



FROM THE RABBI, *Senior Rabbi, Jodie Gordon*

I love summertime here at home in the Berkshires. I love how green and bright our world becomes, the impromptu dinners at the lake after work, the relief of stepping into our cool lobby on sticky, humid days.

At Hevreh, this summer holds that same sense of possibility.

At the heart of our community is a commitment to meaningful Jewish living—to engaging Jewish tradition in ways that are thoughtful and creative. For me, meaningful Jewish living requires that what we say about who we are, and more importantly, how we enact that vision in the world, is responsive to the world around us. We strive to be a place where learning is not confined to classrooms, where prayer is not confined to the sanctuary, and where each of us is invited into an ongoing process of exploration and growth.

This July marks the beginning of my thirteenth year in this community, and two years since I became your senior rabbi. As we anticipate this new year ahead, I am energized by the feeling that it is the start of a new chapter. We are preparing to welcome Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel into our community—as our Director of Education, and as a clergy partner. This is more than a staffing transition. It is a meaningful step in the continued unfolding of our vision: a Hevreh where Jewish life is creative, connected, and deeply alive.

In this next chapter, we have the opportunity to more fully integrate the core expressions of our communal life. We have long described ourselves as a destination for Jewish life, learning and community. Those three pillars of our work correspond to the expansive understanding of what a synagogue can be: a *Beit Knesset* (a house of gathering), a *Beit T'fillah* (a house of prayer), and a *Beit Midrash* (a house of study).

When I imagine Hevreh as a Beit Midrash, I envision learning that is curious, rigorous, and expansive.

When I imagine Hevreh as a Beit T'fillah, I envision worship and spiritual practice that is rooted, musical, and open-hearted.

When I imagine Hevreh as a Beit Knesset, I envision a community built on relationship, care, and shared responsibility.

Bringing these together under one creative and collaborative vision invites a deeper sense of alignment: a community in which what we learn shapes how we gather, and how we gather shapes who we become. This is not about changing who we are. It is about becoming more fully who we have already said we want to be.

Transitions like this ask something of all of us. They ask us to show up: with openness, with generosity, and with a willingness to participate in the shaping of what comes next. There will be moments of excitement and discovery, and moments that require patience as new patterns take root. This, too, is part of the sacred work of community.

I am deeply grateful to be doing this work alongside you, to be part of a Hevreh that continues to evolve with intention, creativity, and care.

As we move through the summer, I hope you will find your way into the spaces that nourish you—whether through learning, through prayer, through music, or simply through connection with one another. Each of those pathways is part of the larger story we are writing together.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Rabbi Jodie Gordon



Rabbi Jodie Gordon

WELCOME SHABBAT & ONEG!

Friday, July 10 at 6 pm

All are welcome

Join us for a special Shabbat service and oneg welcoming Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel!

WELCOMING CANTOR ELENBOGEN-SIEGEL

This summer, we're thrilled to welcome Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel to Hevreh—and we need you to help make that welcome real. In her first weeks, she'll be meeting with many members of our community to get to know the people, stories, and rhythms of Hevreh. But the most meaningful connections often happen beyond formal meetings—around a table, over coffee, or in simple, genuine conversation.

A few ways you can help:

- **Offer a note or small gesture:** Beginning June 1, we'll have a place at Hevreh where you can leave welcome notes or small tokens—a favorite local treat, a book you love, extra Tanglewood tickets, or a gift card to your favorite cafe or simply a few words of greeting.
- **Host a small gathering:** Feel free to extend invitations throughout the year ahead!
- **Share your Hevreh story:** What brought you here? What has kept you here? Your story is part of the fabric she is just beginning to learn.
- **Help her discover our community:** Introduce her to the Berkshires beyond our walls—favorite hikes, local spots, music venue or museum.
- **Make introductions:** If you see someone she hasn't met yet—help bridge that gap. A simple "Have you met...?" goes a long way.
- **Be curious and open:** Just as we are getting to know Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel, she is getting to know us. This is a shared process of discovery, shaped by listening, presence, and patience.

FROM THE PRESIDENT,

Lisa Sloane

June 17th—the day of Hevreh’s Annual Meeting (mark your calendar, and please don’t forget to come)—will mark the end of my three-year term as President of the Congregation. When Larry Frankel first called me three years ago—not once, not twice, but three times before I finally said “yes”—I can honestly say that, despite having served several terms on the board, I didn’t fully understand what I was signing up for. While there have certainly been challenging moments over the past three years, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve. There is no question that I benefited far more than Hevreh. I’ve gotten to know congregants and formed friendships I likely would not have made otherwise. I’ve learned a great deal about synagogue life and governance, and the challenges of this role have led to meaningful personal growth (even if that growth isn’t always obvious). It has truly been an honor to serve. Hevreh is a very special place, and I encourage each of you to consider getting involved—whether as a classroom parent, a committee



President Lisa Sloane

member, or a member of the Board of Trustees. Hevreh needs you, and you may find that you need Hevreh as well. I hope you will give the next President and Board the same love and support you so generously gave me over the past three years. It truly makes a difference. Todah Rabah and Shalom.

