begun to follow earnestly. Rabbi Tali Adler teaches about a phrase we use in Jewish learning when a student, centuries after an earlier sage, arrives independently at the same insight: *baruch shekevanta*.

Roughly translated, it means, "Blessed be God that your intention was that of the great ones."

What it really means, though, is something like this: Thank God for this journey through time. For allowing centuries and miles of distance to collapse and, for a moment, allowing minds that never met in life to touch.

Because that's what Jewish learning is about: not just ideas, but relationships. It's about opening a book and finding your ancestors. It's reading the Torah and feeling Moses' pen move. It's imagining sitting in Rashi's house of study, knowing that he wrote these words for you. It's discovering that a question keeping you up at night was asked by someone a thousand years ago, and that someone else has been wrestling with the answer ever since.

I think about this especially when the world feels heavy. Jewish tradition does not ask us to look away from suffering or pretend that everything will be all right. If anything, it asks us to look more closely, to pay attention, to argue, to question, and to act. It reminds us that we are not the first to struggle, and that we need not struggle alone.

This is part of what I hope we will experience together in the winter months ahead. Our calendar is filled with opportunities to encounter Jewish wisdom, music, prayer, and one another in ways that remind us why being part of a Jewish community matters.

In December, we will welcome Israeli peace activist Maoz Inon and Palestinian peacemaker Aziz Abu Sarah for an evening of conversation about grief, reconciliation, and the possibility of a different future. Their stories, and their


Rabbi Jodie Gordon

decision to work together despite profound personal loss, invite us into one of the most difficult and necessary conversations of our time: how do we choose humanity when the world gives us so many reasons not to? In the winter, our Lunch & Learn series, *Striving to Be Human*, will take up that question from another angle, exploring how Jewish wisdom can help us navigate the complicated moral and ethical questions of the twenty-first century.

And there will be other ways to find connection: through the beauty of Sephardic music at our musical Havdalah with Ira Klein, through the joy of gathering across generations at our Religious School family Shabbaton, and through the ancient songs of liberation and gratitude that we celebrate at Shabbat Shira.

Each of these experiences offers a different doorway into the same remarkable conversation. Sometimes we will encounter an ancient teaching that feels as though it was written for this very moment. Sometimes we will meet someone whose story challenges us to see the world differently. Sometimes it will be a melody, a prayer, or a shared Shabbat experience that reminds us that we belong to something larger than ourselves.

I hope that somewhere in the months ahead, you will experience one of those moments when something feels at once ancient and entirely new. When the distance between past and present seems to disappear, and you recognize yourself in the wisdom, questions, or experiences of someone who lived long before you.

And perhaps, in that moment, you will find yourself thinking: *baruch shekevanta*.

Blessed be God for the connection. Blessed be God for the conversation. Blessed be God that across all those centuries, we are still finding one another.

May the winter ahead bring us many such moments.

Warmly,



Rabbi Jodie Gordon

THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE A YEAR-END DONATION

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we remind everyone that donations to Hevreh (High Holiday Appeal, capital campaign, general giving and of course, community commitments) are all tax-deductible. Giving before December 31 can provide a valuable deduction on 2026 taxes. Please consider giving what you can by year end. We appreciate everyone's generosity enormously. Many thanks.


Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

FROM THE CANTOR-EDUCATOR,
Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

DEAR HEVREH COMMUNITY,

My first High Holy Days at Hevreh were such a joy, and now it is time for me to root into the deep work of being a Cantor-Educator at Hevreh. By the time this bulletin comes out, I will have officially been installed! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of my celebration. The support of this community has blown me away and it has been such a pleasure getting to know you and your families better through Religious School and services. One of the highlights for me is getting to lead Boker Tov Hevreh on Sunday mornings with our band.

I have been trying to impress upon our community the value of grounding into the Jewish calendar - we sing our Hebrew Months song at Boker Tov Hevreh and I try to announce what Hebrew date we are on when I lead services. It is an honor to live in Jewish time with you all and travel through the seasons of joy together. I am truly looking forward to my first Berkshires winter - we sure have a lot to look forward to!

FROM THE PRESIDENT,
Steve Klein

On Sunday, November 8, I had the great honor of carrying our Czech Torah scroll at a New England Reunion of the Memorial Scrolls Trust at Temple Beth El in Springfield. I was joined by 19 Hevreh congregants. Thirty-five other Czech scrolls were there as well, along with representatives of their synagogues. The ceremony was moving and the speeches were inspirational. Candidly, I wasn't expecting to be so struck by the events of the afternoon. Special thanks to our Ritual VP, Amy Richman, for organizing us to participate and for transporting our Torah to and from Springfield.

