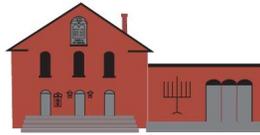


# The Doorpost

Temple Israel

Monthly Newsletter

April 2021, Nisan - Iyyar 5781



## Avodah: From Servitude to Service



**Rabba Kaya  
Stern-Kaufman**

I hope that the joy of Passover has brought renewed enthusiasm and inspiration to everyone. On Passover we read the story of our ancestors who were taken out of the narrow straits of *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) and brought to Mount Sinai where they received the Torah. This freedom journey

was not just a physical odyssey, but also a shift in awareness and relationship to God and community. The Israelites were freed from slavery not simply for the sake of freedom alone. Rather, they were brought from *servitude* to *service*. They were freed from the oppression of servitude so that they could enter into a new relationship with God, with the earth, and with one another. As free individuals they had and we have a sacred obligation to the values expressed in our Torah: values of caring for the poor, the refugee, the stranger; allowing the earth to rest from production every seven years, and expressing gratitude to the Source of all our blessing.

In Hebrew, the word for work as well as servitude is *avodah*. The word for slave, *eved*, comes from that

*Continued on page 2*

## Upcoming Events

### **An Evening with NH Shlichah Avia Sagron (p. 9)**

7:00 pm, Thursday, April 1, "Iron Lion Zion"

Sponsored by the Sisterhood

### **Immigrant/Refugee Shabbat Service (p. 3)**

7:00 pm, Friday, April 2

### **Basic Judaism Class for Conversion (p. 2)**

6:00 pm, Wednesday, April 7 and April 21

### **Yom Hashoah observances (p. 8)**

7:00 pm, Thursday, April 8: **Screening of *Who Will Write***

***Our History?* followed by memorial prayers**

7:00 pm Tuesday, April 13: **Live Q&A with playwright and cast members of *Terezin: Children of the Holocaust***

### **Rosh Hodesh Group (p. 9)**

7:30 pm, Sunday, April 11

### **Yom Ha'atzmaut / Israel Independence Day, Thursday, April 15**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm, **PJ Library Story Walk (p. 6)**

7:00 pm, **Interfaith Peacebuilding Initiatives (p. 8)**

### **Hebrew School Town Hall meeting for parents**

10:15 am, Sunday, April 18

### **Arts Review Team Covid-related Exhibit Part 2 (p. 10)**

4:00 pm, Sunday, April 25

### **Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Cantor Shira Nafshi**

7:00 pm, Friday, April 30

### **REGULAR MEETINGS**

#### **Senior Discussion Group**

Wednesdays, 10:00 am (see p. 12 for description)

#### **Weekly Lunch 'N Learn with Rabba Kaya**

On spring break for April

Complete COMMITTEE MEETING schedule is on page 15

# From Rabba Kaya's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

same root. However, the word *avodah* also means service. Freedom from Egypt was a liberation from the oppressive *avodah* of slavery, in order to allow for a higher form of labor understood as *service*, the harnessing of one's will to serve a greater good.



*Avodah* as service appears in the Torah throughout the descriptions of the sacrifices carried out by the priests in the Tabernacle and later in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. After the second Temple was destroyed, the concept of *avodah* changed yet again to include the 'service of the heart- *avodat halev*,' which refers to prayer. Rather than gifts of sheep and goats, we are instructed to offer the 'words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts' to express gratitude to the Source of all blessing.

Over time the concept of service evolved to include all the wide-ranging mitzvot performed in a variety of ways. Recall the famous story about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel who wrote these words upon his return from Selma in 1965: "For many of us the march from Selma to Montgomery was about protest and prayer. Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying."

In this sense, whenever we are engaged in the holy work of being of service, we are performing a kind of *avodah*. Here at Temple Israel we are blessed to

have a diverse community of people with varied interests, talents, and concerns. One of the beautiful things about being part of a sacred community is the opportunity to contribute. Every contribution of time and energy lifts us all up. Whether one's skills and interests are technological or artistic, culinary or administrative, educational or social, there is an opportunity here to contribute. It is *avodah*- gifts of service- that ultimately transform a collective of individuals into a sacred community.

With blessings,

Rabba Kaya

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## April schedule change for Lunch 'N Learn

Our group will be taking a spring break this month. Stay tuned for the resumption of our lively Thursday afternoon discussions!

## Basic Judaism Class for Conversion with Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

The next class meets on Wednesday, April 7, at 6:00 pm. Open to everyone interested in learning the basics about Judaism and living a Jewish life. Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, via Zoom, on the following dates: **April 7, April 21, May 5, May 26, June 16, and June 30.** Register on the website calendar to receive the Zoom link.