CANTOR SARINA ELENBOGEN-SIEGEL



Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

DEAR HEVREH COMMUNITY,

Thank you for welcoming me into your special congregation. Hevreh has been on my radar for many years, so I have long understood it to be a down-to-earth, vibrant place that aligns with my values. When I saw that Hevreh was hiring a clergy educator, I was deeply excited. And, from the moment I first stepped into the building, I thought, “now this is somewhere I would like to call home.” Beautiful and buzzing in all seasons, I am especially pleased that my first introduction to working at Hevreh will be in the summer time, when the Berkshires really come alive!

My training in cantorial school at HUC has prepared me as an educator, musician, and comprehensively as a clergy person able to tend to every facet of synagogue life. That is why I am especially excited to serve as your Director of Education—a role where I can integrate my love of children, extensive studies in liturgy, Hebrew, and Jewish history, with my pastoral presence, all the while getting to infuse music as a tool of learning and connection. My overarching goal with the curriculum is for students to feel confident participating as full fledged members of Jewish community

in and out of the synagogue: whether that be through leading ritual, chanting Torah, discussing Jewish stories, or singing sacred songs. I will strive to lead with vision and collaboration, getting to know each student’s strengths and passions in order to cultivate the community and help make our world a better place. I am looking forward to partnering with our faculty to create ways to integrate nature and being outdoors into our educational experience as well. I greatly look forward to collaborating with the Boker Tov Hevreh Band for Religious School, as well as Rabbi Gordon for services and adult education. I am very excited for her and I to be partners in this work.

For my senior thesis, I created a curriculum for a class titled “Returning Home to Who We’re Meant to Be: A Journey of *Teshuva* Through the Weeks of *Elul*” to guide people in a *teshuva* process of repair and return during the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I am happy to share more about this with you, especially as we near the High Holy Days.

At HUC, I have learned many different styles of Jewish music, but the genre of my heart will always be folk, and I look forward to sharing that with you all. My favorite class I got to take at school was on Nigunim as a spiritual practice, and I hope to create many opportunities for song circles and other kinds of communal song. I can’t wait to sing and dance with you soon.

At the end of the day, I want to be the cantor who people feel comfortable stepping into my office to talk to me about anything. Whether that is about mental health, sex, or death, no topic is too taboo, and I look forward to getting to know you better soon. *Mikol HaLev*, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for trusting me with this honor.

Sincerely,
Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

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

DEAR HEVREH COMMUNITY,

As we transition from spring into summer here in the Berkshires, Hevreh, too, is in a season of change. We are looking forward to welcoming Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel to our community, and I know many of you will be on hand to offer her a warm Hevreh welcome.

You will also begin to see signs of our long-awaited building rehabilitation project. Many thanks to Mike Greenberg and Jan Kabel for helping bring this project to its kickoff point. While we do not anticipate major disruptions to the services we provide, there may be some short-term adjustments to parking and building access as work progresses. We will communicate these changes as clearly as possible and appreciate your partnership as we prioritize everyone's safety while continuing daily life at Hevreh. Please keep an eye on your email for updates.

I also want to acknowledge that many in our community have been navigating personal transitions this spring. Our Caring Committee has been especially active, offering support in meaningful ways—whether sending a card, a blanket delivery, or a tray of sweets during shiva. A heartfelt thank you to Suzanne Sawyer for her Caring Committee leadership, and to the many volunteers who quietly and generously give their time and attention. If you are interested in joining the Caring Committee, please reach out at caringcommittee@hevreh.org. Donations are always welcome through our website.

Wishing you a beautiful summer. I look forward to seeing you soon.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We invite all members to attend Hevreh's Annual Congregational Meeting on **Wednesday, June 17** at 6:00 pm in the Hevreh sanctuary.

During the meeting, congregants will be presented with an overview of the year's activities and achievements as well as a look ahead to what's in store moving forward. Additionally, we will hold congregational votes on both the FY27 Budget as well as the slate of new officers and trustees, as per our bylaws.

If you are unable to attend in person, you will be able to submit an absentee ballot and any member is welcome to join via zoom and vote live.

More information will be in your email in the weeks before the meeting. We hope to see you all there!



Joan Goldberg Munch

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE, *Mike Greenberg, VP of Operations*

We are excited to provide the following update for the construction project:

1. On 4/8/26 Hevreh received bids from (3) General Contractors for the project.
2. After detailed review with our architects, the Building Task Force recommended to the Board that we select Allegrone Construction as the winning bidder.
3. On 4/28/26, the Hevreh Board approved the bid from Allegrone Construction for the restoration project.
4. Subject to final due diligence and contract negotiation, we expect to begin the construction in late May with estimated completion in 6 months.

We would like to thank the Building Task Force for their support and commitment to the project over the past 18 months as we moved from design concept to final plans and selection of a contractor for the project.

