

30 Hinchman Avenue, Wayne, NJ 07470 973-696-2500 www.shomreitorahwcc.org March 2023 Adar/Nisan 5783

# L'CHAIM

**Celebrating Tradition, Embracing the Future!** 

## SHOMREI TORAH SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE March 17 & 18, 2023



#### **Zackary Wainer, PhD**

Dr. Wainer is an expert in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near East. He has taught at the College of William & Mary and received a Fulbright Fellowship and a Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Zack completed his PhD from Brown University's department of Egyptology and Assyriology in 2016 and currently works in the Jewish Funding space.



**Passover: A Different Perspective** 

Friday, March 17 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm

#### SHABBAT DINNER

\$18 per person / 12 and older No cost for children

RSVP no later than Monday, March 13 to office@shomreitorahwcc.org or call 973-696-2500

#### Topic

Moving the Goalposts - or is it Doorposts? Changing Passover Observances in Ancient Israel

Saturday, March 18 Shabbat Service & Kiddush

#### Topic

Abraham & Isaac Making Seder: Reading Passover in Narratives before the Exodus



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## Please refer to weekly "What's Happening" or call the Synagogue office for Zoom information

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 am Minyan

WEEKDAY MORNING MINYAN

Monday-Friday, 7:45 am

WEEKDAY EVENING MINYAN

Sunday-Thursday, 7:45 pm

TORAH STUDY THURSDAYS

Thursday 3:00 pm

FRIDAY EVENING

6:00 pm Shabbat Service

SHABBAT MORNING

9:30 am Shabbat Service

SATURDAY NIGHT

Havdalah after Shabbat ends

#### SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

3/3....5:32 pm

3/10....5:40 pm

3/17....6:48 pm

3/24....6:55 pm

3/31....7:03 pm

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SAVE THE DATE! CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Thursday, March 30



### FROM THE BIMA

I recently returned from a 4-day mission as a part of an Israel Bonds Rabbinic Delegation. It is always a pleasure to be in Israel, even when tensions are high, as they are now. Israel, like America, is a country divided. It is not a coincidence that they have had five national elections in the last four years and no political party has been able to form a stable government. The current crisis is over Judicial reform. The current Netanyahu led, right-wing/religious government, claims the judiciary has too much power for a branch of government that is not elected by the people and so they have proposed judicial reforms that would curtail the authority of the courts and restructure how judges are appointed. Those opposed to the reforms take the position that it is nothing more than a power grab by the Prime Minister, who is currently under indictment and in the midst of a criminal trial, to protect himself and his political allies, who have already been convicted in court. The reforms would give the Knesset the ability to override decisions of the Israeli Supreme Court and give politicians the ability to appoint and promote judges. Opponents of the reforms fear that it is a threat to the very fabric of democracy in Israel which does not have a Constitution and with no executive branch, limited checks and balances.

Many that we met with, from all walks of life, talked about why they have been attending rallies in opposition to the reforms. Hundreds of thousands have been protesting every Saturday night. However, they all shared that they had family and friends who supported the current government and their proposed reforms, which is what makes it so difficult for everyone. Additionally, being based in Jerusalem where there has hbeen a string of fatal terrorist attacks in recent weeks, has put people on edge. Foreigners traveling in Israel always have security with them and excellent intel, so that we know where it is safe to go and where to avoid.

We saw some amazing sights – we went to the Lebanese border where we were able to enter a Hezbollah terror tunnel. It goes down 80 feet and travers a two mile stretch from Lebanon to Israel. The IDF found and filled in six of them that they estimate had been under construction for a decade. On that same day, we also saw an Iron Dome battery that defends Israel's borders from rocket and missile attacks. We also visited Gazelle Valley Park. I had no idea that there was a nature park filled with gazelle in the middle of Jerusalem – amazing! And we visited *Ir David*/the City of David, just outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Extensive excavations are taking place and there are discoveries going back to the time of King David. Therestorations allowed us to walk the same paths that pilgrims went upon when visiting the ancient Temples.

We heard from terrific speakers talking about everything from resettlement of Ukrainians to security concerns to the current political climate. One of the benefits of a Bonds Delegation is that it is interdenominational. I traveled with Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis. There are not many venues left where we all come together. So, the conversations and dialogues that took place amongst the group were valuable as well. I hope in the weeks and months ahead to be able to share the insights that I gained, and to show why in spite of everything going on in Israel, I will continue to invest with Israel Bonds, even while taking issue with decisions of the current government that I cannot in good conscious support. Israel is a complex place and simple answers don't do it justice. May we all continue to learn and support Israel.



# FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SHERI TABACK

Purim is my favorite holiday! I have wonderful childhood memories of dressing up as Queen Esther, having fun at our synagogue Purim carnival, baking hamantaschen with my sister, giving and receiving Mischloach Manot from family, neighbors and friends, and shaking the grogger as hard as I could during the Megillah reading.

The fun of Purim arose from the incredible heroism of Mordechai and Esther, risking their lives to save the Jews of Persia against the wicked Haman. Haman the Agagite is said to be the descendant of the notorious Amalekites, the cowardly group that attacked the Israelite women and children on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Haman, like the Amalekites, was viciously against our people in Biblical times, teaching us how far back antisemitism goes.

Unfortunately, it seems that antisemitism has been around since the beginning of time—BUT WE ARE STILL HERE! We are all aware of the alarming rise in antisemitism in today's world, and as recently as this past weekend neo-Nazi groups declared a "National Day of Hate." Jews all over the country were vigilant, and with the help and support of local law enforcement, Jewish Federations, the ADL and other Jewish organizations, we celebrated Shabbat and spread the message #ShabbatOfPeaceNotHate.

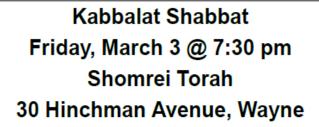
Next week when we participate in Purim festivities at Shomrei Torah, we will be doing the mitzvah of celebrating our ability to rise above and overcome this ongoing challenge. So please, join us on Friday night at 7:30pm for Shabbat Zachor with our special guest speaker, Naomi Adler, CEO of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America as we celebrate the 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hadassah which was founded on Purim in 1912. Come to Shabbat services on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and continue to promote peace and love on Shabbat. Bring your family to our Purim carnival on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 1:00pm and come in costume! Enjoy our wonderful Purim Shpiel at 4:00pm and stay afterward for a delicious vegetarian dinner in Shushan! Come back on Monday evening, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for a family friendly Megillah reading followed by ice-cream social and/or 7:30pm for the full Megillah reading. Have a wonderful time celebrating this fun, festive holiday and show the world that we don't cave into hate against our people! Chag Purim Sameach!



### SHABBAT ZAHOR

Celebrating Hadassah's 111th Birthday with

Naomi Adler National Hadassah's CEO



Purim, is the right time to celebrate Hadassah Zionism and 111 years of providing hope, healing and service to the Jewish people. It was in 1912, just a week before Purim, that Hadassah was created.

As we celebrate the 111th anniversary of Hadassah's founding as well as the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Meir Shefeyah community, the home of our Youth Aliyah village, we gather for a Hadassah Shabbat with pride to share and with hope that it will inspire, not only our synagogue communities, but the larger community as well.

RSVP to the synagogue office by Tuesday, February 28: office@shomreitorahwcc.org or call 973-696-2500.





# Bar Mitzvah of BLAKE LESHOWITZ

# Saturday, March 25, 2023 3 Nisan 5783 Parsha Vayikira

My name is Blake Leshowitz. I will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 25th, 2023. I am a 7th grader at Anthony Wayne Middle School. Some of the sports I enjoy playing are soccer, basketball, golf, and tennis. I like playing soccer so much that I'm even on the travel team. Additionally, I really love skiing and hit the slopes with my family and friends several times each winter. I also go to a summer camp called Camp Lohikan. At camp, I really enjoy playing tennis and jet skiing.

My Bar Mitzvah Torah Parsha is Vayikira in English, Leviticus. In this passage, God is giving Moses instructions about the different types of sacrifices that should be offered on the altar in the Mishkan. There are six different types of offerings. Each type of offering has specific instructions for how it should be prepared and offered to God.

I would like to thank the following people for their help, love, and support—my Bar Mitzvah tutor Mr.Skolnick, Rabbi Mark, and all my Hebrew school teachers for their help to prepare me for my Bar Mitzvah. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents, my sister Ilana, and my brother Jared for their devotion, assistance, and patience.

I hope you can join me and my family for Shabbat services on Friday evening, March 24th and Saturday morning, March 25th.