Our Torah scroll, #759, is one of more than 1,500 Torahs from the Czech territories saved from destruction, first by the Central Jewish Museum in Prague and ultimately by a group led by Westminster Synagogue in London. Once purchased, they were lent on a permanent basis to synagogues all over the world. Each of our B'nai Mitzvah chant from this Torah.


President Steve Klein

Sunday was moving for several reasons. First, the reunion was an opportunity to consider the weight of history and the tragedy of the Holocaust. Through these Torah scrolls we remember the millions who perished. Second, we honored the Torah as the central element of Judaism, embodying our origin story and the source of so much of our collective memory and wisdom. And finally, we recognized the through-line of our people and our communal practice. Even after all we have survived as Jews, we are still here, still referring to the Torah as the touchstone of our faith.

In short, it was a wonderful and powerful afternoon we won't soon forget.

Warmly,

Steve


Joan Goldberg Munch

FROM THE DIRECTOR,
Joan Goldberg Munch, Executive Director

In October, I had the opportunity to attend the National Association of Temple Administrators Conference for Temple Directors. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow directors, share experiences, and learn from the challenges and successes of other congregations.The conference included inspiring keynote speakers and daily workshops. I returned with new insights and resources, particularly around organizational design, budgeting, security and safety protocols. It was a good reminder of how much we do at Hevreh and how well we do it. I look forward to incorporating new ideas and resources into our work at Hevreh and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to attend.

As we move towards completion of this phase of our building rehabilitation project, I want to extend my thanks to the entire Hevreh community. Your flexibility and patience with parking and entrances, construction machinery, mud and gravel and general upheaval is greatly appreciated. Managing a project of this scale while keeping the building occupied is a team effort. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

I look forward to seeing many of you this winter as you come in from out of the cold to the warmth of Hevreh.

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL WAY TO HONOR A SPECIAL OCCASION? HOST A FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT PRE-NEG OR ONEG!

Sponsoring an Oneg is a meaningful way to mark a milestone birthday or anniversary, celebrate a lifecycle event or memorialize a loved one.

This Winter we are celebrating Shabbat with Onegs and a monthly Pre-Neg, before services, on December 18, January 15 and February 19.

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 to book your date. We look forward to seeing you soon at your Oneg!

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE,
Mike Greenberg, VP of Operations

We are excited to report significant progress on the building as we near substantial completion by year end:

- We have a new parking lot! Paving was completed on November 11.
- Roofing is 90% complete.
- Siding is about 50% complete.
- Drainage work is 90% complete.
- New windows have been installed in all classrooms and most offices.
- Walkways are being rebuilt including the patio area behind the sanctuary.
- Entrance doors and lobby window installation is scheduled for the spring.

MEMORIAL SCROLLS TRUST REUNION OF NEW ENGLAND TORAHS

Nineteen Hevreh members were proud to take part in this remarkable gathering on November 8, honoring the precious Torah scroll entrusted to our congregation. Thirty-five historic Czech Torah scrolls from across New England came together at Temple Beth El in Springfield for an extraordinary Memorial Scrolls Trust Reunion.

Each scroll carries a story — of a community, a history, and a legacy that must never be forgotten.

L'dor v'dor — from generation to generation.

Thank you.

Amy Richman, VP of Ritual



ECC UPDATE,
Heather Neaz-Nibur, ECC Director


Heather Neaz-Nibur

The ongoing construction outside of our building has been a major topic of discussion and interest for everyone in our community. While adults may have been busy discussing disruptions to parking or building access, the ECC students have been captivated by this up close and personal view of construction vehicles and workers. Each day the students are excited to see what new vehicles are outside and to observe what new projects the construction crew is taking on. They are excited to stand on stools to watch out our windows, visit the different entrances to peek out the doors, and watch from our outdoor space as the building transforms around them.

Teachers have planned curriculums that build on our students' natural curiosity. They have offered opportunities for students to build with different materials, to play with toy construction vehicles, and added books to classroom libraries that allow students to dive deeper into their exploration of construction.















RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS,
Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel, Cantor-Educator

Religious school has been a blast. Now fully launched with the High Holy Days behind us, we had a "regular" month of Cheshvan. The energy in the building during Sunday Religious School and Hebrew Skills is something I look forward to each week. Our teachers and madrikhim have been working hard to make school joyful and inclusive to all. On November 6th, we had our first community Shabbat led by our K'tanim class. Our next Community Shabbat will be January 29th.