**Rabba Kaya is available to meet with congregants by appointment. Please send her an email to schedule!**

[Rabba.Kaya@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:Rabba.Kaya@templeisraelnh.org)

# Prayer

## Special Shabbat Services

- **Friday, April 2, Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
On this Shabbat of Passover, we will highlight immigrant and refugee experiences, including stories of congregant families emigrating to America and contemporary stories of refugees who live in our community.
- **Friday, April 23, Shabbes Tisch, theme: Hope**
- **Friday, April 30, Musical Kabbalat Shabbat** led by Cantor Shira Nafshi
- **Saturday, May 1, Shabbat Services** led by Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro

## Candle Lighting

April 2, 6:53 pm

April 9, 7:01 pm

April 16, 7:10 pm

April 23, 7:18 pm

April 30, 7:26 pm

## Service Times

Tuesday 5:30 pm

Friday 7:00 pm

Saturday morning 10:00 am

*\* Zoom links to virtual services are in the weekly bulletin, with exceptions to regular times as noted.*

Many voices create more Torah!  
Let's learn from one other.



Please email Rabba Kaya with any dates you would be available to lead a Torah discussion or offer a *d'var Torah* during Shabbat morning services. The weekly Torah portion appears on the temple website calendar.

Additional resources are available to support you—see the temple website “Jewish Resources” page for adults.

Photo at right: “Seder kits” prepared and delivered by the Sisterhood.

Below: the ELC students enjoyed participating in the burning the *chametz* in the temple parking lot!



# President's Message

## The Joys of Volunteering

It is startling for me to realize that this is my next-to-last column and that my unusual term as president will soon be over. Writing this column each month has given me the opportunity to reflect on our community and my own experiences observing and celebrating holidays and events at TIP, and I have really enjoyed this part of the job! As I look forward to transitioning from my current role, I have already begun to consider which committee I would like to join when I am ready. I remember fondly the moment when Fran Berman asked me to join the Membership Committee (within a year of our moving to New Hampshire and joining our synagogue). At the time, it felt good to be asked and I was glad to be able to contribute in some way to make our temple's community stronger.

At that time, the Membership Committee's tasks involved reaching out to prospective members and also putting on events like open houses and the new member brunch or dinner. When it was time to prepare for my first new member dinner, I showed up to help cook in our kitchen with Fran, Barbara Levenson, Paula Singer, and others. I was looking forward to helping out, but I had no idea how gratifying and fun it would be to work together with women I didn't yet know all that well. As a side benefit, Fran's salmon recipe has become a family favorite! Over the years, as the dinner became a brunch, membership committee members like Margie Wachtel, Helen Hanan, and Jennie Dinnerman joined in on the fun. This year, the Membership Committee, now chaired by Amy Lester, has done an amazing job offering a variety of programs.

love to cook, it can be as easy as picking up the phone. You may not be surprised to learn that I was on the board of my temple's local USY chapter when I was in high school. One of my most dreaded tasks was what we called "phone squad." We each had a list of five or six kids we'd have to call at least monthly to encourage event attendance. For a shy ninth or tenth grader, this was a nerve-wracking task to complete, especially since I had kids on my list who never attended anything. However, now, we board members regularly call members to check in and though it is sometimes hard to find the time, it is always so gratifying when I get to talk to one of you, especially these days when we are not seeing each other often in person.

Each of us has many talents that the synagogue could use. Every time an event is planned, organizers have to create a flyer, think through the logistics of the day, plan, shop, prepare, and then actually execute the event. For example, the Haggadah delivery you received a couple of weeks ago was due to efforts of many volunteers. Though I delivered about a dozen packets to homes nearby, that was the easy part! First, the idea was conceived, funding procured, haggadot and seeds ordered, the beautiful card designed and printed, delivery volunteers recruited – you get the idea. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this planning can be extensive. As we anticipate moving toward more hybrid and in-person events, we hope more of you will step up and find a way to volunteer. Let me know if you would like to do so, and we will find you a job! Not only will you gain the satisfaction of helping our community grow, but you will likely realize many other benefits as well.

L'shalom, Amy Hyett

# Ritual Committee

## Make Each Day Count

The Torah tells us to celebrate the Festival of Matzot (Leviticus 23:4-8). The Torah continues with the command to bring an offering of the first sheaf of the harvest. Beginning the day of that offering, we are instructed to count seven weeks. The Hebrew word for sheaf, an amount of grain large enough to require bundling, is *omer*, so we call this day-by-day tallying of seven times seven weeks *sefirat ha-omer*, “counting the *omer*.”

