





FROM THE RABBIS, *Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch & Rabbi Jodie Gordon*

Dear Hevreh,

Ask anyone well versed in the Marvel Universe—the cascade of films and TV shows that include all sorts of comic book heroes—and you may find yourself slipping into a conversation about the Multiverse. The multiverse is the idea that there are multiple versions of ourselves living in parallel universes, and in these comic book scenes, from time to time, characters encounter other versions of themselves when universes collide. In these stories, the potential of collision is the very calamity the hero needs to overcome. The trouble with multiverse stories is that you end up dealing with a set of factors and circumstances that are so large and confounding, it becomes difficult to keep track of it all. It becomes everything, everywhere, all at once.

It is that totalizing sentiment we have felt ever since the atrocities of October 7. The murder of Israelis, the taking of hostages, the use of such brutal tactics to create a day of death unseen since the time of the Holocaust—it is all too much. Add along with that the destruction and humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the collateral death of innocent Gazans, Israelis called up for military reserve duty, the physical threats to Jews on American campuses, antisemitic tropes being trotted out with far too much ease—these last couple of months have been far too much.

And we know that life continues on. We still go to work and to school. We have deadlines and obligations we still need to meet. We still have people to take care of. We have health challenges and caretaking that calls for our attention. Life does not stop happening because our attention is pulled in multiple directions. Like colliding universes, everything, everywhere, all at once sure does capture the intensity with which we've been living.

Rabbi Gordon and I have observed members of our community struggling right now. We see you. There is so much on people's plates, and our hearts break that we struggle to find ease at this time. We have tried to create spaces for people to come and learn, explore, pray, and be together, trying to come up with an answer to the question of "What do we do with all of this?"

The answer, we believe, at its core, rests in community. We show up for one another. We make a meal for a friend because we've noticed how hard they've been working lately. We take someone out for a cup of coffee and check in, simply because we care and want to connect. And we gather at the synagogue and engage in life at Hevreh, not because doing so unlocks the answers to life's greatest mysteries, but because it feels good to not be so alone right now. When we don't know what to do, we simply show up.

We have shown up for others in our community lately, which is something we need to celebrate. Last month, we put out a call for us to gather clothing and funds for newly arrived immigrants to the Southern Berkshires. They arrived unexpectedly, and the broader community was called in to care for these folks who had nothing upon their arrival. Hevreh committed to providing clothing for about 30 individuals from infants to seniors. We sent out the email invitation to help on a Monday night at 6:00 PM. By 6:00 AM the next morning, each new immigrant had a Hevreh sponsor. On top of that, for the rest of the week, you kept sending in tzedakah for these individuals. Off of that one email, you donated over \$17,500 to support these families. What a remarkable testament to showing up for one another. Thank you.

Israel's war in Gaza, coupled with its ripple effects, pull our attention and keep us ill at ease. We are sorry we find ourselves in this place. Yet, we also hold onto hope. Legal scholar Robert Cover called it holding on to alterity. If we can imagine an alternative universe, a way things should or could be, then we hold onto a picture of how our lives can be. In that way, we take a different universe and make it our own. We cannot fix all the problems of the world, but we can help those around us. Thank you for continuing to show up for one another, and let us continue to do so, praying that we make the world more whole with each of those righteous actions.

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch

Rabbi Jodie Gordon

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

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 might have.

Please contact the Hevreh Office at (413)528-6378 or info@Hevreh.org Attn: Aldeth Lewin if you wish to host. We look forward to seeing you soon at your Oneg!

The Ritual Committee



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested to see what Hevreh has in store for the winter please see page 6.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, *Lisa Sloane*

Dear Friends,

These have been difficult, dark days – literally and figuratively. By the time you are reading this, we will be at around 9 hours of daylight. On Nov. 7 I drove to Hevreh listening to Mary Louise Kelly on NPR reporting from Tel Aviv: “It can feel a little surreal to wander this city these days. On the one hand, people are out riding bikes, pushing baby strollers, swimming in the sun. On the other hand, you sit down at a restaurant, start to order and air raid sirens go off... This disconnect - people trying to carry on with normal life in what are not remotely normal times - this is the new reality here in Israel...”

Although we in Berkshire County are physically removed from events in Israel, many of us also feel a similar stress of our worlds simultaneously being normal and not. Regardless of one’s political perspective, as Jews, and as American Jews, we are impacted. On Friday nights, congregants say prayers for friends and relatives killed, hurt or taken hostage in the Oct. 7 massacre or the subsequent war. I know I go to work a little more tired, less attentive and distracted by events taking place 5,500 miles away, as well as in our own community. Increased displays of anti-Semitism in Berkshire County and across the United States are anxiety-producing.