Coming up on December 6 we have our Yachad Chanukah "Light Up the Lanes" event with a very festive Boker Tov Hevreh followed by a communal gift-wrapping to donate to Volunteers in Medicine, and lastly a celebratory trip to the bowling alley for intergenerational bowling and Chanukah fun!

Then get ready for our Shabbaton on February 5–6th at Eisner where we will gather as a community for a cozy Shabbat with some unique opportunities for bonding. A little birdie told me there would be lots of dancing that night. :-)

On February 28th we have a very special trip planned and sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for our 7th and 8th graders to travel to NYC with myself and their parents to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage for an in depth education on the Holocaust. We are grateful to our partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for this endeavor.

COMMUNITY SHABBAT

Community Shabbat brings together religious school and the larger community. Once a month, each religious school grade has the opportunity to lead our community in singing and in worship. Followed by a hearty dinner, this event is not to be missed. Bring your family and friends!

We had a wonderful Community Shabbat with K'tanim (Grades K–1) on November 6.

Join us for the Bonim Community Shabbat on January 29 at 6pm. Two more dates follow in the spring, on March 19 and April 3.

THINKING ABOUT JEWISH SUMMER CAMP?

Give your child a summer filled with friendship, adventure, Jewish connection, and memories that last a lifetime!
And here's even more good news: there are wonderful resources available to help make a Jewish camp experience more affordable for your family.

Here are three opportunities to explore:

1. **NEW THIS YEAR: Road to Camp!** Massachusetts families can receive support covering **30–40% of camp tuition** through this exciting new initiative. Learn more at *jewishcamp.org/roadtocamp*.
2. **One Happy Camper**: The Harold Grinspoon Foundation generously supports eligible campers from Western Massachusetts, helping families make Jewish summer camp a reality. Explore the program at *hgf.org*.
3. **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Scholarships**: Berkshire County families can apply for local camp scholarship support through our Jewish Federation. **Applications are due January 16!** Visit *jewishberkshires.org* to learn more.

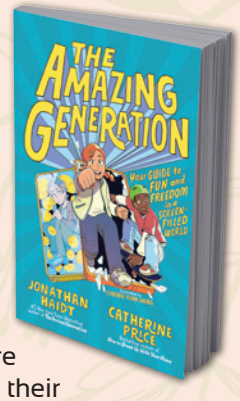
A summer of fun, friendship, and Jewish discovery may be more within reach than you think. Let's get your child to camp!

FOURTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBATON AT EISNER CAMP
February 5–6, 2027

It's almost that time again! Join us for Hevreh's 4th Annual Religious School Shabbaton at Eisner Camp. Think of it as a little taste of Jewish summer camp in the middle of winter. This special overnight experience brings together our Religious School families for a weekend of Shabbat, community, music, delicious meals, and plenty of camp-style fun.

New this year: The entire Hevreh community is invited for Friday night festivities! Even if you're not staying overnight, you're welcome to join our Religious School families for Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat dinner, and the evening Song Session in the Chadar Ochel. Come share in the music, the warmth, and the joy of Shabbat at camp!

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR HEVREH FAMILIES!



The Amazing Generation by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price, written directly for kids and tweens is a guide to navigating smartphones, social media, and technology. Amy Taylor and Hannah Markos will co-facilitate this discussion group for parents and caregivers on Sundays, January 24, March 14, and March 28, following Boker Tov Hevreh. Religious School and Early Childhood Center families are welcome, as is anyone with children in their lives who is thinking about these issues.

Each session will explore a question raised by the book as we consider how to build healthy relationships with technology and media for our children and ourselves.

There are no easy answers, and our goal is to create a judgment-free space for conversation, curiosity, and the sharing of different perspectives. All are welcome!

CHANUKAH AT HEVREH

This year, Chanukah is unique: we have two Shabbats that fall on the holiday! Join us at Hevreh as we welcome the Festival of Lights and bring it to a joyful close with two special Chanukah Shabbats filled with music, community, and holiday spirit!

CHANUKAH SHABBAT: LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

Friday, December 4 | First Night of Chanukah
Pre-Neg at 5:15pm | Service at 6pm

Let's kick off Chanukah together! Join Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel for a sweet and spirited start to the Festival of Lights. Come early for a special Chanukah pre-neg, pick up a little Chanukah gift from the congregation, and get ready to celebrate. We'll light the first Chanukah candles as we welcome Shabbat, beginning eight nights of light, joy, and togetherness.

TOT SHABBAT: CHANUKAH EDITION

Saturday, December 5 at 9am

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel can't wait to celebrate Chanukah with a special Tot Shabbat filled with song, storytelling, and a special Chanukah Shabbat snack! All are welcome.