# A SHOMREI TORAH PURIM!!!

## PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 5 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Come in Costume!

PURIM SHPIEL

4:00 pm



## EREV PURIM

Monday, March 6 In-Person and Zoom

6:00 pm

Hebrew School/ Family-Friendly Megillah Reading followed by Ice Cream Social

7:30pm Congregational Full Megillah Reading

# PURIM DAY

Tuesday, March 7
In-Person and Zoom

7:45 am
Purim Minyan &
Complete Megillah
Reading

Costumes!

Groggers!

Hamantaschen!



Open to the Community!

30 Hinchman Avenue, Wayne, NJ 973-696-2500 office@shomreitorahwcc.org

# PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 5
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Come in Costume!

### **Purim Booth Tickets**

- \$20 for 30 tickets
- \$10 for 12 tickets
- \$5 for 5 tickets
- \$6 for Combo Meal Ticket includes: choice of Hot Dog, Falafel or Chicken Nuggets, plus Chips, Soft Drink and 2 Hamantashen!

# Separate Food Items will be Available (No tickets required or advance payment taken)

- Hot Dog \$4
- Chicken Nuggets \$4
- Falafel \$4
- Knish \$2
- Popcorn \$1
- Hamantashen (2) \$1
- Soft Drink/Water \$1



#### SHOMREI TORAH PRESENTS

An Original Purim Shpiel Production! Sunday, March 5 @ 4:00 pm

# SHUSHAN TRIUMPH THE STORY OF MEGILLAT ESTHER



#### **Show Tickets Only:**

Members \$5 / Non-Members \$10 / Kids 12 and under FREE

#### **After Show Meal:**

Join us for a delicious Mediterranean Vegetarian Dinner

RSVP for the Dinner by Thursday, March 2 to the synagogue
office: office@shomreitorahwcc.org or call 973-696-2500

\$5 per Person with RSVP / \$10 per person at the door



# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS Rabbi Randall Mark

As a school we celebrated Tu B'Shevat last month. Our Sunday school students tasted various fruits and planted seeds to celebrate the New Year of the Trees. Our Hebrew school and Hebrew High had a Tu B'Shevat Seder where they ate various fruits and grains as we expanded our understanding of the holiday to be not just about trees, but about the environment, sort of a Jewish Earth Day. And we taught the students about the *Shivat HaMinim*, the Seven Species of Israel as enumerated in the Torah – "a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and (date) honey" (Deuteronomy 8:8).

Now we are gearing up for Purim when our students they will have Purim activities in school and attend the Men's Club Purim Carnival. We have the Purim Shpiel on Sunday (3/5), Megillah reading on Monday (3/6) and Purim itself will be celebrated during school on Tuesday (3/7). It should be a fun filled few days. We invite everyone to join us for these events!

And ongoing is our student's participation in the Chai Club. This club is open to any student who attends 18 services over the course of the year. I'd like to acknowledge those students who are at least halfway there.

From Kitah Gimel: Laryn Asarch (11) & Isabella Morovati (12)

From Kitah Daled: Gabby Lewis (9) & Sara Betito (11) From Kitah Vav: Sophia Lewis (10) & Laila Fleischer (12)

And from Kitah Zayin: Jocelyn Gerstein (9), Liam Betito (11), Ella Hesney (11) &

Blake Leshowitz (17)

I'd also like to encourage those who have not been coming to services to do so, as it is an essential part of one's Jewish education at Shomrei Torah. Any service counts – Friday night, Shabbat morning, daily minyan – here or elsewhere. Just let me know when and where you went to services. Jr. Congregation with Morah Etty is a great way to come and learn at the same time. Our next one is March 11 at 10:30 am and parents are encouraged to join us in the main sanctuary at the same time.

Wishing everyone a Purim Sameyach/a Happy Purim!



### Wanted: Ambassadors of Welcome

We are a nation of welcomers, called to help families displaced by global strife. Unfortunately, over the past year, there have been too many of these events. Which is why the congregations of the North Jersey Interfaith Cares (NJIC), which Shomrei Torah is a part of, are again looking to sponsor a refugee family from a nation torn by war or political unrest.

Our sponsorship will NOT require financial donations, but NJIC will need donations of our time, especially when the family first arrives.

All newcomers will have gone through security and background checks conducted by the US government prior to their arrival. They will have received a series of medical exams and health screenings. They will also have work authorization and access to social security numbers and cards.