How can we make it through these dark days **together**?
How can we bring a little light, normalcy into our lives?

1. **Come celebrate Chanukah at the Chanukah Shabbat Pot Luck and Celebration Friday, Dec 8.** The lights of Chanukah represent the spirit and the spiritual fight against oppression. Together let’s light up Shabbat and Chanukah.
2. **Join together to celebrate Shabbat.** Every Friday night at 6 pm, there’s an opportunity to come out of the dark, into our beautiful sanctuary, see friends, take a deep breath and let go of the stress of your week.
3. **Contribute to Hevreh.** The Chanukah story prompts a rededication not only to Judaism, but also to the values at the center of the Jewish faith. In particular, Chanukah can be a time for us to rededicate ourselves to the Jewish value of tikkun olam. As you consider all of your year-end tax-deductible gifts, I hope you will have Hevreh on your list, especially if you have not yet made your High Holy Day donation. Thank you in advance.

With hopes for peace,
Lisa Sloane

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR, *Joan Goldberg Munch*

Thank you. I want to express my gratitude to the Hevreh Community as I step into the role of Interim Director. My thanks for your continued support and engagement in this community. I am excited about the challenges ahead and working more closely with the Hevreh staff.

As we round the corner from what I call “B’nai Mitzvah Season” to Chanukah festivities, I look forward to seeing and celebrating with you.

Joan



Joan Goldberg Munch



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT HEVREH, *Ellen Marcus, Director*

Bim Bam, Bim Bim Bim Bam, Bim Bim Bim Bim Bam....Shabbat Shalom – Hey!

Every Friday you can hear the children's voices singing to "Bim Bam," "Chicken Soup," "The Dinosaur Song," and "Friday Night When the Sun Goes Down," just to name a few. Each class gathers together to say the blessings, watch the flickering candle flames, sip the grape juice, savor the challah, and feel the ruach. We talk about how Shabbat is a special day and we focus on the time we get to spend with our families.

In addition to gathering as a classroom family to celebrate Shabbat, we celebrate Havdalah, the service marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week. Havdalah is a rich sensory experience that includes smelling aromatic spices, lighting a braided candle, and listening as the flame is extinguished in the Kiddush cup. Havdalah and Shabbat make perfect bookends to our week, providing the children with hands-on experiences to mark the passage of time.

Holiday celebration is a cornerstone of our curriculum. During Sukkot, the children created decorations and enjoyed snack in the sukkah as they observed the blue sky through the s'chach. In addition, Rabbi Neil gave everyone the chance to smell the etrog and "shake, shake, shake" the lulav. We are looking forward to celebrating Chanukah which is fast approaching. A time of light in darkness speaks to us all. We will create hanukiah of our own, light the candles (real and representative) in the classroom, sing songs, spin the dreidel and of course, taste latkes.

The Jewish thread of our curriculum is for all children and all families who attend. We strengthen our Jewish traditions by teaching them to the next generation and we also build bonds and connections to non-Jewish members of our community. Our hope is that our Jewish celebrations become foundational childhood memories.



Ellen Marcus

MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT, *Shira Nichaman*

We have lots of great activities planned including new member onegs, havdallah/game night in February, community seder in April, and small group Shabbat dinners throughout the year. Join in, participate, and connect!

B'ruchim HaBaim! We welcomed many new members since July 2023:

- Ken & Robin Baer
- Mimi & Jim Broner
- David & Sandy Cohen
- Peter Franck & Kathleen Triem
- Isaac & Breetal Graves
- Dana Gruber & Russell Lord
- Adrienne & Stuart Gruskin
- Marc & Judy Herbert
- Marjorie & Barry Jaffe
- Annette Jaffe & Ivy Friedman
- Brenda Kilmer
- Amy Kissel & Megan Frost
- Pat Latzman
- Rita & Paul Menitoff
- Natalie Narotzky
- Robert Nobel & Orly Ben-Yoav Nobel
- Jodi Nussbaum & Kenny Cohen
- Louis Osman & Sheila Steinbach
- Nancy Reiner & Ilan Dahan
- Shira & Jorge Rodriguez
- Terry Rosenberg & Elliot Schildkrout
- Marc & Margot Schwartz
- Susan Garner Segall
- Joseph & Saruda Simonson
- Amy Taylor & Joseph Method
- Debbie Youngelman & Stuart Schwartz

If you are interested in becoming a new member buddy/partner to help welcome our new members or would like to join the membership committee or be a volunteer at an event, please email membership@hevreh.org.