YACHAD CHANUKAH

Sunday, December 6 at 10:30am

Join Hevreh's Religious School families for a festive morning celebrating the Festival of Lights. Each child is asked to bring a new, unwrapped gift to contribute for our Chanukah Gift Wrap, which will be distributed through Volunteers in Medicine. Following the festivities, we'll conclude our day at The Cove with the whole Hevreh congregation!





The Hevreh kitchen was filled with delicious smells and sizzling oil on November 17 as a crew of volunteers made hundreds of latkes for the upcoming Chanukah Shabbat Latke Oneg.

For more information go to *hevreh.org*.

Sunday, December 6 at 12pm

Bring the whole family and join us for a fun-filled bowling party bringing together our Religious School students, families, and congregation members of all ages. It's a chance to celebrate Chanukah, connect across generations, share some laughs, and enjoy time together outside the synagogue.

Whether you're a bowling pro or rolling your very first ball, there's a place for everyone on the lanes!

All ages. All generations. All together.
*Suggested Donation: $18 adult household.**

RCP ANNUAL CHANUKAH LATKE POTLUCK

Tuesday, December 8 at 6pm, Hevreh

Join us for a festive evening of food, friendship, and Chanukah celebration! Enjoy our first Great Latke Showdown, a delicious vegetarian potluck dinner, candlelighting and Chanukah songs with Rabbi Jodie Gordon, and Israeli dancing. Registration required.

CHANUKAH SHABBAT: EIGHT NIGHTS OF LIGHT & LATKE ONEG

Friday, December 11 | Eighth Night of Chanukah
Service at 6pm | Latke Oneg to Follow

Let's bring the light all the way home! One week after lighting the first candles together, we'll gather again to celebrate the eighth and final night of Chanukah in a sanctuary glowing with all eight lights. Bring your favorite menorah to help illuminate our congregational celebration! Rabbi Gordon and Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel will lead a special musical Shabbat service, complete with a few fun surprises. Then, we'll keep the celebration going over a delicious latke oneg.

Come for the first light, return for the full glow, and celebrate Chanukah together at Hevreh!

* *Religious School family participation is supported in part by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation.*

WINTER EVENTS AT HEVREH

SHALOM YOGA: SEATED & STANDING CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS
Wednesdays at 10:45 am

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

THE FUTURE IS PEACE
December 13 at 7pm

Rabbi Gordon will moderate a conversation between Israeli peace activist Maoz Inon and Palestinian peacemaker Aziz Abu Sarah for *The Future Is Peace: An Evening with Maoz Inon & Aziz Abu Sarah*, a conversation about grief, reconciliation, and the possibility of a different future. Registration required.

MAHJONG
December 17, January 21, and February 18 at 1pm

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 is appreciated. Suggested donation of $5.

The official 2027 National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) cards will be coming soon! Order yours through Hevreh and $7 from each card purchased will support Hevreh's Adult Programs and Events. The order deadline is January 22. See your emails or *hevreh.org* for the link to order.



ROOTS & RESONANCE: A MUSICAL HAVDALAH
January 16 from 7–9pm
An Evening of Music, Ritual & Connection Featuring Ira Klein and Hila Rabby in Concert

Join us for a soulful and spirited evening celebrating the many ways Jewish music connects us to our roots, to one another, and to the present moment.

Featuring Brooklyn-based musicians Ira Klein and Hila Rabby, this participatory musical experience weaves together Middle Eastern melodies, Jewish musical traditions, and contemporary sounds. Through music and the ritual of Havdalah, we'll mark the transition from Shabbat into the new week with warmth, creativity, and a sense of shared discovery.

We hope you'll plan to be with us for a sweet and soul-warming evening out! Light refreshments will be provided.

RCP TU BISHEVAT SEDER — HOME OF JULIE GALE
Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 pm

Join RCP for a special Tu BiShevat seder celebrating the New Year of the Trees. An afternoon of tradition, learning, and friendship. Details and registration information to follow.

RABBI GORDON & STEVE KLEIN FLY SOUTH!
January 26–27, 2027

We're bringing the Hevreh community together for two special gatherings in the Sunshine State. Whether you'll be on the west coast or east coast, we'd love to see you, catch up, and enjoy some time together!

- **Naples**: Tuesday, January 26
- **Palm Beach Gardens**: Wednesday, January 27

If you're in Florida and interested in joining Rabbi Gordon, Steve Klein and fellow Hevreh members, please email *info@hevreh.org* and let us know whether you'll be joining us in Naples or Palm Beach Gardens.