Jeff Blaugrund, Mark Blumkin, Joan Goldberg Munch, Jan Kabel, Steve Klein, Barry Kreisberg, Steven Picheny, Tom Sawyer, and Lisa Sloane

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

– The Ritual Committee

hevreh.org | (413) 528-6378

Music
— at Hevreh —
presents

"A CLASSICAL
CONVERSATION"
CONCERT TO BENEFIT HEVREH
OF SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE

JULY 7, 2026 AT 7 PM

Please join us for the live premiere of new Jewish music featuring acclaimed members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The performance will be followed by a discussion with the composer, and a bubbly toast to the launch of our Music at Hevreh series and to Summer in the Berkshires!



Michael Zaretsky,
Viola

Jakov Jakoulov,
Composer

Thomas Martin,
Clarinet

Xak Bjerken,
Piano



← Scan or go to
hevre.org to
purchase tickets

Underwriting opportunities available

ECC UPDATE,

Sarah Marcus & Shanekia Richmond, ECC Co-Directors

As we reach the end of the school year, we take great joy in celebrating with our students, families, and teachers all the wonderful experiences we have shared throughout our sixth school year at the ECC. This is a special time to reflect on the moments that brought us here and to look ahead to a joyful summer.

A Look Back at Our Year:

- January brought us plenty of snow—which meant lots of fun and laughter during outdoor snow play.
- February was a time to celebrate the “birthday of the trees,” connecting us to nature and its cycles.
- March brought the joy of Purim, filled with singing, costumes, and plenty of silliness shared with our families.
- April marked our very first ECC Family Passover, a meaningful and memorable experience for our community.
- May was bursting with curiosity and exploration of nature as we prepared for our end-of-year celebrations.

And now, June...

We are excited to celebrate and showcase all that we have learned and experienced this year. June invites us to fully enjoy the outdoors—searching for bugs, playing with water and sand, observing which trees are in bloom, and sharing more meals outside as we soak up the sunshine.



FAREWELL TO SHANEKIA RICHMOND

We bid a fond farewell to Shanekia Richmond as she concludes her tenure at the ECC. As our very first teacher hired, Shanekia came to our early childhood center as it was moving from a vision to an actuality. She has taught children of all ages at the ECC and has embraced their childhood journeys. Shanekia is a natural with the children and is known as a baby whisperer extraordinaire. Shanekia’s belief in the children’s capabilities can be seen in numerous ways, including the introduction of sophisticated literature and music to our youngest learners. We are fortunate to have had her as our co-director this past year and are thankful for all that she has contributed. All of us at Hevreh wish her well as she moves on to her next chapter.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS,

Beth Robbins, Religious School Director

What a rich spring we've had!

- After a snowy cold winter, we had two joyful and meaningful Community Shabbats that fed us spiritually and physically.
- Our teens pulled together a stellar Purim Carnival and then a fabulous Purimspiel.
- Rounding out March, we were a full contingent for our Yachad Passover. This all-school gathering welcomed Shakespeare + Company directors and our own teacher, Heidi Katz, to offer activities involving theatre games and crafts centered around the story of Passover. It was a great day, filled with energy and laughter.
- In April, our next B'nai Mitzvah cohort, the class of 5787, met with Rabbi Gordon for their Second B'nai Mitzvah Retreat.
- This spring we're witnessing the final three B'nai Mitzvahs of the class of 5786.

We're all in for a wonderful year of celebrations ahead.

UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

MILES

Saturday, June 20 at 10 am
All are welcome

Hi, I'm Miles and my B' Mitzvah will be on June 20th. I have two sisters, a dog, a guinea pig, along with a bearded dragon. I love to read, listen to music, play guitar, play soccer, hang out with family and friends, and act. Yeah, that was a lot (sorry). My Torah portion, Parshat Korah, shows a rebellion posed in a question and the harsh consequences that come with it. I believe music is a great way of asking questions, feeling free, and making some money along the way. For me, making music always fills me with joy, so for my B' Mitzvah project, I will be raising money to provide string instruments to share with unhoused people in the Berkshires. I am also gathering donated instruments such as guitars and ukuleles. I believe that music is for everyone no matter where you stand and it is a great way to learn a new skill and connect with others. I am so excited to share this moment with you all and can't wait to step up onto that bima.



On May 1, we honored our dedicated Religious School teachers and said a fond farewell – or rather, see you later – to Religious School Director Beth Robbins. Thank you, Beth, and L'hitraot!



CONFIRMATION TRIP TO AMSTERDAM

Rabbi Gordon led a group of our confirmation students and their parents on a tour of Amsterdam over spring break in April. The group visited the Anne Frank House, tulip fields, and many historic Jewish sites and parts of the city.



SUMMER AT HEVREH

HAVE YOU LOST A SPOUSE?

Tuesday, June 2 at 12 pm

Join Hevreh's informal group that was formed last year as a community for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or partner. If you have lost a spouse, whether recently or many years ago, please join our group gathering. We usually meet during the summer months, from late May through early fall. We talk about the many changes that have affected our lives and share stories about our new experiences - some funny, some sad.

This summer, we hope to create opportunities for socializing – dining out, movies, plays, and various outdoor activities. If you are interested, please contact Anne Schnesel or Sandra Josel by emailing info@hevreh.org.

