



BRUCE ELDER, RABBI

ROBERT J. MARX z"l, FOUNDING RABBI

D'varim

Rabbi Robert J. Marx z"l – Excerpts from a Eulogy

Robert and I talked quite a bit over the past 5-7 years about his funeral. He worried about a number of things: That no one would come, or that everyone would come; that it would be way too long or way too short; that we would play klezmer music, as I had threatened to do too many times to count; that it would be maudlin; that it could never express who he truly was, as his essence, like all of ours, was and is wordless. He didn't necessarily state all these worries to me directly, save for the klezmer music; his facial expression would tell me what I needed to know. Invariably, the conversation would devolve into a back-and-forth of macabre humor, him having said what needed to be said; me promising him, through the humor, that I had heard him. Robert's humor was intellectually rooted, "pun"ishing even, and his laughter was soulfully honest. The former kept us on our toes; the latter, a reward when we felt we touched him or matched his depth.

Robert was a Renaissance Man, one of the last of a dying breed of intellectual, cultural, and socially minded giants who knew, experienced, and did so much in and for the world. To say that Robert loved learning cheapens his relationship to it. Robert *was* learning. He read voraciously and remembered it all. His capacity to make intellectual connections between seemingly disparate ideas across disciplines and to distill them so that others could try to understand them was remarkable. Robert forced me to stretch myself, just by being in relationship with him.

So many people felt that way about him, stretched higher by being with him. Robert had the uncanny ability to relate to you simultaneously on and just above your level. You came away from your time with him knowing that he saw your soul, felt your emotion, and empathized with you just the right amount. He did so while staying distant enough to be impartial, insightful, and revelatory in a way so subtle that you felt you were the one who made the insight. And when you left him, you knew you had been with someone special and wanted to be a little more special yourself because of him. Robert used to explain that a holy moment involved separation, engagement, and return. For those who had the honor of engaging with him in intimate, personal moments, the time together felt that way - holy.

Robert was a mover and a shaker and a real, powerful force. He was dignified and stoic and touching, and he could hold a room in breathless anticipation of his next word or exhortation. His impact on the world manifested itself in ways large and small. All of that was so important and so quintessentially him. But to his family, at the end of the day, Robert was just a husband and a brother and an uncle and a grandfather and a friend and, perhaps most importantly, a Dad, and a pretty darn good one at that.

Robert was Judaism and the prophets, philosophy and theology. He was Thomas Mann, Tolstoy, and Steinbeck. He was bridge and chess and the NY Times crossword puzzle. He was caramel lollipops, black licorice gum, anything chocolate, and cream of spinach. He definitely wasn't mushrooms. He was opera and culture and a blue hat with a maize M emblazoned on it that he said stood for Marx, but that he always managed to wear around me, much to my disdain, during the week of the Big Game with my Buckeyes. He was humor and depth and intensity and reflection and empathy and complexity and expectation and problem-solving and forward-looking and family and love, so much love. He was ours, each of ours and all of ours, willing to be – no, naturally being - what each of us needed, what all of us needed.

And, he was Pesach. Robert would have loved the poetry of his dying on the one holiday that represents so much of what he stood for as a Jew and a rabbi and a human being and would have hated me ruining that profundity by naming it out loud. But the last night of his life was perhaps one of his more important. Robert spent the evening with family at his bedside as they went through parts of the Haggadah; as they opened the door to welcome Elijah; as they sang *Chad Gad Ya*; and, as they warned the angel of death to pass over their house just this one, last time. Hours later, he drifted off, leaving us to appreciate the meaning of it all without an ability to articulate it ... the perfect metaphor for the man himself.

Robert and I were 40 years apart in age, nearly to the day. We used to kid that I was his Egypt and he was my Promised Land. Wherever he is now, I know he is free. What a journey through the wilderness it was.

Sleep well, Robert. Send our love to Jerry Freedman. We miss you.
Amen.

-Rabbi Bruce Elder

Prayer and Celebration

Friday Night Services

Please note that all Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services will be held via Zoom.