LUNCH 'N LEARN: STRIVING TO BE HUMAN
Wednesdays, 12–1:30pm, In-person and on Zoom
February 3, 10, 24; March 3, 10, 24, 31; April 7, 14 , 28

"In a place where there is no humanity, strive to be human." Rabbi Hillel's timeless teaching invites us to ask: What does it mean to be human, especially in an age of rapid transformation? Join Rabbi Gordon for a Lunch & Learn exploring *Striving to Be Human: Jewish Perspectives on Twenty-First-Century Challenges*. Grounded in Jewish wisdom, we'll explore questions of moral justice, belonging, queer theology, good and evil, artificial intelligence, reproductive technologies, and our relationship with animals. Through learning and lively conversation, we'll consider how Jewish values can guide us through today's complex ethical questions and deepen our understanding of human dignity, responsibility, and compassion. It is recommended that you purchase a copy of this book in advance; available on Amazon or *ccarpress.net*.

FOURTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBATON AT EISNER CAMP
February 5–6, 2027

The entire Hevreh community is invited for Friday night festivities! Even if you're not staying overnight, you're welcome to join our Religious School families for Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat dinner, and the evening Song Session in the Chadar Ochel.

SAVE THE DATE

AN EVENING ON ZOOM WITH RABBI NOA KUSHNER
Wednesday, March 3, 2027 at 7pm EST, Zoom Only

Join us for a special evening with Rabbi Noa Kushner, author of *Pretend You Believe: How to Enter Religion*, for a conversation about her thought-provoking new book and the possibilities of finding our way into religious life.

SHABBAT BA'BAYIT
Friday, March 5

Celebrate Shabbat together with Shabbat Ba'Bayit when, for one night, our Hevreh community gathers in small groups at congregants' homes across the Berkshires. If you're interested in hosting, please email *info@hevreh.org* with the subject line Shabbat Ba'Bayit.

~ *Continued on page 9* ~

THE FUTURE IS PEACE:

AN EVENING WITH MAOZ INON & AZIZ ABU SARAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 7:00 PM

Maoz Inon's parents were killed on October 7. Aziz Abu Sarah's brother died after being detained by the Israeli army. Most would expect them to be enemies. Instead, they wrote a book together.

Join us for an evening of conversation with Maoz and Aziz, moderated by Rabbi Jodie Gordon with an opportunity for Q&A. Books will be available for purchase.

Registration is required; invited donation of $25



Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Scan QR Code or visit hevreh.org to register





MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT,

Irene Rosenzweig, VP of Membership

GROWING OUR HEVREH COMMUNITY

At Hevreh, membership is about more than belonging to a congregation; it's about building relationships and creating a sense of community.

The Membership and Engagement Committee is working to find meaningful ways for members to connect with through Shabbat gatherings, social programs, intergenerational activities and special events. An important priority is welcoming new members, helping them feel at home and making sure they know there are many opportunities to get involved.

One such activity is "Light Up the Lanes", our intergenerational Chanukah bowling celebration with our Religious School families and the entire congregation on December 6.

We're also excited to introduce our new congregational name-tag initiative! Name tags will make it easier to recognize one another, start conversations, and strengthen connections among members, both new and longtime.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming programs, making new connections, and continuing to build our Hevreh community together.

We are so pleased to welcome the following new congregants to our community

Madeline Haas
Daniel and Somya Shankin
Gary and Nicole Kroytor
Carol Saginaw
Ian and Katherine Cahn-Fuller
Irwin Gelman and Mara Koven Gelman
Cynthia Heller
David and Ellen Gibbs
David Housman
Richard and Tina Wasserman
Joel and Nancy Hart
Rebecca Holland and David Miller
Sharon and Ric Schafler

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION,

Carol R. Noble, Chair

The midterm elections saw an amazing voter turnout with impressive results! We thank all of you who wrote postcards to low-propensity voters in NC, VA, TX, and AL. Hevreh postcarders sent an impressive 1,990 postcards through Reclaim Our Vote! Thanks to Alyson Slutzky and Joan Brotman for heading up this effort. We also did postcards that RAC MA distributed to remind people to vote YES on Proposition 9 to reinforce strong regulations against gun violence, which passed successfully.

On October 25, JALSA organizers Hank Greenberg and Rachel Scarpino did a presentation in the sanctuary on Defending Democracy. We had a great turnout.

Breaking Bread Kitchen has resumed, thanks to leadership from Larry Friedman and Aviva Wichler. The first meal served in October was a great success. There is always a need for volunteers, please email *sja@hevreh.org* for more information.