NEW MEMBER & WELCOME BACK SHABBAT, PRE-NEG

Friday, June 5 at 5 pm

Come early to nosh, schmooze and celebrate with our Hevreh community for a special Pre-neg welcoming our new members and welcoming back our members returning for the summer season.

JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY AT HIGH LAWN FARM

Sunday, June 7 from 2–4 pm

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Celebrate Jewish heritage, culture, and identity at the Federation's annual Community Day at High Lawn Farm. Federation kicks off its 2026 community campaign with a fun-filled day of ice cream, cows, baby animals, crafts, community tables, raffles, music, and so much more! All are welcome.

Join together in Acts of Love and Kindness as we respond to urgent needs of our immigrant neighbors by donating gift cards for groceries, gas and basic necessities. Bring a Walmart, Target or Amazon gift card to Jewish Community Day.

SACRED TEXTS, SHARED QUESTIONS:

AN INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Fridays, June 12, July 10 & August 14 from 10–11am

First Congregational Church, Main St. Great Barrington

Join Rabbi Gordon, other clergy and community members from across the Southern Berkshires for a three-part interfaith exploration of sacred texts that continue to shape our moral imagination and spiritual lives. Together, we will study selections from the Book of Jonah, the prophet Isaiah, and other biblical voices, engaging these texts through Jewish, Christian, and interfaith lenses. Each session will invite participants into deep conversation—wrestling with enduring questions of responsibility, justice, compassion, repentance, and hope.

What does it mean to be called to change?

How do we respond to a world in need of healing?

And what can ancient wisdom teach us about the urgency of this moment?

No prior text study experience is necessary—just curiosity, openness, and a willingness to listen across differences.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Hevreh Men's Book Discussion Group meets every other month, alternating between fiction and non-fiction books. Most of the year, we meet at the Aegean Breeze restaurant in Great Barrington – typically on a Wednesday at 5:30 pm – and refer to ourselves as The Saganaki Boys in honor of the flaming cheese appetizer that inaugurates every meeting. In the colder months, when some of our members are elsewhere, we meet on Zoom at 8 pm.

The first book of the summer is *Down Cemetery Road* by Mick Herron. Meeting date is being finalized. Please email info@hevreh.org for more information.



Please go to hevreh.org and check your emails for programming details and registration information.

Questions? Email info@hevreh.org.

SHABBAT ACROSS THE BERKSHIRES AT TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM

Friday, June 12 at 6 pm

No services at Hevreh

Temple Anshe Amunim will host the Jewish Federation of the Berkshire's annual Shabbat Across the Berkshires service this summer. All are welcome. There will not be services at Hevreh on this date.

INTERFAITH PRIDE PRAYER BREAKFAST & SHABBAT IN LEE

Saturday, June 13 at 9 am

At the First Congregational Church of Lee, MA

No services at Hevreh

We are excited to extend our celebration of Shabbat and be in community with our LGBTQIA+ community and interfaith partners. Hevreh is proud to join in a celebration of PRIDE in Lee, in partnership with the Southern Berkshire Interfaith Clergy Council. There will be prayer, reflection and a light breakfast sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Lee, UCC and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. All are welcome to this free breakfast and interfaith service, however, advance registration is required. If you are interested in volunteering to help set up, welcome/greet attendees, or clean up, please write to info@hevreh.org.



REGISTER TODAY!

NOTE: *there will not be a regular Shabbat morning service at Hevreh on June 13.*

HEVREH HIKES

Sundays, June 14, July 12, August 16 & September 20 at 9 am

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 & bug spray. Registration is required.

ROSH CHODESH & THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

Monday, June 15 at 6 pm

Holly Steinberg's home

Please join us as we welcome the month of Tammuz – the heart of summer – a time to reflect on light, connection, the rhythms of nature, and whatever is unfolding in our lives at this moment.

Come share conversation, community, and a summer evening together in Holly's beautiful setting. Please RSVP to rcp@hevreh.org.

~ Continued on page 9 ~

SUMMER AT HEVREH

~ Continued from page 8 ~

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Wednesday, June 17 at 6 pm

All members of Hevreh are encouraged to attend our annual meeting to approve the new slate of officers and board members, as well as approve the ECC and the Hevreh operational budgets.

SHALOM YOGA: SEATED & STANDING CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS Wednesdays at 10:45 am No class June 17 and 24 & July 1

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.

MAHJONG Thursdays at 1 pm June 18, July 16 & August 20

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.