After counting for forty-ninedays, we are to mark the fiftieth day by making another grain offering with the fruit of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-16). On the day of the second offering, we are commanded to celebrate again, the celebration we now know as Shavuot – the Festival of Weeks.

In most situations, people count down – the number of days until vacation, the seconds until a rocket launch. In *sefirat ha-omer*, we count up, beginning with one and adding one each evening up to 49, counting up to Shavuot when we receive the Torah.

Last year a group of women at *Minyan Dorshei Derekh* in Philadelphia decided to count the *omer* together on Zoom each evening. The ritual provided them with connection and comfort during a time of uncertainty and fear. But the disruption in their lives brought on by COVID-19 did not end at Shavuot, so when the *omer* count was complete, the women – half a dozen regulars and occasional visitors, including me – decided to continue counting, keeping track of the undifferentiated days of isolation.

"Teach us to count our days rightly,  
that we may obtain a wise heart."

-- Psalms 90:12

Calling themselves “the Countesses,” they first counted to Tisha B’Av, then to Shemini Atzeret. Then they decided not to aim for a specific endpoint, simply to continue documenting each day with their ritual counting. When they convene at 9:00 pm, they chat for a few minutes, then recite a prayer, and state the count of the days. They say the blessing for counting the *omer*, replacing *al sefirat ha-omer* (counting the *omer*) with *al sefirat ha-yamim* (counting the days). As with *omer* counting, they announce the number of days and then the number of weeks plus leftover days the number contains. Finally, with each day added to the count, they invite one another to share something that made that day count.

Over the year, the Countesses have shared milestones, grief and joys, as well as pandemic-inspired discoveries and growth. They hope that by the end of this year’s counting of the *omer*, vaccinations will have subdued the virus, in-person gatherings will once again be safe, and (new) normal life will resume. When they reach the 49th day of this year’s *omer* count, they will also end their pandemic count on what will be day 402, which is 57 weeks plus 3 days.

As we count the *omer* this year and look forward to resuming community life at Temple Israel in-person, let us remember to count our blessings, to count each day, and to make each day count.

Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP, Ritual

# Hebrew School



**Elian Tackeff**  
Head of School

Shalom Everyone!

Happy April, which coincides with the Jewish months of Nisan and Iyyar!

And *Hag Pesach Sameach!* I hope you had a meaningful Seder. On every other year, we end the Seder by saying "Next year in Jerusalem." This

year many of us added "in person!"

In March, the Hebrew School students studied the value of *Hakarat Ha-tov*, which means, literally, "recognizing the good," or gratitude. How very appropriate, since we were also learning about Pesach and how God took us out of slavery in Egypt. We sang *Dayenu*, it would have been enough, to remind ourselves that it would have been enough to be freed from slavery, yet we were given so much more. *Hakarat Ha-tov* reminds us to notice the good, and not to let negative events overshadow all the positives in our lives.

### A couple of highlights from the month:

On Sunday, March 14th, Rabba Kaya taught a seminar for our b'nei mitzvah students exploring the *siddur*, including the order and meanings of the prayers, and why we say them. I am hoping she will lead a similar class for adults!

On Wednesday, March 31, the whole school enjoyed "The JKids Radio All Star Musical Seder."

### Coming up on Zoom in April:

- Sunday, April 11: Bar/bat mitzvah informational meeting for 6th grade parents

- Sunday, April 18: A Hebrew School Town Hall for parents to discuss some exciting possibilities for next fall
- Thursday, April 15: A special Yom Ha'atzmaut / Israel Story Walk for the younger children

**REGISTRATION FOR NEXT FALL:** We are starting Hebrew School registration for the 2021-2022 academic year. If you took a COVID break from Hebrew School, please call me, Elian Tackeff, at 603-969-2984 or email me at [egt9@aol.com](mailto:egt9@aol.com) so I can arrange to provide you with a registration link. We missed you and look forward to seeing you and your children in person next fall!

As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions or suggestions.

L'shalom, Elian Tackeff, Head of School

## GROVER'S ADVENTURES IN ISRAEL A Yom Ha'atzmaut Story Walk



Get outside and enjoy the fresh air as you follow Grover on his trip through Israel stopping to complete activities along the way!

**Thursday, April 15 | 1pm - 3pm**  
**Temple Israel, Portsmouth**

Use the link to sign up for a time spot.