WE NEED YOU, YOUR VOICE MATTERS – TAKE PART IN HEVREH'S ETHICS PROCESS

In conjunction with the Union for Reform Judaism we have convened an Ethics Task Force of congregant volunteers to lead an exploration of our ethical culture and make recommendations for defining and strengthening the ethical framework of our congregation.

We want to ground that exploration in our own members' direct experiences. The task force, therefore, is asking members of the Hevreh community to tell us about incidents that made them feel more or less welcome or uncomfortable here at Hevreh or other Jewish institutions. You can email the task force at ethics@hevreh.org about those incidents and/or sign up for a Zoom interview in a safe and confidential setting. The information and insights collected will inform a congregational covenant that is in the process of being drafted.

If you would like to participate in this process, please visit hevreh.org/ethics to learn more.

HEVREH'S SECURITY TASK FORCE

Hevreh has established a Security Task Force that has already initiated a professionally-led thorough review of our security protocols. The task force is meeting often and regularly to discuss opportunities for and to implement additional measures. Check your email for regular updates from the task force.

RABBINIC STAFF

Neil P.G. Hirsch, *Rabbi*
Jodie Gordon, *Rabbi & Education Director*
Deborah Zecher, *Rabbi Emerita*

MUSICAL STAFF

Peri Smilow, *Artist-In-Residence*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joan Goldberg Munch, *Interim Director*
Ellen Marcus, *Early Childhood Center Director*
Sarah Marcus, *Early Childhood Center Assistant Director*
Chris Meador, *Interim Religious School Coordinator & Events Manager*
Shoshana Goldberg, *Administrative Assistant / Office*
Aldeth Lewin, *Administrative Assistant / Office*
Bill Litchfield, *Custodial & Maintenance*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lisa Sloane, *President*
Larry Frankel, *Immediate Past President*
Steve Klein, *VP Finance*
Chris Meador, *Secretary*
Dave Halley, *VP of Education*
Heidi Katz, *VP of Operations*
Amy Richman, *VP of Ritual*
Shira Nichaman, *VP of Membership*
Jeff Rothenberg, *VP of Development*
Elizabeth Rosenberg, *VP of Programming*

TRUSTEES

Carol Beyer
Jeff Blaugrund
Josh Briggs
Jadwiga Brown
Michael Citrin
Betsy Gross
Ellen Herman
Rebekah Jordan
Yaron Sadan
Alyson Slutzky
Bethany Baron

WINTER AT HEVREH

GENTLE YOGA

Wednesdays, December 6 - February 28 at 10:30AM

Member Nina Lipkowitz leads a 1-hour gentle yoga and movement class every Wednesday.

CRAFTING CIRCLE

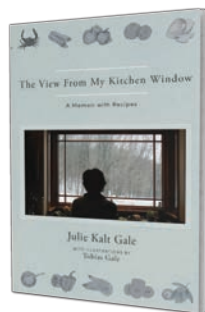
Thursdays, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 7 and April 4 at 1 PM

Calling all crafters. Last year's successful crafting circle returns on select Thursdays. Whether it's knitting, sewing or something else, join us for conversation and refreshments while you work on your project.

COOKING WITH JULIE GALE

Sunday, December 3 from 2-3:30 PM

Please join Hevreh member Julie Gale for a Chanukah cooking demonstration, featuring a recipe from her newly published memoir, "The View From the Kitchen," as well as readings from her book and coffee and donuts. Please RSVP to info@hevreh.org as space is limited.



CHANUKAH POT LUCK DINNER

Friday, December 8 at 6 PM

Join us for a fun and festive musical service featuring artist-in-residence Peri Smilow. Light the menorah, eat delicious fried latkes, spin the dreidel, grab some Chanukah gelt, sing songs, share stories, and sport your best Ugly Chanukah Sweater. Bring a dairy or vegetarian entree, salad or dessert to share with the congregation. Hevreh will provide the latkes. Bring your favorite family menorah to light. Chanukah candles, dreidels and gelt will be provided. Registration required.



TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays December 9, January 13 and February 10 at 9 AM

Rabbi Jodie Gordon and musician Jeff Howard bring songs, stories and fun to very young children (ages 0-5) for Shabbat. All families are welcome, this service is open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, APRIL 7
Women's Sedar

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Creative Beit Midrash preview party and exhibit



COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, December 15 and January 19 at 6 PM

Community Shabbat is an initiative to bring an intergenerational community together around the Shabbat dinner table. Community Shabbat is hosted by our rabbis and a group of Religious School students, teachers and families. Following the service the entire community will share a festive Shabbat dinner. Community Shabbat is partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation ReKindle Shabbat Grant.