"L'HITRAOT" TO JAMIE GOTTLIEB & AN AUFRUF! Friday, June 19 at 6pm

This isn't goodbye – it's l'hitraot: see you later! Join us as we thank and celebrate the many contributions of our 2025-2026 rabbinic intern, Jamie Gottlieb. As she concludes her formal internship with us at Hevreh, we will offer her gratitude and blessings, and celebrate her upcoming marriage to Jason Randall with an *aufwurf* (pre-wedding blessing). A festive oneg, co-sponsored with the Honig-Briggs family in honor of Miles' B. Mitzvah will follow services

Use this QR code to send a personal message of appreciation to Jamie (this will be presented to her at the farewell service)



SPOTLIGHT ON KNOSH & KNOWLEDGE AT HEVREH

Fridays, 10:45 am – noon June 26 – *Carole King: She Made the Earth Move* July 17 – *Antisemitism: What Everyone Needs to Know*

This summer, we are delighted to once again partner with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires to bring Knosh and Knowledge to Hevreh. It is both an honor and a joy to serve as a host site for this dynamic summer series, which has become a hallmark of thoughtful Jewish learning in our region. Our collaboration with the Federation reflects a deep and ongoing commitment to cultivating spaces where ideas, culture, and community intersect—and where meaningful conversation can flourish.

From explorations of American music and Jewish identity, to urgent conversations about antisemitism and global Jewish life, this season's programs showcase the breadth, depth, and relevance of Jewish voices today. We are proud to open our doors to the wider Berkshire community, welcoming renowned speakers, authors, and thought leaders for mornings of insight, connection, and discovery.

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH SERVICE & CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 27 at 10am

We are so proud of the 5786 Adult B'nai Mitzvah cohort, which has been studying and preparing together since July 2025, and now will have the opportunity to lead our community in Shabbat morning services. Each of our students will be called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as well as delivering personal reflections and words of Torah. A festive kiddush and horah will follow services. RSVP online to help us prepare accordingly.

Our class includes: Nancy Barbe, Ellen Herman, Pat Latzman, Emily Maple, Hannah Markos, Chris Meador, Amy Taylor, Kate Van Olst and Rebecca Wolin.

HOLY ROLLERS June 21, July 19 & August 9, at 9 am

Join us for a casual 20-25 mile bike ride through the beautiful Berkshire Hills. Each ride is a chance to meet others from our community, get some exercise, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Meet at Hevreh. Helmets and advance registration required.

POST-ABORTION CARE PACKAGE DRIVE July 1 – July 31

Donate items to the SJA's annual collection drive for post-abortion care. Collection boxes will be at Hevreh, however items can be purchased online and shipped to Hevreh as well. See page 11 for details.

A CLASSICAL CONVERSATION Tuesday, July 7 at 7 pm

Join us for our inaugural "Music at Hevreh" benefit concert, "A Classical Conversation" featuring Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians led by composer/pianist Jakov Jakoulov. The concert will end with a discussion with the composer, followed by a bubbly toast. See page 5 for more details.

WELCOME SHABBAT

Friday, July 10 at 6 pm

We will fill the sanctuary with Hevreh ruach (spirit) as we welcome Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel for Shabbat and a special oneg. There is a lot to celebrate this Shabbat!



SUMMER SINGING CIRCLE & BREAKFAST WITH CANTOR ELENBOGEN-SIEGEL Thursday, July 16 & August 13 from 9:30 am–10:30 am

Join us for a relaxed and soul-nourishing summer morning of music and connection. Cantor Elenbogen-Siegel will lead us in a joyful singing circle filled with niggunim, beloved melodies, and gentle harmonies—welcoming voices of all levels. Afterward, we'll share a simple breakfast and linger in community. Come as you are, bring a friend, and begin your day with music and meaning.

~ Continued on page 10 ~

SUMMER AT HEVREH

~ Continued from page 9 ~

LIFE IN WWII LOS ALAMOS & ITS IMPACT ON NUCLEAR POLICY TODAY

Author Talk with Galina Vroman

Wednesday, July 29 at 2 pm

What was it like to live in WWII Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was built? What were the considerations that went into using the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945? How did the use of the bomb influence nuclear policy after the war and to this day? Inspired by the research for her historical novel, *Hill of Secrets*, set in WWII Los Alamos, author Galina Vroman will bring alive that momentous period and discuss its impact on nuclear proliferation today.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE IN THE BERKSHIRES: KABBALAT SHABBAT AT HEVREH

Friday, July 24 at 6 pm

We are proud to host HUC-JIR as part of the annual HUC in the Berkshires Shabbat weekend for a musical and meaningful Kabbalat Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon (NY '14) and Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel (NY '26), with featured participation from HUC alumni and faculty. Following services, join us for a special Oneg Shabbat hosted by HUC-JIR.

ROSH CHODESH PLUS ANNUAL POT LUCK & ELUL SERVICE

Wednesday, August 12

Annual pot luck and Elul service at Lori Pine's home, led by Lori Pine and Michele Krieg Bauer.

TANGLEWOOD SHABBAT

Friday, August 14 at 6:45 pm

No services at Hevreh

Join us on the Lawn for our annual Tanglewood Shabbat. Find our Hevreh group near the blue and white balloons. Bring a picnic, set up your chairs and join us on the lawn for dinner. We'll have a shared oneg table and encourage you to bring something sweet to share. Around 6:45 pm, we'll gather on the back of the lawn for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. The concert begins at 8 pm. Please call the Tanglewood Box Office to purchase lawn tickets. If you would like to attend and need assistance with ticket purchase, please be in touch with the Hevreh office at info@hevreh.org.