**The Zoom Meeting ID for all Shabbat Services is:
292 137 266**

May 7 **Shabbat B'har – B'chukotai**
7:30 p.m. *Torah Portion: Leviticus 25:1-27:34*
 Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

May 14 **Shabbat B'midbar**
7:30 p.m. *Torah Portion: Numbers 1:1-4:20*
 Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

Shabbat Service and Confirmation Ceremony

May 21 **Shabbat Naso**
7:30 p.m. *Torah Portion: Numbers: 4:21-7:89*
 Haftarah: Judges 13:2-12

May 28 **Shabbat B'haalot'cha**
7:30 p.m. *Torah Portion: Numbers 8:1-12:16*
 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Shabbat Morning Minyan Zoom Meeting ID: 847 8216 0504

Please join us via Zoom on **Saturdays, May 8 and 22 at 9:00 a.m.** for this hour-long service and study. It is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your celebration of Shabbat. People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Confirmation Ceremony Zoom Meeting ID: 292 137 266

The entire congregation is cordially invited to the Confirmation of our 12th grade students at Shabbat Services via Zoom on **Friday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m.** We congratulate our Confirmation Class of 5781 and their families:

**Ahava Atar, Michael Beto, Jasper Bickers,
Maya Fridman, Jenna McCullough, Dina Saef**

Calling All Torah Chanters

Hakafa is inviting members to chant or read Torah at select Erev Shabbat services. If you are interested contact **Brian Browdy** (brian.browdy@gmail.com or 847-942-7318).

Shabbat Shechina: Drag Queen Story Hour: Zoom Meeting ID: 847 4259 3328

Please join us via Zoom on **Saturday, May 22 at 11:00 a.m.** for a morning of Shabbat stories and songs for families led by a special guest from **Drag Queen Story Hour!** Drag Queen Story Hour helps children develop empathy, learn about gender diversity and difference, and tap into their own creativity. It can also be life-changing and ultimately lifesaving for LGBTQ kids and teens, kids with LGBTQ parents or family members, and anyone who feels different because of their identity or interests or who may not otherwise see themselves reflected in the broader culture. Join us, and set your imagination free!

Hosts Needed to "Sponsor" a Virtual Oneg

Have you wanted to celebrate a special event, commemorate a yahrzeit, or honor someone by providing a Friday night oneg but have been unable to do so because of us being on Zoom these past months? Do you have an organization or cause you support that you would like others to support, too? Now you will have a chance to do both - by sponsoring a virtual oneg. Here's how it works:

1. Choose a Friday night to sponsor, and sign up online at this link (<http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>) or by contacting Suzanne Shore or Ilene Holt-Turner (oneg@hakafa.org).
2. Make a donation to a charity about which you are passionate.
3. Light the Shabbat candles that night at services (Sara will lead us all in the blessing, unless you would prefer to recite it yourself.).
4. During announcements, you will be able to tell us about the place to which you donated.
5. Hakafa will make a donation to that organization in your honor.
6. Even if you cannot be at services that evening, we will tell participants about your cause, and Hakafa make the donation in your honor.

Contact **Suzanne** (oneg@hakafa.org or 847-722-6797) or **Ilene** (oneg@hakafa.org or 847-409-6022) for more information.

Prayer and Celebration (continued)



שבועות SHAVUOT

The holiday of Shavuot (pronounced shah-vo-oAT) occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (beginning at sundown on Sunday, May 16 this year). It is the second of three pilgrimage festivals (Passover and Sukkot are the other two) and is a day on which *yizkor* is observed. Shavuot commemorates the day God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. It also has an agricultural reference, marking a stage in the harvest. One of the customs of Shavuot is to hold a *tikkun*, or Torah-based learning session, mostly late into the night. Please help us celebrate Shavuot at these three observances:

Erev Shavuot Concert

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 1686 5486

Passcode: 6EZJC1

Please join us via Zoom for an **Erev Shavuot Service and Concert with Joe Buchanan** on **Sunday, May 16** at **7:00 p.m.** Am Yisrael Congregation is hosting this program and has invited Hakafa to join them. Here is a link to a sample of Joe's work, along with Am Yisrael's Cantor Simon and their regular musician, Packy Lundholm: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IHUbae_tu8. Join us as Joe tells his unique and fascinating story on Erev Shavuot.

A Texas native, Joe Buchanan makes Jewish Americana music. Grounded in the idea that there is always room at the table, Joe's music highlights the values, Torah, and history of the Jewish people to deliver stories steeped in the struggle and triumph of the human spirit, all while praising God for the goodness in life.

One day, about 13 years into his marriage, Joe found out that his wife was Jewish. With the discovery of his wife's heritage, their family started down a path that would change everything. From the first class and a million questions, to the mikvah and beyond, Judaism answered every spiritual question and brought an incredible amount of healing.