DEMYSTIFYING DEATH

Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 PM

It's never too early to begin the conversation about end-of-life issues. The greatest gift you can give to your family could be the freedom from worrying about the myriad decision-making and bureaucratic hurdles that could far more easily be dealt with long before your funeral. Join Heidi Katz and Dave Halley for an open, frank, and enlivening evening discussing end-of-life preplanning and death. We will view the film "Speaking of Dying," then have a facilitated conversation where we hope to address many of your questions, hopes, concerns, and fears.

LIFEQUAKES - EXPLORING OUR PLOT TWISTS TOGETHER

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24 from 7-9 PM

Join this Evening Learning program with Rabbi Hirsch offered in person and via Zoom. Building off of the insights from Bruce Feiler's book *Life is in the Transitions*, and Rabbi Hirsch's Rosh Hashanah sermon on the topic of Lifequakes, join with others from Hevreh for an exploration of how our lives twist and turn. This is a space for study and for sharing. Each session we'll have the chance to study some texts around Jewish storytelling, and also tell our own life stories. These sessions are open to everyone at all stages of life.

HAVDALAH BEIT CAFÉ

Saturday, February 17 at 7 PM

What could possibly be better than a mid-winter gathering of local performers sharing great music, stories, and poetry all while enjoying delicious desserts and drinks? Please join the Hevreh community as we gather to celebrate a musical Havdalah together before settling into an evening of local entertainment. If you are a performer and would like to appear on stage that evening, please send your name, email address and a brief description of your act to psmilow@hevreh.org. Solo performers as well as groups and bands are welcome.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS,

Joan Goldberg Munch & Rabbi Jodie Gordon

Our school year is off to a wonderful start at Hevreh, with more than 80 students joining us weekly for Sunday Religious School and Wednesday Hebrew Skills. Now, more than ever, the power of community is evident as we make our way through these challenging times for our people, both here and in Israel.

In October, our T'fillah during Boker Tov Hevreh focused on prayers for peace. We also learned the Hebrew word "chizuk" which means to strengthen or encourage. It comes from the word Chazak, meaning strength. Using an interactive online program, we created a digital message of Chizuk which we sent to our friends in the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel, as part of the Partnership 2Gether (P2G), a project dedicated to foster connections between Israelis and worldwide Jewry.

Here are some of the messages our Religious School families shared:

"We love you, we support you, and we wish you peace as quickly as you can have it."

"We are holding all of you in our hearts. Stay strong and stay safe. Much love from your family at Hevreh."

"We are inspired by your chizuk and pray for your continued chizuk everyday."

"We love you. We stand with you. We share strength and solidarity. You are not alone. Our arms hold you tight."

We know that we are all strengthened by being together in community, and warmly invite you to join us on Sunday mornings for Boker Tov Hevreh.

With prayers for peace,

Rabbi Gordon & Joan Goldberg Munch

COMMUNITY SHABBAT

November 17, December 15, January 15 at 6pm

Pre-Registration for dinner is required

Community Shabbat is an initiative to bring an intergenerational community together around the Shabbat dinner table. Community Shabbat is hosted by our rabbis and a group of Religious School students, teachers and families. Following the service the entire community will share a festive Shabbat dinner.

* Community Shabbat is partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation ReKindle Shabbat Grant.

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST-EVER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILY OVERNIGHT SHABBATON

January 5 – 6, 2024

URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA

Register today at hevreh.org/religiouschool

Religious School families are invited to register now for an overnight Shabbaton at Eisner Camp in Great Barrington on Friday, January 5 2024-Saturday, January 6, 2024. Our program begins with welcome and registration at 4pm on Friday, January 5 and concludes with Havdalah at 4pm on Saturday, January 6. Our goal is to have 100% participation from our Religious School families, and hope that you will be excited for a night away at camp together with your Hevreh community. If you have individual questions or concerns for your family, please be in touch. This is an all-inclusive overnight immersive Shabbat experience with family-style meals, camp-style Shabbat services, outdoor fun, and high quality programming led by our professional team.