While the national origin of our specific sponsored family is yet to be determined, we wanted members of our congregation to begin thinking about what *committees* they might be able to donate a little time to, and maybe some of their expertise:

*Housing*—helping to find and setting up an apartment before they arrive *Transportation*—helping drive adults to appointments, help them navigate public transportation

**ESL**—you don't need to speak the language or be accredited to help teach English

*Cultural Orientation*—such as helping them learn to navigate super markets or find a place of worship

Finance and Employment—such as helping craft a resume, create a family budget

Health and Mental Health—connecting newcomers to healthcare providers
 Education – helping register children for school, identifying after-school programs

Community sponsorship is a vital support system for newcomer families for at least the first few months after their arrival. It brings communities closer together in the spirit of service and solidarity and allows communities to grow stronger. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Diane Seltzer (diane@rseltzer.com). We would like to identify potential volunteers by March 20<sup>th</sup>, so NJIC will know we are ready to help.

Karen David-Chilowicz and Diane Seltzer



# Friday night Shabbat services March 10, 2023 – 6:00pm New Jersey Wind Symphony Flutes

Comprised of members of the flute section of the New Jersey Wind Symphony

www.njwindsymphony.org

Come for an engaging musical service with the New Jersey Wind Symphony Flutes. The evening will include 30-minutes of recital. The flute choir will also accompany congregational singing throughout the service.

Experience the sound of a flute choir comprised of piccolos, and C, alto, and bass flutes. The NJ Wind Symphony Flutes has arranged Jewish Liturgical music that showcases tunes in enveloping, clear, and easy to sing-along ways.

The flute choir has been enhancing Shabbat services at synagogues around Northern New Jersey and has been receiving invitations to return time and again. The choir recently expanded its reach to commission new music. One of their commissioned pieces will be presented in concert this spring.



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

SHOMREI TORAH GALA
Sunday, April 30
4:00 pm
50th Anniversary Year

Shomrei Torah, Wayne Conservative Congregation







# March BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### 2nd

Jessica Zarin

#### 4th

Sarah Emont Rose Margolis

#### 7th

Brielle Berger Brandon Berger Patrice Goldberg

#### 8th

Michael Greenblatt

#### 9th

Simona Esgar

#### 11th

Evan Berenzweig Blake Leshowitz

#### 12th

Benjamin Friedman

#### 13th

Christine Warren

#### 14th

Ruth Langfelder Alice Moskowitz Laura Siegel Cynthia Brazer

#### 15th

Robert Gordon Sharon Terry Richard Weiss Ben Weltman

#### 16th

Karen Weiss Ruth Weinberg Eli Kleinstein

#### 17th

Lila Brauer

#### 18th

Marcia Kent Randy Reiser Frederick Schwartz

#### **20th**

Ellen Rubinstein

#### 22nd

Roby Wiener

#### 23rd

Glenn Reiser

#### 24th

Sonia Seidman Samara Martell

#### 25th

Lisa Schwarz

#### 26th

Hindi Golden Lilia Becker

#### 27th

Robyn Frankel Margo Bader

#### 28th

Amy Hollander

#### 30th

Shara Gastwirth Amy Friedman

#### 31st

Lyla Smith



#### 3rd

Diane & Bruce Lepp

#### 6th

Gerda & Ben Weltman

#### 7th

Nancy & Andrew Simon

#### 14th

Julie & Michael Padover

#### 14th

Elisa & Ilan Berger

#### 22nd

Elaine & Sy Schlossberg

#### 25th

Laura & Martin Siegel

#### 26th

Smadar & David Kleinstein

#### 27th

Mariana & Alberto Davidovich

#### 27th

Bella & Alan Mendel

#### 28th

Stephanie & Howard Serber

#### 30th

Julie & Daniel Seplow

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973-595-0764 git529@optonline.net

If your last name begins with M to Z, please call

Laura Siegel 973-706-7039 lyzie314@aol.com

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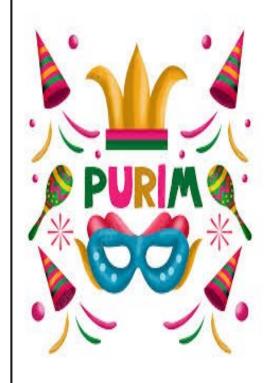
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