PLEASE NOTE: *No services at Hevreh on August 14. No streaming available.*

TOT SHABBAT SH'BUBBLES

Saturday, August 15 at 9 am

Join Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel as she sings and tells stories to celebrate Shabbat with children 0–5 years old and their families. We'll provide the bubbles!

ELUL WITH THE CLERGY

Wednesdays from 12–1:30pm

August 19 – Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

August 26 – Rabbi Irwin Zepowitz

September 2 – Rabbi Howard Jaffe

September 9 – Rabbi Deborah Hirsch

As we make our way through Elul, we're invited to slow down, notice what's stirring beneath the surface, and turn inward with intention. This is a season of cheshbon ha'nefesh—a quiet, honest reckoning—as we prepare to cross the threshold into a new year with greater awareness and care.

This year, we're especially grateful to be learning with voices from within our own Hevreh community. Each session offers a different doorway into the work of reflection and renewal, helping us enter 5787 grounded, open, and ready.

Bring your lunch, your curiosity, and whatever you're carrying—we'll bring the learning and the community.



RABBINIC STAFF

Jodie Gordon, *Senior Rabbi*

Deborah Zecher, *Rabbi Emerita*

Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel,
Cantor-Educator

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Peri Smilow

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joan Goldberg Munch, *Executive Director*

Sarah Marcus,
*Early Childhood Center,
Director of Operations*

Shanekia Richmond,
*Early Childhood Center, Director of
Curriculum*

Ellen Marcus, *Programming Coordinator*

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 Handlesman

Barry Kriesberg

John Lipkowitz

Emily Maple

Irene Rosenzweig

Jeff Rothenberg

Yaron Sadan

* Through June 30, 2026



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

RAC-MA (Religious Action Center of the URJ) has continued its advocacy work this spring. Our March meeting with Rep. Leigh Davis focused on the PROTECT ACT (HD5608). Sponsored by the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, the bill strengthens protections for immigrant communities, safeguards the courts, and reinforces due process and equal protection under the law.

RAC-MA is also organizing around a November ballot referendum supporting Massachusetts' 2024 firearm safety law, which regulates ghost guns, strengthens crime data analysis, allows removal of guns from dangerous individuals, and bans firearms in polling places and government buildings. Gun lobby groups are seeking repeal, making Massachusetts a national test case for gun safety legislation. Pledge cards supporting the law will be available in Hevreh's lobby.

On April 12, SJA and RCP co-sponsored a WRJ Day of Action program featuring postcarding and a presentation by Tara Jacobs, Western Massachusetts' representative to the Governor's Council. Jacobs discussed the Council's role in confirming judges and other officials and noted that the current Council has confirmed 100 new judges, creating the most diverse judiciary in Massachusetts history.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- On May 31 we will have JALSA (Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action) organizer Teddy Manning with us to present on Freedom and Democracy. This will include a discussion of antisemitism and freedom of speech.
- Postcarding will begin in early summer and is absolutely critical for the 2026 midterm elections. Alyson Slutzky continues to be our project lead and would be delighted if you would like to host a postcarding party or just write postcards!

SJA COLLECTION DRIVE

During the month of **July**, Hevreh's Social Justice in Action Committee (SJA) will be collecting donations for **Post-Abortion Care Packages**. This is the fourth year we are collecting donations to deliver to Health Q, a sexual and reproductive health center that offers abortion care in MA. This is a critical project as the number of women coming to MA continues to increase since the 2022 Supreme Court decision that abolished Roe v. Wade.

Please donate:

- Pads
- Hot Packs
- Snacks
- Monetary Donations (SJA will purchase the goods) through check or online at hevreh.org. Please indicate Women's Health Care Project in online donation drop down or in check memo line.



DONATE

Email sja@hevreh.org with any questions.

- On July 29, Author Galina Vromen Galina Vromen will give a talk based on her book *Hill of Secrets* set near Los Alamos during WWII. The talk will have to do with the concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons in our current world. We are very lucky to have her in the Berkshires and look forward to this event. See page 9 for details.



If you do not already receive SJA email updates, please reach out to sja@hevreh.org and ask to have your email information added. Also, please let us know if you have particular social action/social justice interests.



ROSH CHODESH PLUS,

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

The highlight of the past three months was the annual Intergenerational Women’s Seder on March 22. Women of all ages gathered to share traditions, stories, and community around the theme, “In the Shadows, We Know: Celebrating Women’s Intuition and Secret Wisdom.” Through storytelling and ritual, participants reflected on women’s wisdom passed down through generations, from the courage of Shifra and Puah to the rhythms of Miriam’s timbrel as well as traditions, whispered blessings, family rituals and shared instincts that continue to guide us.

On April 12, the Social Justice in Action and Rosh Chodesh Plus committees co-sponsored a WRJ Day of Action program to discuss “Inspiration and Motivation During These Turbulent Times”. (see page 12)

On May 26, a Shavuot-themed potluck and program was hosted by Paula Reiss-Kaplan and co-hosted by Nance Ebert. The evening celebrated learning, reflection, and community through shared conversation and traditional dairy dishes.