YACHAD CHANUKAH

Sunday, December 10

10:30am-12:30pm

Families with school aged children are invited to get into the Chanukah spirit with a special family celebration. Our day begins with Boker Tov, Hevreh: Chanukah Edition, and continues with our annual Holiday Gift Wrap in partnership with Volunteers In Medicine. Each student is asked to bring at least one of the following items to donate for the Holiday Gift Wrap:

- Legos or other building toys
- Board games
- Soccer or basketballs
- Art supplies
- Warm winter wear for adults
- Gift cards to local businesses in South County (we recommend Marshall's, Big Y, Four Brothers, The East, Barrington Brewery or Fiesta Bar and Grille)

The celebration concludes with a Chanukah celebration with more fun, festivities and food!

* This program is generously underwritten by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS OF 2023



LILA FLAX

December 2, 2023

My name is Lila Flax, and I live in Alford with my parents Kate Anderson and Josh Flax, and my cat Lily and my dog Onyx. I am a 7th-grader at W.E.B. DuBois Middle School here in Great Barrington. I'm originally from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and I moved to the Berkshires in 2020. I love swimming competitively on the Snappers team at Simon's Rock, reading, traveling, and baking. My torah portion is Vayishlach and my mitzvah project is to raise money and awareness for maternal health. Women in this country face great challenges during pregnancy and while giving birth. These women are not heard by the medical establishment and are therefore unable to make decisions about their own bodies.

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means, to me, taking my place as a Jewish adult who has the power to make a difference in the community.

HEVREH MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:

CAROL NOBLE & MICHELE KREIG-BAUER, *Shira Nichaman*

VP of Membership Shira Nichaman interviewed Hevreh members **CAROL NOBLE** (joined 2010) and **MICHELE KREIG-BAUER** (joined 2009) who are Co-Chairs of the Social Justice in Action Committee. Michele is also Co-Chair of Rosh Chodesh Plus.

Shira: How did you come to join Hevreh and how long have you been members?

Carol: Before I moved to the Berkshires, a friend of mine from Long Island told me about a place for rent for the winter, so we decided to try it before we bought. I became good friends with Judy and Jack Machanik who were long-time members, and they invited me to services. I joined. It was a wonderful way, moving to a new area, to build my community. That was in 2010, but I came to services before.

Michele: After college I lived in the City and would come to the Berkshires a lot. I heard about Hevreh, and attended randomly when I was here. I remember when we decided to move to the Berkshires, we were coming from Dallas at that point, and one of the rabbis at Temple Emanuel in Dallas said, "There is a fabulous temple you need to try up there, it's called Hevreh." And I said, "I already know all about Hevreh and that's where I'm joining." That was in January of 2009.

SN: You both joined around the same time. How has Hevreh and the community changed since you joined?

CN: I think social justice has taken on a much bigger role and in the last 5-8 years there has been such a focus on being a welcoming community, and that's very special. It can be hard to connect, and I was lucky to have friends who bridged it for me. If they weren't going to services, I may not have gone.

SN: How did the two of you become friends?

MKB: We knew of each other because we are both therapists – I'm in Pittsfield and Carol is in Great Barrington. My recollection is that we really got to know each other when we attended the Wise Aging Seminar led by Steve and Carol Targum.

CN: I think that was the summer of 2016. Where we really got close was when Michele got me to sign up for the Religious Action Center Biennial Conference called "Consultation on Conscience" in Washington, DC. And we also participated in the *March for Science*.

SN: Did you click immediately?

CN & MKB: Yes!

SN: How long have you been the co-chairs of the Social Justice in Action committee and how did you get involved?

CN & MK: We started in the summer of 2019, just before the pandemic and we started with house meetings where we asked: What's your passion? What keeps you up at night? How do you want to get involved? From those meetings we came up with areas that people wanted to focus on. The areas were: immigration, voting rights, reproductive rights, and food insecurity. We decided to take a new project-oriented approach, rather than having monthly in-person meetings, which has worked well. There are committee members in charge of different areas. Less than a month after those initial meetings and one event called Breaking the Ice everything shut down, so this new approach was timely. This also helped revitalize and re-energize the group. Our next event will be on Dec. 10 – a social gathering for all those involved or interested in social justice at Hevreh.

SN: When you hear the words social justice - what does it mean to you?

CN: I think of Emma Lazarus' poem on the Statue of Liberty: "*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.*"

SN: How does being involved in social justice inform your Jewish identity?

MKB: To me, social justice is one of the pillars of Judaism – I felt that we could do so much more at Hevreh for those causes.

CN: Tikkun Olam.

MKB: I feel that being involved in our social justice activities at Hevreh is another way that I feel that I am doing something spiritual.