<http://bit.ly/3vPZOrg>

Space is limited in order to adhere to social distancing

Masks required for everyone ages 3+ ~ Social distancing encouraged

For questions contact Allyson at [allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org](mailto:allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org)



Temple Israel  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire



# Early Learning Center



**Tammy Roberge**  
Director, ELC

The Early Learning Center has been open for in-person learning since September, observing the required safety protocols for COVID-19 prevention. We are enormously proud of our students, staff, and volunteers for all their efforts to protect themselves and one another, and gratified by this year's high enrollment.

At this time of the year we are planning for next fall's class, but the usual venues to showcase our program are still closed due to COVID. I would like to ask for your help in spreading the word through social media to friends and family members who might be interested in enrolling their children. If you have a Facebook, Instagram, or Google account, please like us, follow us, or give us a review on Google.

**Facebook**, like us at – Early Learning Center Temple Israel. <https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelnh.org>

**Instagram**, follow us at – earlylearningcenternh. <https://www.instagram.com/earlylearningcenternh/>

Information about the Early Learning Center can also be found on the Temple website: [www.templeisraelnh.org](http://www.templeisraelnh.org), or by calling me, Tammy Roberge, at 603-380-5589 or emailing me at [preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org).

We are open for enrollment for the 2021 – 2022 school year! Tours can be conducted upon request.

I have heard from many parents what a beacon of light the ELC has been for families during the pandemic. We teachers feel the same way about our students. Here are some pictures from the last few weeks, showing the fun and love of learning these children share!

L'shalom, Tammy Roberge



# Yom Hashoah / Yom Ha'atzmaut

This year we will commemorate Yom Hashoah with the screenings and discussion of two powerful films. Please register on the website calendar to receive your free links to these special screenings.



**Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 pm**, the evening begins with a short presentation by Dr. Louis Levine, founding Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage- A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Dr. Levine will introduce the film *Who Will Write Our History*. The film screening will be followed by the lighting of memorial candles and the chanting of memorial prayers by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman.



**Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 pm**, we will enjoy a live Q&A with the playwright and cast members of the film *Terezin: Children of the Holocaust*. Watch the film at your convenience from April 9 - 14.

For more information about the films, please see the description on the temple website and calendar. Many thanks to the Cultural Endowment Fund for financial support.

## Dr. Yehezkel Landau to Speak for Israel Independence Day



Dr. Yehezkel Landau, an interfaith educator, trainer, consultant, and author, will speak

on the topic of "Interfaith Peacebuilding Initiatives in Israel/Palestine and the United States." This event will be held via Zoom at 7 pm on April 15, in commemoration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, and is sponsored by the Israel Affairs Committee.

Dr. Landau, a dual Israeli-American citizen, has done extensive work in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations and Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding for over forty years. In Israel, he was executive director of the Oz VeShalom-Netivot Shalom religious peace movement in the 1980s, then co-founder and co-director, with his wife, Dalia, of the Open House Jewish-Arab peace center in Ramle in the 1990s. (For those who have read *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan, Dalia was the most recent owner of the house featured in the book that became a center for peace and reconciliation.)

Dr. Landau was a professor of Jewish tradition and interfaith relations and held the Chair in Abrahamic Partnerships at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut for fourteen years. He is the author of numerous articles and essays and holds degrees from Harvard University, Harvard Divinity School, and Hartford Seminary.

Emma Rous, Israel Affairs Committee

# Committees / Sisterhood

**The House Committee** is seeking building geeks and future candidates for VP! If you love historic buildings and beautifying our temple, House Committee membership is for you. You'll be added to a long line of devoted Jewish men and women who have kept our Temple in prime condition for over 100 years.

Despite our closure over the past year, the House committee has been working on issues concerning building security, heat and hot water, outdoor landscaping, and the rental building, to name a few. House members help prioritize projects, obtain needed estimates, and function as onsite overseers for events. We work closely with our maintenance and office staff to ensure safe and secure programs.

The coming year promises to be quite busy with major construction projects and an entire security system upgrade. We need your help! Previous meeting reports are available for review and provide an overview of the committee's responsibilities. Please contact Joanne Samuels for further information or to join.

## Membership Committee: Calling our Twenty-somethings!

Alex, a 22-year-old transplant from Dallas, TX, is looking to help Temple Israel start a group for young Jewish adults to connect with each other and the local Jewish community. If you or a family member might be interested, feel free to shoot him an email ([haskelalex@gmail.com](mailto:haskelalex@gmail.com)). Step one is to plan some activities, so let Alex know what you'd like to see offered. *Todah rabah!*

By Kerry Hansen

**The next Rosh Hodesh meeting will be Sunday, April 11, at 7:30 pm,** co-led by

Glicka Kaplan and Cathi Cherry-Liston. Topic:

healing. See you there!