In the five years since his conversion, Joe has truly found his voice in the history, Torah, and values of the Jewish people. He has toured the United States, leading an original Shabbat service, playing concerts, and giving a workshop called "Choosing to be Chosen" which is all around his conversion to Judaism. Combining elements of country, roots-rock, and folk, Joe's music reaches deep to tell personal stories of struggle and triumph. This is feel-good, toe-tapping, Americana with a Jewish Soul.

Tikkun L'eil Shavuot

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 5270 7916

After the Erev Shavuot service and concert, join us via Zoom on **Sunday, May 16** at **9:00 p.m.** for our annual Shavuot study session. We will discuss *Shavuot: A Time to be Silent, or a Time to Speak?*

Yizkor Service – Shavuot

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 3252 0986

Please join us via Zoom on **Monday, May 17** at **10:00 a.m.** for Yizkor. Jewish tradition tells us that four times during the year, in addition to the anniversary of the death of a loved one, we are to recall the memories of those who have died. These four times, known as *yizkor* (remembrance), coincide with major holidays on the Jewish calendar. Shavuot is a day on which *yizkor* is recited.

Member News

Congregation Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 16 Zoom Meeting ID: 850 3496 3619

Please join Hakafa for our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

Matters to be voted on include the following:

- The Congregation's budget for 2021/22
- The year-end distribution of tzedakah funds including the substantial amount that the congregation voted at its April meeting to include in this distribution
- An amendment to the Bylaws (*See the "Proposed Bylaws Change" article below.*)
- The following slate of officers for 2021/22 (*The Nominating Committee has re-slated this year's officers for re-election.*):

President: Deborah Brown
Vice-President: Barbara Miller
Operations Treasurer: Ellen Criz
Dues Treasurer: Jason Glick
Secretary: Allison Stein

Because of difficulties conducting votes on Zoom at the April meeting, everyone who wants to vote on a given matter will be requested to be present at the start of a vote, on screen if at all possible unless calling in by phone, through completion of the vote. Multiple members of a household may share a screen. If you have any questions, please contact **Deborah Brown** (president@hakafa.org).

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The following change to the Hakafa Bylaws has been proposed and will be voted on at the **May 16 Congregation Annual Meeting** (*see "Congregation Annual Meeting" article above.*):

Current Language: 10.4 Information as to individual member's dues will be known only to the Dues Treasurer and the Congregation's Administrator, except that the Dues Treasurer may seek advice and assistance from the other officers and/or the Rabbi in evaluating and collecting dues commitments.

Proposed Language: 10.4 Information as to individual member's dues will be known only to the Dues Treasurer, **the Operations Treasurer**, and the Congregation's Administrator, except that the Dues Treasurer may seek advice and assistance from the other officers and/or the Rabbi in evaluating and collecting dues commitments.

Reason For This Change: Some congregants have asked to be able to use ACH, credit or debit card, or other payment methods that send money directly from their bank accounts to Hakafa's account. If one of these methods is used, the Operations Treasurer will see who the deposit comes from. All officers are assumed to be trustworthy regarding the information they have about congregation finances. Any congregant who is concerned about the Operations Treasurer having this Dues information can continue to use checks for their payments.

As required by Article XII of our Bylaws, this proposed bylaw change is coming from the majority of the current officers and is being announced thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting on May 16 at 1PM, when it will be discussed and subject to a vote. Article XII requires that the proposed change be approved by two-thirds of those present at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Committee to Recommend Special Tzedakah Disbursement

Congregation Hakafa will end our 2020-2021 fiscal year with a large non-budgeted surplus, in part due to receiving and spending a loan as part of the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program. The Congregation voted at its April 11 meeting to spend this money as tzedakah before our fiscal year ends on May 31, in light of the immediacy of needs related to the pandemic. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to make a recommendation to the annual Congregation meeting on May 16 as to how to carry out the resolution for these funds.

The committee met in late April and will continue to meet, as needed, to make recommendations at the Annual Meeting. Contact either of the co-chairs, **Janice Halpern** (halpernjh@gmail.com) or **Peggy Slater** (peggy Slater@msn.com), with questions or comments.

Member News (continued)

Endowment Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 876 4711 1224

Congregation Hakafa maintains an endowment fund that we use to support new programs and activities that aren't covered by our annual budgeting process. Congregants are welcome to offer suggestions and proposals for such programs and activities. The Endowment Trustees will meet via Zoom on **Monday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.** to consider new requests. This meeting is open to all congregants.