SN: How has social action changed over the years, not necessarily at Hevreh, but overall?

CN: I am not sure how it has changed, however, I do know that the need is greater than ever. Fifty years ago things



were better than they are now. The safety net that people had is no longer there.

MKB: In college I was very active and a member of SDS - Students for a Democratic Society. And when I graduated, I was very involved in abortion rights. I would let people stay with me when they came to New York for an abortion, since it was one of the only states where abortion was legal. I also worked as a social worker in a hospital counseling patients who received abortions. Social justice has been part of me since I can remember.

SN: How has Hevreh impacted your life?

CN: It's enriched it. The opportunity to work with others on Tikkun Olam has made me feel more connected.

SN: If you could choose one word to describe Hevreh what would it be?

CN: Connection (+ Community) – that's two, but that's OK.

MKB: Community. Doing Rosh Chodesh Plus has also been another way to connect. [Michele is the co-chair of the Rosh Chodesh Plus group – a monthly meeting of women and those who identify as female to learn together and celebrate Rosh Chodesh]. It's a great way for people to get to know each other, learn about a variety of topics and participate in annual events, such as the Chanukah latke potluck (Dec. 13), womens' seder, Eisner retreat, etc.

SN: Tell me about a Berkshire love.

MKB: We live at Tanglewood in the summer. Our all time high is 18 concerts. We didn't quite make it last year – the rain had a real impact.

CN: I got involved with the Great Barrington Land Conservancy, and I am amazed at all the wonderful trails. One of my favorite's is a small one that Jan Kabel and Dale Abrams were instrumental in creating. It's called River Front Trail (gbland.org/riverfront-trail) south of Bridge Street along the Housatonic River. All the trees are labeled and it's a very special place.

Know an interesting new (or not so new) member of Hevreh? Send in your nominations for future interviews. Email membership@hevreh.org with your ideas.

SN: Do you have a Hanukkah tradition or memory?

CN: For me I have a memory of lighting the candles with my mother and singing Ma-O-Tzur and I have a Chanukiah that's antique, came from Germany, and is probably 150 years old. I still have it and use it.

MKB: Since I was raised Catholic, my memories don't go back as far. Lighting the candles and playing dreidel with my son and he loved making Hanukkah "cookies" so to speak. Spread a little peanut butter on one side of a big marshmallow, stick a large Hershey kiss on the peanut butter (forms the spinner), then stick a straight pretzel into the other side of the marshmallow. First spin, then eat!

SJA CURRENT PROJECTS/PROJECT LEADS:

Get Out the Vote/Postcarding: Debbie Harris & Joan Brotman

Reproductive Rights: Rebecca Wolin & Holly Steinberg

Immigration: Jan Kabel

Food Insecurity: People's Pantry: Silke Aisenberry

Liaison; Breaking Bread: Robin & Barry Kreisberg;

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-MA): Michele Kreig Bauer

To learn more about social justice at Hevreh, contact:

Carol at crnphd8352@gmail.com

Michele at talktome8888@gmail.com



BLESSINGS AND SORROWS

BLESSINGS

Mazel Tov to...

Shelley Rolf on her retirement
Louis Osman & Sheila Steinbach on the marriage of their daughter, Yael Osman to Ayal Gabbay
Beth and Julian Gott on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Winifred
Toby Morganstein on the birth of her new granddaughter
Liz Baer on the birth of her granddaughter, Beatrice
Joan and Michael Ury on the engagement of their daughter Emily
Barbara and Mark Cohen on the Bar Mitzvah of their Grandson, Jackson, in Israel.
Turbi and Paul Smilow on the engagement of their grandson
Rhea Schindler on the engagement of her grandson
Carla Turner on the marriage of her son, Trevor
Julie Gale on the publishing of her book, "A View From My Kitchen Window"
Kate Van Olst and Ben Skeen on the birth of their daughter Uma
Toby Sohn on the marriage of her son Alex to Samantha Gurman
Steve Klein and Nancy Barbe on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Albie Seidman
John and Rebecca Schreiber on the marriage of their son Nate to Ashlyn August
Robyn and Jeff Winik on the marriage of their son Josh to Kyle Fried
Chip and Cindy Elitzer on the birth of their grandson, Theo Charles
Cricky and Michael Schidlowsky on the birth of their son, William
Otto Semp on his Bar Mitzvah
Noah Minkoff on their B Mitzvah
Jonah Sanabria on his Bar Mitzvah
Ruben Fried on his Bar Mitzvah