RCP is pleased to now be affiliated with Women of Reform Judaism and has participated in several Zoom programs, including “Unwrapping Programs in a Box,” “Building Strength-Based Cultures of Upstanders,” and “Cooking Outside the Matzoh Box.”

Please see the Summer calendar for events on June 15 and August 12. And **Save the Date: October 3 – 4** for our overnight Retreat at Camp Eisner!

MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT,

Irene Rosenzweig, Chair of Membership & Engagement Committee

Membership at Hevreh continues to be the heart of our vibrant and caring community. Each member helps sustain not only our services and programs, but also the spirit of connection that defines Hevreh. Through shared experiences—whether gathering for Shabbat and holidays, participating in learning opportunities, or supporting one another in times of joy and challenge—we strengthen the bonds that make this congregation feel like home. We encourage all members to stay engaged, explore new ways to get involved, and reach out to welcome those who are newer to our community. Together, our participation and commitment ensure that Hevreh remains a warm, inclusive, and thriving place for all.

Please join us at the following events this summer:

- New Member and Welcome Back Shabbat – Friday, June 5 – Please join us for a festive pre-neg at 5 pm where we will welcome our new members who joined us this year and those returning to the Berkshires for the summer. Services at 6 pm.
- Jewish Community Day at High Lawn Farm – Sunday, June, 7, 2–4 pm
- Tanglewood Shabbat – Friday, August 14, 6 pm



FOURTH ANNUAL MATZAH BREI COOK-OFF

Congratulations to Paul Chesloff, winner of Hevreh’s 4th Annual Matzah Brei Cook-off! On April 4, four challengers battled it out in the Hevreh kitchen to make the best sweet or savory Matzah Brei. The taste testers did a blind tasting and voted on the most delicious dish. The competition was close, but Paul Chesloff took home the coveted Golden Spatula award. Paul is pictured here with past winners Ronni Monsky and Ellen Herman.



IN MEMORIAM: PAULA LEE HELLMAN (1944–2026)

Paula Lee Hellman, a beloved educator and longtime Director of the Religious School at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, died on April 4, 2026, after a long illness. She was 81.

Born on May 2, 1944, in New York City and raised on the Upper West Side, Paula was an intellectually gifted student who skipped several grades before graduating from New York University in 1965. She went on to build a life rooted in learning, teaching, and a deep engagement with ideas.

Paula's professional path included work in family planning and education, but her most enduring contribution was her 17-year tenure (1997–2014) as Director of Hevreh's Religious School. There, she became a formative and cherished presence in the life of the congregation. With vision, creativity, and deep care, Paula shaped a program that was dynamic, rigorous, and full of warmth. Under her leadership, the school flourished—classrooms filled with students, Hebrew learning became a meaningful and shared pursuit, and a spirit of curiosity and connection infused every aspect of the program.

A vibrant and expressive personality, Paula brought a love of Jewish tradition, text, and storytelling into all that she did. She had a rare gift for weaving together theology, mysticism, and human connection. As Rabbi Zecher recalled, she would often tell her students: *"When you look into each other's eyes, you are looking into the eyes of God."* Through teachings like this, Paula instilled in generations of students a sense of sacred worth and belonging—reminding them that they are *b'tzelem Elohim*, created in the image of God.

For many families in the Hevreh community, Paula was a steady and guiding presence, accompanying children through years of growth and Jewish learning with intention and heart. Her influence extended far beyond the classroom; some of her students went on to become Jewish educators and rabbis, carrying forward the passion she helped ignite.

Paula loved books, ideas, writing, and art, and found joy in quiet moments of reading as well as in lively conversation. She was predeceased by her parents, Irving Lorge, Ph.D., and Sarah Wolfson Lorge, an educator. She is survived by her husband, David; her daughter, Tara; her son, Jason; her stepson, Adam; her sister, Beatrice; and four grandchildren.

The Talmud teaches: *"One who teaches another's child Torah, Scripture regards that teacher as if they had given birth to the child"* (Sanhedrin 19b). This teaching speaks powerfully to Paula's life and legacy. Through her devotion to teaching, she helped shape not only what her students knew, but who they became.

May Paula Hellman's memory be for a blessing, and may her legacy continue to live on in the many lives she touched.

BLESSINGS & SORROWS

BLESSINGS

Mazel Tov to...

Jill Smilow and Howard Brick on the birth of their grandchild, Nathan Paul

Jeff and Robin Winik on the birth of their grandchild, Cooper

Isabel Gunnet-Shoval on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Gabriel and Ezra O'Dell on becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel on graduation from Hebrew Union College and her ordination

Sadie Honig-Briggs on her graduation from Monument Mountain High School

Ava Mozian on her graduation from Lenox Memorial High School

SORROWS

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

Nerissa Bardfeld, Brendan, Aidan, Theo and Harry Burns on the death of Nerissa's mother Andrea Bardfeld

Rabbi Janet Liss and Grace Blank on the death of Janet's mother Evelyn Floresta

Alan and Liz Jaffe on the death of Liz's brother.