In January, RAC MA - the Massachusetts state affiliate of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism - will begin the research process for the 2027–2029 time period. We will focus on prospective legislation that we think is critical and interview agencies we could collaborate with on these efforts. The process lasts through the spring. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Michele Krieg Bauer, the RAC MA liaison for Western MA, at *sja@hevreh.org*.



We have two new additions to SJA's projects: Rachel Kramer will join the Get Out the Vote project and Anne Becker has agreed to be the project lead for Action Alert, a new project to keep us apprised of important state legislation that needs our social justice support.

Ilana Steinhauer, executive director of Volunteers in Medicine requested our assistance in developing a list of volunteers who could drive women from the Berkshires to appointments for abortions, and potentially add comfort items such as soup, pads, etc. Please reach out to SJA if you are willing to do this when the need arises.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with and supported our efforts.

ROSH CHODESH PLUS,

Michele Krieg Bauer, Julie Gale & Shelley Rolf, Co-chairs
Elisa Schindler Frankel, WRJ Liaison

Retreat Recap and Winter Update

Our October overnight retreat at Eisner Camp brought women together for a wonderful weekend of friendship, reflection, and renewal. From workshops exploring wellness, creativity, cooking, and literature to shared meals, Havdalah, campfire singing, and nature walks, the weekend offered something for everyone—and plenty of opportunities to strengthen friendships and make new connections.

Looking Ahead: Our Annual Chanukah Latke Potluck on December 8 will feature the Great Latke Showdown, candlelighting and Chanukah songs with Rabbi Jodie Gordon, and Israeli dancing. We'll celebrate Tu BiShevat with a seder on January 24, followed by a Zoom program in early February.

For more information, email *rcp@hevreh.org*.



RCP women gathered at Eisner Camp for their October retreat, celebrating friendship, connection, and community.

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL 5787

The following is a list of all donors to the appeal as of November 17, 2026. Thanks to all for their contributions.

Nancy Ashen
Ken & Robin Baer
Nancy Barbe & Steven Klein
Philip & Anne Becker
Alan & Cheryl Binder
Sarah & Jeff Blaugrund
Daniel Blitzer
Sandra Block-Brezner
Mimi & Jim Broner
Jadwiga Brown
Matthew & Catherine Chester
Arlene & Gary Cohen
Avram & Natasha Dresner
Jason & Jeanne Epstein
Ann & Myron Falchuk
Eileen & Warren Feldman
Kenneth Fishman & Lisa Wendell
Sharon Flitterman-King
Donald Fox & Julie Gabriel
Daniel Freelander & Elyse Frishman
Larry Friedman & Aviva Wichler
Audrey & Ralph Friedner
Peter & Julie Gale
Shira Ginsburg
Joan Goldberg Munch & Bob Munch
Susan & Marc Goldman
Jodie Gordon & Josh Bloom
John & Laurel Graney
Mike & Helene Greenberg
Jennifer Gross
Adrienne & Stuart Gruskin
Dave Halley & Heidi Katz
Eric Hananel
Amy Handelsman
Rebecca Honig & Joshua Briggs
Robert & Marsha Hopp
Sharon Hotchkiss
Michael & Debbie Irwin
Jerold & Laurie Levey
Richard & Janice Kabel
Lynne Kaplan
Paula Kaplan-Reiss & Rick Reiss
Marilyn & Elihu Katzman
Alan Kaufman & Deborah Roth

The annual High Holiday Appeal is going well, but we still need your support. If you have already made a gift to the Appeal, thank you, thank you, thank you. Your contribution helps to make Hevreh available to all our members, regardless of ability to pay as well as helping us to provide the rich and varied program we all enjoy. If you haven't yet made a donation, year-end is a great time to do so. Every dollar counts. Thanks to all.