SORROWS

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

Carole Rivel, on the death of her ex-husband, Avrun Rivel
Kate Kapner and Nic Miller on the death of Kate's father
Joanathan James on the death of his sister
Carol Beyer on the death of her husband, Barry Beyer
Amy Handelsman and Barry Pincus on the death of Barry's mother Sylvia Pincus
Betsy Gross on the death of her father Stanley Gross
Karen Eisen, on the death of her husband and
Abigail and Cameron Eisen on the death of their father, Mark Eisen



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION, *Carol Noble & Michele Kreig-Bauer*

Social Justice in Action has had a busy fall season. First, we would like to thank everyone who donated to the post abortion care packages. On September 1 we put together 144 bags and delivered them to the Reproductive Rights Center in Lawrence Mass. Thank you, Rebecca Wolin and Holly Steinberg who were project leads for this effort.

Postcarding continues whenever needed, headed up by Debbie Harris and Joan Brotman. Since the summer 805 postcards have been written for the VA legislative elections and 630 for Ohio's primary. The next round will be for South Carolina's primary election in February. Information on how to help will be sent out as we get closer.

Breaking Bread Kitchen continues to serve dinners on Thursdays every six weeks in Sheffield, with Barry and Robin Kriesberg leading this activity. Tom Sawyer is assisting for a couple of months while Barry recovers from surgery. It has been difficult to get regular volunteers for this, which is very critical for those with food insecurity. It only takes 2-3 hours. The last date for 2023 is Thursday, December 21. For more information, contact Tom at sawyer141@gmail.com.

RAC-MA is continuing to work on its first project, Housing Justice. We had a great turn-out for the RAC-MA Sukkah Sit-In on a Sunday afternoon in early October and had a number of new folks come to get involved. Rabbi Hirsch, who co-chairs this initiative to increase affordable housing stock in Massachusetts, provided Biblical text as an introduction to housing fairness after which we had a chance to talk about

housing in the Berkshires and throughout Massachusetts. Among the points made was that a "stable home" is key for children's healthy emotional and educational development and we need to help parents create stable family and work lives.

We are hoping to have a program at Hevreh in the near future with our three Berkshire County legislators, Construct, and possibly other organizations concerning a bond bill that will be presented to the legislature in early 2024. This bill needs to pass in order to have funding for affordable housing, a desperate need in the Berkshires and all of Massachusetts. Details on this meeting will follow.

In the midst of pursuing all of the above, the atrocities in Israel are front and center in all of our minds. We thank all of you who participated in the Community Vigil and who desperately want to do more to help and support friends, relatives, hostages, and the civilians who are caught in this horrible situation. At this point we are being advised that what is most needed are donations to the Jewish Federation's Emergency Response Fund. Donate here: <https://form.jotform.com/232792945496978>.

And finally - Our next in person SJA gathering will be a cocktail party at the home of Carol Noble, Sunday, December 10 from 5:30-7:00 pm for all who are interested in participating in social justice initiatives. Please come and talk about your passion and how you would like to fit into Hevreh's projects, present and future. It will be nice to spend time with like-minded people!

ROSH CHODESH PLUS, *Michele Bauer, Julie Gale & Shelley Rolf, Rosh Chodesh Plus Co-chairs*

Rosh Chodesh Plus has had a busy fall. In early September we were finally able to return to Eisner Camp for our annual retreat after a four year pandemic hiatus. We had a wonderful time just being together and also enjoyed workshops, Shabbat service, campfires, meals, walks and Rabbi Gordon's amazing Torah study. We had three new members join us and hope even more will come next year.

During Sukkot, RCP sponsored an event called "Snacks in the Sukkah." This occurred in conjunction with the Housing Sukkah event, so that everyone could also learn about RAC MA's housing justice initiative.

Our next event is our annual Chanukah latke potluck, to be held at Hevreh on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30pm. More information will come out soon about this event.

We invite any member of Hevreh who identifies as female to join us -we welcome those who come frequently and also hope to meet more new women.