### Upcoming events include:

- Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm, **Zoom with NH Shlichah Avia Sagron**, "Iron Lion Zion" and the incredible journey of Ethiopian Jews to Eretz Israel.
- Sunday, April 25, 7:00 pm, **Sisterhood meeting**
- SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the temple courtyard, **Plein Aire Painting** session co-sponsored by the Sisterhood and Arts Review Team.

Artist Julie Serrano will host and help people with art projects, consult on your masterwork, and answer your questions. She is versed in all mediums, including **drawing**: graphite, colored



pencils, charcoal and **painting**: watercolor, acrylic, and oils.

Come and feed your muse! Kindly bring your own supplies and an easel if you like.

(Rain date: June 27, same time and location.)

# Arts Review Team



Art on display in the Shmooze by Julie Serrano (above) and Judy Wilber-Albertson (below)



## SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the temple courtyard, **Plein Aire Painting** session co-sponsored by the Sisterhood and Arts Review Team.

By Deborah Levine, Arts Review Team Chair

On March 17, we were treated to a “read aloud” play on Zoom: Neil Simon’s *Lost in Yonkers*. The cast included Jennifer Beard, Jewel Davis, Eric Gilston, Donna Goldfarb, Jeff Salloway, Sue West, Ben West. There were some hilarious moments as well as poignant moments as our actors brought their characters to life. The play showed the impact of World War II on a Jewish family living in New York. Many attendees recognized attitudes of their own relatives who endured those times.

Another Zoom event sponsored by the Arts Review Team was the walkthrough and discussion of the “Pre-COVID Israel and COVID Impact” exhibit on March 14. Artists represented in the Shmooze included Julie Serrano, Judy Wilber-Albertson, Brigitte Keller, and Ken Cohen. Contributors of photos taken in Israel were Mel Prostkoff, Helen Hanan, Rabbi Ira Korinow, Sally Bock, and Cathi Cherry-Liston. It was wonderful to hear directly from the participants about their technique, intent, and inspiration. After hearing the stories of Israeli travels and adventures from Temple Israel members, we are eager to return (if we have already been there) or interested in planning a trip as soon as it is safe to do so. The stories and comments were recorded and will be available for viewing soon.

Part Two of the “COVID Times” Exhibit, showcasing writers and photographers, will be offered on April 25, 2021, at 4:00 pm. Photographers Paula Singer, Fran Berman, and Walter Rous will discuss their work. Participants will also read their poems, stories, and short essays. Hope to see you on Zoom!



Voice actors in character for *Lost in Yonkers*, from top: Ben West, Jennifer Beard & Jeff Salloway, Donna Goldfarb, Jewel Davis, Sue West.

# Sustainability Snippet

## Nature's Essential Workers: Bees

By Courtney Kapral

Everyone in New England looks forward to the start of spring. The winter months have (mostly) run their course and warmer weather is on the horizon. This change in season will bring blooming flowers, extra time to enjoy the sunshine, and the arrival of one of nature's most essential workers, **bees**. While many people view bees as scary insects that may sting when disturbed, bees play a critical role in the daily lives of humans by contributing to the sustainable development of the environment and maintaining a healthy ecosystem overall.

The earth is home to roughly 20,000 bee species, seven of which are classified as honey bees. In New England, the honey bee is no stranger to the region's warmer seasons and can be found in most gardens any given day of the week. Honey bees are highly efficient with their pollination process and are responsible for taking care of roughly 16% of the flowering plant species around the world. Without honey bee pollination, we would find that much of the organically grown produce we consume would drastically decline in selection, quality, and quantity.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, bee populations have been declining across North America at a rapid rate, largely due to habitat loss, climate change, and toxic pesticide usage. In an effort to curb the continuation of declining bee populations and stop future colonies from collapsing, a movement to "save the bees" was formed. By recognizing the importance of educating society on how vital bees are to our daily lives, the initiative has recently gained more public

momentum and in turn, interest in bringing awareness to these hard-working



pollinators has increased. There are many actions we can take to help prevent the decline of the bee population, such as:

- Planting bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in our gardens and yards. The seed packet we all received as a Pesach gift is full of bee-friendly flowers!
- Refraining from the use of chemicals and pesticides to treat lawns and gardens.
- Buying raw honey and organically grown produce from local farmers.
- Hanging bee houses in the garden and providing fresh water for bee baths.
- Supporting local beekeepers and organizations.

As we understand and appreciate why bees are so important, each of us can play an active role in supporting local bee populations. Bees are not only extremely important for humans, but for the entire ecosystem to function. While we are all enjoying the gardens and our time outdoors this season, let's take a moment to thank the bees for their hard work.