Carol and Steve Noble on the death of Steve's brother Larry Noble

Nathan Seidenberg on the death of his father Thomas

Tom, Suzanne, Devorah (Anna), Shayna (James), Donovan and Shira Sawyer on the death of Tom's mother Margaret "Peg" Sawyer

Rabbi Dennis Ross and Rabbi Deborah Zecher on the death of Dennis' mother, Sara Mazon

David Hellman on the death of his wife, Paula Hellman

Carolyn and Joe Singer on the death of Carolyn's mother, Marjorie Sachs

Stu and Adrienne Gruskin on the death of Stu's mother, Karen Gruskin

Emily, Joshua, Noa and Olivia Rose-Blank on the death of Emily's mother, Jaqueline "Jackie" Rosenberg

DONATIONS WITH THANKS

CARING COMMUNITY

In Memory of

Margaret Sawyer, from Alan & Cheryl Binder
Margaret Sawyer, from Ben & Elaine Silberstein
Margaret Sawyer, from Beth & Michael Nathan
Margaret Sawyer, from Bette & Phil Gladstone
Margaret Sawyer, from Elihu & Marilyn Katzman
Margaret Sawyer, from Joan Goldberg Munch & Bob Munch
Margaret Sawyer, from John Lipkowitz
Margaret Sawyer, from Leslie, Carl and Molly Gladstone
Margaret Sawyer, from Lisa Sloane
Margaret Sawyer, from Suzanne & Tom Sawyer
Margaret Sawyer, from Shelley & Marty Rolf
Stanley Monsky, from Ronni Monsky
Marjorie Sachs, from Shira Nichaman
Marjorie Sachs, from Carolyn & Joseph Singer

GENERAL DONATION

Judith & Jeffrey Gelfand
Ken Fishman & Lisa Wendell
Barbara & Benny Barak
Joanne Olson

In Memory of

Carl and Betty Wildman, from Ariela Wichler
Paula Hellman, from Chip & Cindy Elitzer
Marjorie Sachs, from Madalyn Friedberg
Marjorie Sachs, from Shelley & Marty Rolf
Marjorie Sachs, from Rich & Robin Maltz
Walter Sundheimer, from Nancy Ashen
Evelyn Floresta, from Rachel Hertzman & Rabbi Rex Perlmeter
Margaret Sawyer, from Sharon Hotchkiss
Grace & Louis Gottlieb, from Sharon Hotchkiss

HEVRA KADISHA

In Memory of

Victor J. Lasky, from Rhea & Ken Werner

MADRICH FUND

In Honor of

Beth Robbins, from The Rolf Family
Gabe & Ezra O'Dell, from The Rolf Family

In Memory of

Paula Hellman, from Beth & Michael Nathan
Evelyn Floresta, from Jadwiga Brown
Margaret Sawyer, from Jadwiga Brown
Marjorie Sachs, from Jadwiga Brown

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of

Grandson Jackson Apiscopa becoming a Bar Mitzvah,
from Alan & Cheryl Binder
Alan & Cheryl Binder's grandson Jackson's Bar Mitzvah,
from Sharon Hotchkiss

In Memory of

Sara Mazon, from Alan & Cheryl Binder
Marjorie Sachs, from Amy Richman & Jim Caron
Evelyn Floresta, from Amy Richman & Jim Caron
Sara Mazon, from Jim Caron & Amy Richman

RABBI GORDON DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of

Marjorie Sachs, from Carolyn & Joseph Singer
Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss, from Shelley & Marty Rolf
Mort Josel and Sylvia Mintzer, from Sandra Josel

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of

Paula Hellman, from Lynn Meyers, Shayna and Nate Haust

TU B'SHEVAT FUND

In Memory of

Lillian Friedman, from Marion Adler

ECC DONATIONS

Jadwiga Brown

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN*

Dana & Richard Robbins

In Honor of

Baroukh Kodsi, Johanna & Leslie Garfield from Karen & Jed Garfield

* *Capital Campaign donations made or pledged after
Feb. 12, 2026*

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

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

hevreh.org | (413) 528-6378



Fiber Connect

Service that feels like home

No call centers.

Created for neighbors
by neighbors.

Data at the speed of light.

 **413-429-4109**

 Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough

www.bfcma.com



*"Fiber Connect came the next day
and went beyond the call of duty."*

—Karen, Monterey



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



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



270 State Road
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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



High Holy Days 5787

ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh Hashanah: September 11, 2026 – 7:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: September 12, 2026

Rosh Hashanah Family Service – 9:00–9:45 AM

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service – 10:30 AM

Tashlich at Lake Mansfield – 4:00 PM

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Morning Service & Torah Study:
September 13, 2026 at 10:30 AM

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidrei: September 20, 2026 – 7:30 PM

Yom Kippur: September 21, 2026

Yom Kippur Family Service – 9:00–9:45 AM

Yom Kippur Morning Service – 10:30 AM

Yom Kippur Small Groups – 1:30 PM

Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, Yizkor & Neilah – 2:45 PM

A communal break–fast will follow Neilah.