Please attend the meeting or contact the trustees with your ideas/questions. Our three trustees are **Bonnie Koven** (ekoven@aol.com), **Sally Nador** (nadorsally@gmail.com), and **Deborah Brown** (president@hakafa.org). Please remember, financial contributions to the Endowment Fund are always welcome—any time of the year.

Willow Lawn Cemetery Plots Available

In May 2020, Hakafa purchased additional burial plots adjoining our consecrated green cemetery section at Willow Lawn. At this time, we still have three pairs of side-by-side plots plus two pairs of plots set at an angle to each other. There are also several cremation plots. Please see the Hakafa website (www.hakafa.org) under *Worship and Ritual > Life Cycle Events > Death* for more information about Hakafa's cemetery options and pictures of the green cemetery. You may also contact **Deborah Brown** (president@hakafa.org).

Mazal Tov to:

Michael and Ellen Alter on the marriage of their son, Daniel, to Yasmine Goelzer.

Laurie and Jeff Rubin on the birth of their first grandchild, Ella, to Leslie Rubin and Andrew Horowitz.

We apologize if we have inadvertently missed your simcha. Please let us know so that we can include it next month. As always, if you are having a simcha – a birth, wedding, or the like – please let us know (admin@hakafa.org) so that we can share your joy with our congregational community.

COVID Working Group Meeting

The COVID Working Group will meet on **Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.** to continue its discussion of how and when Hakafa will be able to resume in-person gatherings. Address any questions to **Marc Jacobs** (mjacobs@seyfarth.com).

Condolences to:

Jerry Kohn and family on the loss of his brother-in-law, Steve Silk

Ruth Marx, Robert and Ruth's family, and to our Congregation and friends on the loss of Hakafa's founding rabbi, Rabbi Robert J. Marx

Memorial for Rabbi Marx

A public memorial for Rabbi Robert J. Marx z"l is being planned for **Sunday, June 27 at 1:00 p.m.** More details will be shared as plans are finalized.

Relief from Financial Stress Due to COVID-19

If you are suffering from economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and could use a little help, please reach out to Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org, 847-266-8854). We have funds available to assist you.

Zoom Conferencing: Instructions for Accessing

Virtual Name Tags: In order that we might better know each other, please consider logging into Zoom events with your full name.

To Access Zoom with a computer/laptop: Go to www.zoom.us/join and enter the Meeting ID for the specific gathering. PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH HAKAFA EVENT HAS A DIFFERENT MEETING ID. If it asks you if you want to use the computer's audio, say yes. The same for the video. If your video doesn't come up automatically, you can turn it on by clicking on the video icon at the bottom, left side of your screen.

To Access Zoom on an iPad or smartphone: Go to www.zoom.us. If you have not already done so, you will be directed to download the Zoom app. Please download it. Then, click on "Join a Meeting" and enter the Meeting ID for the specific gathering. PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH HAKAFA EVENT HAS A DIFFERENT MEETING ID.

To Access Zoom by Phone (no video): Call 312-626-6799. When you hear a recording, it will instruct you to type in the Meeting ID number, followed by the # sign. PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH HAKAFA EVENT HAS A DIFFERENT MEETING ID. You will be able to hear clearly and participate like everyone else.

All Hakafa Zoom gatherings are now password protected. Contact Rona (admin@hakafa.org) if you need the Hakafa password.

Member News (continued)

Chesed

Chesed is our congregation's attempt to reach out to one another. If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in crisis from an illness, death in the family, or personal stress, who could benefit from support, such as a visit, delivery and/or preparation of meals, or a ride to a health care appointment, please contact **Ana Bensinger** (anabensinger@att.net or 847-926-3223) or **Anita Goldberg** (anitagoldberg@gmail.com or 847-432-8973).

Jewish Community Resources

The greater Chicago area Jewish community has many organizations to which you can turn should when you need support. Here are a few of them:

CJE SeniorLife (www.cje.net, 773-508-1000) – Since 1972, *CJE SeniorLife* has enhanced the lives of older adults and their families through a comprehensive network that includes housing, health care, community services, health and wellness education, life enrichment programs and applied research.

JCFS Chicago (www.jcfs.org, 855-275-5237) – *JCFS Chicago* provides caring and healing services to children, teens, adults, older adults and families for help with autism, support with advanced illness, special education, individual and family counseling, and more.