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**Photo above courtesy UNH Cooperative Extension. See their website for more resources on pollinator plants for our region: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/pollinator-plants-northern-new-england-gardens-fact-sheet>**

# Community

## Shop the New Open for Business Directory

Did you know that our website now features a directory listing businesses owned by synagogue members? It showcases a range of businesses and services, from web design and concierge services to realtors and retailers. The web address is:

[www.templeisraelnh.org/connect/business-directory/](http://www.templeisraelnh.org/connect/business-directory/).



We hope you consider patronizing these member-owned establishments and professional services. Many of these businesses also donate services and products to our synagogue. Your support can help fellow congregants' businesses to survive and thrive in these challenging times. If you are a congregant and own a business, please consider a free business listing in our directory. If you would like to learn more, contact the Open for Business Committee at [ofb@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:ofb@templeisraelnh.org).

## Job opening: Head of School/Family Programming Coordinator

As Amy Hyett mentioned in her column last month, Temple Israel is seeking a dynamic, creative educator who is passionate about Jewish learning to direct our Hebrew School (K-7) and to implement family programming to foster ongoing engagement of families with children and teens. Our ideal candidate is a warm and approachable person committed to working collaboratively. We envision this as a 30-hour per week position.

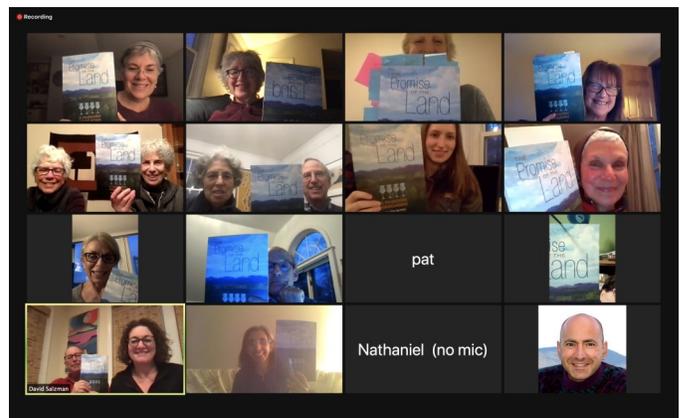
For a complete job description, please see the website or contact the office.

## Senior Discussion Group

### Wednesdays, 10:00 am, via Zoom

*The Joyful Blessing of Time*. This discussion group, led by experienced facilitator Laura Durant, will be a safe, supportive place to share experiences, concerns, thoughts, and feelings about this time in our lives. To connect with the group, use the Zoom link for services, found in Friday bulletins.

On March 14, congregants enjoyed hearing from Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, author of *The Promise of the Land*, the haggadah used in the Community Seder on March 28.





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# Donations

**Received February 27 - March 25, 2021**

## **CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

Renee Levy in memory of Robert Levy. Evelyn Dickson. Jeff Miller & Faye Goldberg. Polly & Arnold Slavet.

## **DINNERMAN-ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

Rita & Stan Robbins in memory of Michelle Robbins. Evelyn Dickson. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Arnold Fishbein. Jeff Miller & Faye Goldberg.

## **DUES ABATEMENT FUND**

Julie Serrano in memory of her nephew, Kevin Greenauer.

## **HEBREW SCHOOL FUND**

Lenny Baer in honor of the Hebrew School students. The Rubin family in memory of Paul Rubin, Michael's father and Hannah, Ally, and Lily's grandfather. Gail Bradbard in memory of Real Boyer.

## **INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND**

Paula & Stuart Boxer in memory of Paula's father, David Rosengard. Roger Epstein in memory of his father, Stanley Epstein. Nancy & Andrew Jaffe. Elissa Kaplan Senter in loving memory of Rabbi David Rafael Senter. Evelyn Dickson. Harold & Gloria Moldoff in memory of Harold's mother, Sarah Moldoff. Jeff Miller & Faye Goldberg.

## **LIBRARY FUND**

Marsha Brann, in memory of Jonathan Brann. Bernice Richman in memory of her mother, Rose Richman.

## **PRESCHOOL FUND**

Robert Weisner in memory of his father, Max Weisner.

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Linda Cote in memory of her mother, Charlotte Mackles. David & Betty Effron in memory of David's father, Alvin Effron, and Betty's father, Herman Slass. Carol Birch in memory of her husband, Frank Birch. Paula & Karl Singer in memory of Paula's father, Harold McCrensky. Barbara Gutin in memory of her son, Jeffrey Gutin. Joyce Meenes and family with grateful appreciation to Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Joan Hankin in memory of her father, Ben Gersh, and her brother, Fred Gersh. Norma & Marvin Lesser. Randy Spratt & Sharen Eidelberg-Spratt.