Laurence & Joan Kleinman
Michele Krieg Bauer & Chris Fader
Robin & Barry Kriesberg
Stephen and Pat Latzman
Timothy & Janet Lee
Roberta Leis
Monte Levin & Gary Lazarus
Seth & Kami Lewis Levin
Nina & John Lipkowitz
Janet Liss & Grace Blank
Susan Magazine
Diana Mandel
Chris & Molly Meador
Rita & Paul Menitoff
Donna & Chris Meyer
Beth Morgenstern & Andrew Polsky
Nan Morrison
Matthew & Sharon Mozian
Laurie Deutsch Mozian
Eric & Lisa Nadler
Michael Nathan & Beth Laster-Nathan
Shelly & Ziv Nelson-Shore
Arthur & Susan Peisner
Paula Pevzner
Sybil Pollet
Martin & Shelley Rolf
Jeffrey Rothenberg & Sarah Feldman
Terri Sash & David Hautzig
Suzanne & Tom Sawyer
Gary & Arlene Schiff
Rhea Schindler
Elisa Schindler Frankel & Larry Frankel
Bob & Helene Schlossberg
Anne Schnesel
Marc & Margot Schwartz
Tracy & Benjamin Seckler
Roberta Silman
Jane Silverman & Robert Karlin
Michael & Bradford Simon
Marte & Paul Singerman
Turbi Smilow
Robin Taub Williams
Joseph Tovares & Munya Avigail Upin
Michael & Joan Ury
Donald Weber & Shira Stern
Penny Wein
Jay Weintraub
Robert & Suzanne Werner
Rhea & Kenneth Werner
Gail & Ranan Wichler
Ariela Wichler
Melanie Willins
Michael Wolf
Sherry Moy & Nick Wolf
Elizabeth Youngman & Adam Prager
Cheryl Zellman



BLESSINGS & SORROWS

BLESSINGS

Mazel Tov to...

Tom and Suzanne Sawyer on the marriage of their daughter, Shayna to James Pecsok

Joanna Barlow and Ben Strassfeld on the birth of their daughter, Maya

Rabbi Irwin and Anne Zeplowitz on the birth of their grandson, Henry

Lynne Kaplan on the marriage of her son, Ben Kaplan to Ilana Lasday

Alan Kaufman and Deb Roth on the birth of their granddaughter, Remy Lyle

Thersea and Matt Freund on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel to Cole Van Seters

Rabbi Dan Reichenbach on his engagement to Lori Kusatsky

Richard and Alyson Slutsky on the birth of their grandson, Micah Wren

The Blaugrund family on Irit becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Jamie Gottlieb and Jason Randall on their marriage

The Kruh family on Sage becoming a Bar Mitzvah

SORROWS

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

Penny Wein on the death of her husband, Bruce

Josh Briggs, Rebecca, Sadie, Noa and Miles Honig-Briggs on the death of Josh's father, Michael

Heather Neaz-Nibur on the death of her uncle, Fred Lerner

Sami, Luke and Massimo Masiero on the death of Sami's mother, Susan Cabral

Rabbi Daveen Litwin and Stacey Goren on the death of Daveen's mother, Carolyn

Aldeth and Ari Lewin on the death of Aldeth's mother-in-law, Ann

Rabbi Dan Reichenbach on the death of his father, Paul

Eric and Brooke Meltzer on the death of Eric's brother, David

Ken and Rhea Werner and Robert and Suzanne Werner on the death of Ken and Robert's mother, Jacky

Gary and Arlene Schiff on the death of Gary's mother, Ellen

Rebecca Holland and David Miller on the death of Rebecca's mother, Elizabeth



Jamie Gottlieb and Jason Randall were married on October 31. Mazel Tov!

חברה
HEVREH
Jewish Life . Learning . Community

CLERGY

Jodie Gordon, *Senior Rabbi*

Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel, *Cantor-Educator*

Deborah Zecher, *Rabbi Emerita*

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Peri Smilow

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joan Goldberg Munch, Executive Director

Heather Neaz-Nibur, Early Childhood Center, Director

Sarah Marcus, Operations

Ellen Marcus, Programming Coordinator

Aldeth Lewin, Administrative Assistant/Office

Kate Van Olst, Administrative Assistant/Office

Bill Litchfield, Custodial and Maintenance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Klein, *President*

Lisa Sloane, *Immediate Past President*

Joshua Briggs, *Secretary*

Michael Greenberg, *VP of Operations*

Amy Richman, *VP of Ritual*

Shira Nichaman, *VP of Finance*

Chris Meador, *VP of Education*

Irene Rosenzweig, *VP of Membership*

TRUSTEES

Silke Aisenbrey
Phil Becker
Larry Bronstein
Jadwiga Brown
Julie Gale
David Goldstein
Amy Handelsman
Barry Kriesberg
John Lipkowitz
Jeff Rothenberg
Jeff Winik

DONATIONS WITH THANKS

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

In Memory of

Michael Briggs, from Jadwiga Brown

CANTOR ELENBOGEN-SIEGEL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel for the beautiful High Holy Days from Shelley and Marty Rolf

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Alan Kaufman and Deborah Roth

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Beth Laster-Nathan and Michael Nathan

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Kenneth Fishman & Lisa Wendell

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegal's installation from Lisa Sloane