DONATIONS WITH THANKS

CARING COMMUNITY

In Memory of

Stanley J. Gross, from Carol Beyer
Barry Beyer, from Karen Beyer

GENERAL DONATIONS

In Honor of

Carol Noble's Birthday, from Catherine Matina

In Memory of

Bob Greenfield, from Avram & Natasha Dresner
Sandra Kohen, from Bobbie & Howard Lefenfeld
Bob Greenfield, from Elihu & Marilyn Katzman
Robert Greenfield, from Ellen Herman
Alan Felix, from Ellen Herman
Arthur Milstein, from Madalyn Friedberg
Alan Felix, from Melva Eidelberg
Arlene Symonds, from Molly Sheriff
Bob Greenfield, from Steve Rubin
Bob Greenfield, from Suzanne & Tom Sawyer

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL*

In Honor of

Sarah Aroeste, from Jeffrey Aroeste
The beautiful holiday services, from Stephen & Elaine Mack

In Memory of

Bob Nason, from Lisa Sloane
Barry Beyer, from Madalyn & Stephen Friedberg
Yugenia Yurovski, from Vitaly & Elena Nazarov

LIFELONG LEARNING

In Memory of

Barry Beyer, from Cheryl & Harold Benus

MADRICH FUND

In Memory of

Alan Friedman, from Jodie Friedman

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of

Sybil Pollet's birthday, from Judy May
Rabbi Jodie Gordon & Amy Renak, from Peter Strauss

In Memory of

Barry Beyer, from Alan & Cheryl Binder
Stanley J. Gross, from Elisa & Larry Frankel
Arlene Symons, from Melva Eidelberg

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In Memory of

Barry Beyer, from Arnold & Ruth Shurkin
Barry Beyer, from Bob Munch & the Men's Book Club
Barry Beyer, from Joan Goldberg Munch & Bob Munch
Barry Beyer, from Bruce and Shirley Gordon
Barry Beyer, from Carole Landau
Barry Beyer, from Cheryl Zellman

Barry Beyer, from Denyse & Harold Adler
Barry Beyer, from Elihu & Marilyn Katzman
Barry Beyer, from Elisa & Larry Frankel
Barry Beyer, from Jim Caron & Amy Richman
Barry Beyer, from John & Jane Angelini
Barry Beyer, from Karen Beyer
Barry Beyer, from Larry & Nancy Bronstein
Barry Beyer, from Lynn Meyers
Barry Beyer, from Martin & Shelley Rolf
Barry Beyer, from Melani Griffith
Barry Beyer, from Melva Eidelberg
Barry Beyer, from Meredith & Josh Rubin
Barry Beyer, from Michael & Lois Storch
Barry Beyer, from Michele Bauer & Chris Fader
Barry Beyer, from Mitchell H. Shames
Barry Beyer, from Molly Sheriff
Barry Beyer, from Nina & John Lipkowitz
Barry Beyer, from Peter & Betty Shapiro
Barry Beyer, from Rhea Werner
Barry Beyer, from Saperstein Family
Barry Beyer, from Sebastian & Melissa Boulan
Barry Beyer, from Sharon Hotchkiss
Barry Beyer, from Sherri Greenbach & David Goldstein
Barry Beyer, from Shoshana & Ron Goldberg
Barry Beyer, from Stephen & Deborah Schreier
Barry Beyer, from Susan & Allen Alpert
Barry Beyer, from Tamara Rosenthal & Randy Goldstein
Barry Beyer, from Tom & Suzanne Sawyer

RABBI GORDON DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Rabbi Gordon, from Carolyn
Rabbi Gordon, in appreciation of wonderful high holiday services, from Michael & Lois Storch
Allison & Brandon's wedding, from Nicole & Peter Gould

In Memory of

Zachary Shaye Insler from Harris Insler

RABBI HIRSCH DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Rabbi Hirsch, from Carolyn & Harry Newman
Meyer and Dorothy Karsh, from Diane Pearlman
Rabbi Hirsch, from Ehud Sadan
Rabbi Hirsch, from Howard Chezar

In Memory of

Barry Beyer, from Bette & Philip Gladstone
Barry Beyer, from Deborah Harris
My mother and father who taught us tzedakah, from Michael & Trudi Haberman

TZADAKAH

In Honor of

Fritz and Marianne Blumenthal, refugees themselves, from Stephanie Blumenthal

* These represent only the donations that were dedicated to someone. All of the High Holiday Appeal donors will receive personal thank you letters in the mail. This list does not include the donations made for the refugee families. If there are other unintentional omissions or errors, please contact Aldeth Lewin in the Hevreh office.



270 State Road
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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

SAVE THE DATE
Religious School
Family Winter
Shabbaton



FRIDAY, JAN. 5 - SATURDAY, JAN. 6

Dive in with your family for an immersive Shabbat experience at camp!

URJ EISNER CAMP WINTER RETREAT CENTER

LIVELY SHABBAT SERVICES, SINGING, DANCING,
DELICIOUS MEALS AND FAMILY FUN!

STAY TUNED FOR
MORE INFORMATION!

INTERESTED IN HELPING? LET US KNOW!