## **TIKKUN OLAM/ SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Claudia Leblanc.

## **TZEDAKAH FUND**

Myrna Promer and family in memory of her husband, Howard Promer, and in memory of her father, Max Weisner. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Linwood Leslie. Agnes Cabot in memory of her father, Alexander Vero. Rachel Dennis in memory of her mother, Ruth Dennis. Eve Kennedy-Spaen in loving memory of Albert Spaen, *husband, father, zayde, mensch*. Naomi Fishbein in memory of her brother-in-law, Jerome Fishbein. Randy Spratt & Sharen Eidelberg-Spratt in loving memory of Marion Spratt Palmer. *Your memory will forever be a blessing.*

## **Special thanks for helping us celebrate Passover**

- The Friedman family for graciously providing Zoom tech support at the Community Seder.
- The Sisterhood for sponsoring a number of Passover Seder plates, and the volunteers who prepared and delivered them.
- The Annual Fund and Cultural Endowment Fund
- The haggadot and seed packages delivery crew.

# Yahrzeits

## April Yahrzeits

## 19 Nisan / 18 Iyyar 5781

1. John Rosenbloom, Katie Lampert, Bertha Zall, Irving Oshman
2. Rudolph Goodman, Sarah Levine, Robert Brann, Pauline Bailey, Sidney Goren, Sam Ollar, Morris A. Fox, Herman Blamk
3. Samuel Kolikof, Leonard Levy, Israel Mirsky, Barbara Cherry, Richard F. Morse, Eric Goulston, Rochelle Poyourow-Ripple
4. Max Rosenfield, Sarah Borwick, Allen Linden, Sarah Mendelovtitz, Marcia J. Feinberg
5. Maurice Lightung, Rae Pearl, Sarah Beatrice Friedman, Harriet Lincoln-Mirsky, Mona Sacks
6. Tillie Fein, Bess Issokson, Ruth L. Issokson, Lillian Lane, Lena Rosen, Estelle Gottlieb
7. Samuel Kline, Judith Kramer, Ursula Cherry, Sylvia Allen, Samuel Abeles
8. Joseph Cohen, Milton Roberts, Ida Silverman, Roberta Berman, Brina Lampert, Louis Emmer, Sterra Tackeff, Frieda Osman, Eleanor Packer
9. Louis Bradbard, Rae Scheckter, Mollie Wolf, Glenyce Kaplan
10. Gladys Goodman, Max Freedman, Ernie Kessler, Sarah Polimar, Gertrude Kline Borden, Morris Rotman, Reuben Weinstein
11. Julius Zeidman, Danielle Harman, Sol Lesser, Laura Share, Samuel Share, Mildred Friedman, Robert Segil, Francis Brown, Dorothy Pearlstein, George James White, Morris S. Rosen, Leah Osman, Annie Freaman
12. Blume Lepoff, Dora Taube, Sadye Schwartz
13. Rose Esther Weinstein, Ruth Pindrus, Lenore Fineberg
14. Edward Segel, Sarah Bratter, Jay Schwartz, Samuel Lisagor, Sadie Goldstein Byer
15. Rev. Jacob Meyerson, Anna Siegel, Lillie Sorkin, Morris Siegel, Jules Philips, Louis Baumstein, Massie Winer, Lucille Silverman
16. Jeanette Kaufman, Lee Gunst, Bessie Kemler, Ruth Kram
17. Pamela Shulman
18. Moses Haritonov, Ethel Pierce
19. Bessie Rosenbloom, Ida Cooper, Harry Singer, Ursula Gage, Lloyd Gage, James Dieterich, Grace Turner
20. Hyman Berlin, Jackson Pastor, Douglas Hamilton
21. Esther London, Sarah Fisher, Lillian Hirsch, Herbert Turner, Louis Weinstein, Andrea Jean Rudl, Rose Singer
22. Charles Zitomer
23. Morton Nannis, Tillie Spaien, Bernard A. Black, Nathan Balansky, Evelyn M. Miller, Michael S. Shine, Gregory Shaker
24. Ida Karpman, Nathan Neyer, Ida Fox, Eugene Barbehenn, Harriet Gorski, Murray Cowen

**Need to recite Mourner's Kaddish?** Please join our online minyan on Tuesday, Fridays, and Saturdays. See schedule on page 3. A prayer to say a personal Kaddish without a minyan is also available on our website, or contact the office to receive it by mail or email.