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Madalyn Friedberg

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Rabbi Paul & Rita Menitoff

Cantor Elenbogen-Seigel's installation from Rhea & Ken Werner

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Robin Taub Williams

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from Shelley and Marty Rolf

Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel's installation from The Blaugrunds

CARING COMMUNITY

In Honor of

Shayna and James Pecsok's marriage from Bette & Phil Gladstone

Suzanne Sawyer's birthday from Bette & Phil Gladstone

Shira Sawyer's birthday from Bette & Phil Gladstone

Suzanne and Tom Sawyer from Gordon Gladstone

In Memory of

Winifred Friedman from Donna & Chris Meyer

Joan Goldberg Munch's friend, Jody from Shelley and Marty Rolf

ECC DONATIONS

In Honor of

Toby Morganstein's great-grandson from Shelley Rolf

GENERAL DONATION

In Memory of

Winifred Friedman from Ally Gordon

Fred Wichler from Ariela Wichler

Jacqueline Werner from Bonnie Saks

Elizabeth Holland from Shelley and Marty Rolf

Led by Hevreh Member Sarah Aroeste!

SAVOR

A Sephardic Music & Food Experience





FEBRUARY 11-19, 2027

TRAVEL WITH SAVOR ON AN 8-DAY MUSIC & FOOD ADVENTURE TO MEXICO CITY & PUEBLA







HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

COOKING CLASSES • MUSICAL PERFORMANCES • ARTISAN WORKSHOPS • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • SYNAGOGUE TOURS • CONVERSO HISTORY • CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE • TEOTIHUACAN PYRAMIDS • XOCHIMILCO EXPERIENCE • VIBRANT RESTAURANT SCENE AND SO MUCH MORE!

LED BY:



Ladino singer Sarah Aroeste



Sephardic chef Susan Barocas

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

VISIT SAVOREXPERIENCE.COM FOR INFO & REGISTRATION

HEVRA KADISHA

In Memory of

George Zellman from Cheryl Zellman

MADRICH FUND

In Honor of

Irit Blaugrand becoming a Bat Mitzvah from Shelley and Marty Rolf

Ellen Heffan on the marriage of Ellen's grandson from Shelley and Marty Rolf

Sage Kruh becoming a B'Mitzvah from Shelley and Marty Rolf

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of

Irit Blaugrund's Bat Mitzvah from Ellen Herman

Rabbi Gordon and Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel from Hevreh's 5787 High Holy Day choir

Nina Lipkowitz from Phyllis Kritz

In Memory of

Michael Briggs from Alan & Cheryl Binder

Charles Hotchkiss from Sharon Hotchkiss

RABBI GORDON DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Elaine and Steve Mack's birthdays from Ben and Elaine Silberstein

Rabbi Gordon's excellent leadership from Robert and Faith Goldstein

Rabbi Gordon and the exceptionally beautiful High Holy Days from Shelley and Marty Rolf

In Memory of

The brother in law of Debbie and Stan Lee from Bruce Kamiinstein

Jacqueline Werner from Rhea and Ken Werner

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

In Memory of

Jacqueline Werner from Jadwiga Brown

* ***PLEASE NOTE: This list represents only the donations that were dedicated to someone. This list covers the dates from August 12 to November 17, 2026. If there are omissions or errors, please contact Aldeth Lewin in the Hevreh office at (413) 528-6378.***




TOT
SHABBAT
AT HEVREH
SATURDAYS AT 9AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!
2026-2027
December 5
January 9
February 27
March 20
April 10
270 State Rd. Great Barrington
www.hevreh.org
HEVREH


jillian j events
Weddings,
Corporate Events,
Non-profit Galas,
and Parties
Full Service Event
Planning
P: 914-552-3811
E: jillian@jillianjevents.com
jillianjevents.com
Berkshires - NY Tri-State Area - Hudson Valley


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


Barbato
DISPOSAL
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
BARBATO
RECYCLING

חברה
HEVREH
Jewish Life . Learning . Community

270 State Road
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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

ROOTS & RESONANCE: A MUSICAL HAVDALAH

An Evening of Music, Ritual & Connection

Featuring Ira Klein and Hila Rabby in Concert

JANUARY 16TH, 2027 7PM-9PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Join us for a soulful evening celebrating Mizrahi music and its rich Jewish roots!

Featuring Brooklyn-based musicians Ira Klein and Hila Rabby, this participatory experience brings together vibrant Middle Eastern melodies, Jewish musical traditions, and contemporary sounds. Through music and Havdalah, we'll welcome the new week with warmth, connection, and community.

Come sing, listen, and celebrate!



Ira Klein

חברה
HEVREH
Jewish Life . Learning . Community



Hila Rabby