# Yahrzeits / Meetings

- 25. Rose Lisagor, Benjamin Karpman, Naomi Cowen
- 26. David Scheen, Miriam "Mickey" Allen, Rose Levy
- 27. Eva Weisner, Jean Mittelman, Betty Feffer,  
Mark Freedman, Fannie Belostock, Ruth Karol,  
Ed Tober, Joseph Tober, Joseph Cohen
- 28. Samuel Small, Kenneth Fleisher,  
Charles Gorman, Louis Shamesman,  
Milton Manin, Marc Rothstein
- 29. Doris Jacobs, Morris Coles, Sumner Berenson
- 30. Annette Task, Helen Naparsteck, Herman Fink,  
Dora Rosenfeld, Melvyn Feitelson,  
Louis Schwartz, Honey Shaines, Morris Isenstein



## COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

### Re-Imagining Committee

11:30 am, Thursday, April 1

### Ritual Committee

7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 6

### Tikkun Olam Committee

7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 7

### Nominating Committee Public Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday, April 8

### Membership Committee

7:00 pm, Monday, April 12

### Executive Committee

7:30 pm, Wednesday, April 14

### Education Committee

11:15 am, Sunday, April 18

### Arts Review Team

11:00 am, Monday, April 19

### Sustainability Committee

7:00 pm, Monday, April 19

### Board of Directors

7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 20

### Sisterhood

7:00 pm, Sunday, April 25

### Marketing Committee

3:00 pm, Tuesday, April 27

Our congregation grieves with our families who have recently suffered losses.

Condolences to **Ron Mirsky** on the passing of his mother, **Sally Mirsky**.

Condolences to **Nancy Jaffe** on the passing of her sister, **Sheri Morris**.

Sibson - Hall Monument Co.  
 Memorials, Markers, Lettering  
 Cleaning and Repairs  
**John A Hall**  
 1950 Lafayette RD.  
 suite 106 box 6  
 Portsmouth, N.H. 03801  
 603 436 3377  
 1 800 550 3377  
 nwgranite@hotmail.com

Save the date for the Annual Meeting  
 Monday, May 3, 2021  
 (enjoy hot dogs at home! )

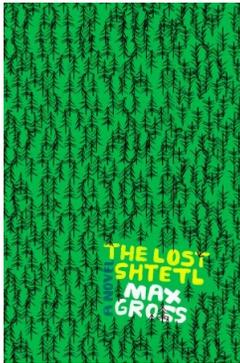
**Review** the year & plans for reopening with outgoing Board President Amy Hyett

**Vote** for your new Board of Directors

**Vote** on proposed changes to the Bylaws

**Vote** on the 2021 - 2022 Budget

**TIP Book Club - May 4**  
***The Lost Shtetl*, by Max Gross**



**Temple Israel Portsmouth**

**Board of Directors**

- Amy Hyett, President
- David Bachrach, Past President
- Bob Zimman, President-Elect
- Joanne Samuels, VP House
- Seth Wizwer, VP Education
- Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP Ritual
- Beth Salzman, Recording Secretary
- Steve Sacks, Financial Secretary
- Amy Borne, Treasurer
- Tobey Harman, Director
- Marc Hiller, Director
- Rachel Kurshan, Director
- Amy Lester, Director
- Mel Prostkoff, Director
- Ira Schwartz, Director
- Julie Serrano, Director

Please join us on Tuesday, May 4, at 11:30 am, outside in the courtyard, for a lively discussion! (No Book Club meeting in April.)

*From the publisher's description:* Winner of the National Jewish Book Award and the Jewish Fiction Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries. A remarkable debut novel—written with the fearless imagination of Michael Chabon and the piercing humor of Gary Shteyngart—about a small Jewish village in the Polish forest that is so secluded no one knows it exists . . . until now.



**Temple Israel**  
 200 State Street  
 Portsmouth, NH 03801  
 603-436-5301

**OFFICE HOURS**

**April, 2021: Please call or email to make an appointment for building access.**



Proud member of USCJ

**Temple Israel "Classifieds"**

**FAITH ~ HOPE ~ LOVE**

**Elissa Kaplan Senter, BS Ed., CPE, APC, SAG/AFTRA**  
 Consultant, Entertainer, Interfaith Chaplain,  
 Rabbinic Pastor, Life Cycle Events Planner, Pastoral Counseling



www.elissakaplansenter.com  
 516-450-5171 or 845-304-3908  
 ekapsent@aol.com

Israeli academic seeks Durham / Seacoast rental home for their family during the month of August 2021 to attend a UNH postdoc program.

Any leads? Please email Realtor Anat Hatuka,  
[anat.hatuka@verani.com](mailto:anat.hatuka@verani.com)