JCFS Chicago Addiction Services (www.jcfs.org/our-services/jewish-community-programs/addiction-services, 847-745-5422) – *JCFS Chicago Addiction Services* was created to build a caring community that is aware of and responsive to the problem of addiction and to support individuals and families who struggle with addiction.

JCFS Chicago Illness, Loss and Spiritual Support Services (www.jcfs.org/our-services/jewish-community-programs/illness-loss-grief, 847-745-5404) – The staff at *JCFS Chicago Illness, Loss and Spiritual Support Services* provides information about social services, medical resources, and spiritual resources for people who are ill, grieving, or serving as caregivers to help in their difficult times.

SHALVA (www.shalvaonline.org, 773-583-4673) - *SHALVA* offers free, confidential, domestic abuse counseling services to the Chicago Jewish Community.

Social Action

A Just Harvest

Due to COVID-19, A Just Harvest now serves a daily boxed lunch to more than 150 people (no seated dinner). No volunteers are permitted in the kitchen, but Hakafa still provides the Sunday lunch on our designated Sundays. **Volunteers are needed to provide the fried chicken entrée, salad, vegetables, fruit, and dessert on the second Sunday morning of the month.** The fried chicken needs to be ordered and picked up at 11:00 a.m. from the Jewel on Howard and delivered to A Just Harvest. All other items should be left at A Just Harvest's door at 10:00 a.m. *Hakafa's tzedakah fund can reimburse you for expenses, if needed.*

To sign up to volunteer, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/a-just-harvest>. Contact **Monique Parsons** (monique.parsons@gmail.com) or **Debbie Charen** (debbie.charen@gmail.com) with any questions.

Volunteers Needed in May to Help Make Sack Dinners for The Night Ministry

On **Monday, May 10**, Congregation Hakafa will be donating sack dinners to The Night Ministry. These meals will be donated via The Night Ministry Health Bus at the Red Line CTA station. If you are interested in preparing fifteen meals for people experiencing homelessness, please contact Barb Scott (bams457@gmail.com) for the details. We are looking for ten volunteers. As TNM does not currently allow volunteers to serve meals in person, donations will be picked up from volunteers at their homes (with social distance) on **Sunday, May 9**, in the late afternoon. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care, and human connection to members of the Chicago community struggling with poverty or homelessness. Here is the link to The Night Ministry's website: <http://https/www.thenightministry.org/>.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Adult Education in May: Zoom Meeting ID: 871 3067 5137

Please join us via Zoom at **10:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, May 2** for a program on *Living as an Israeli Arab in Israel* with **Muhammad Zoabi**. In the context of the race dynamic here in the United States, we want to understand how it plays out in Israel as well. To that end, we are holding three adult learning opportunities throughout the year to explore the nature of race and inter-ethnic relations amongst Israel's diverse populations. Our first session with Hen Mazzig in November was a discussion of the history of the relationship between the Ashkenazic, Sephardic, and Mizrahi communities in Israel. Our second session with Ashager Araro in February focused on the dynamics of living as a black Jew in Israel from an Ethiopian Israeli's perspective.

This third session will focus on **Living as an Israeli Arab in Israel**. Our session will be led by **Muhammad Zoabi**.

Muhammad Zoabi is a 23-year-old Arab citizen of Israel. He was born in Nazareth to a local Muslim family and grew up in Nof HaGalil, a Jewish suburb where he finished high school. After graduating high school, Muhammad started pre-army college at the Hartman institute of Jerusalem, and later during the summer of 2017 he worked as a Jewish Agency delegate at a summer camp in Crane Lake, Massachusetts. A few months later, he started his army service at the IDF's Spokesperson unit in the city of Tel Aviv, where he has been living for the last 4 years. Since completing his army service, Muhammad has been focusing on LGBTQ activism, Arab-Jewish relations, and building bridges between Israel and its Arab

Film Group: Standing Up: Zoom Meeting ID: 851 8223 6717

Please join us via Zoom on **Saturday, May 15** at **6:30 p.m.** as we screen and discuss *Standing Up*. We'll meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. for *Havdallah* and an introduction, then watch the film on your own, and reconvene for a discussion after the movie is over. This 2019 documentary features three young aspiring stand-up comedians: David, an Ultra-Orthodox Jew; Sarah, a Black woman working a day job as a custodian; and Rafaat, a Coptic Egyptian-American personal injury lawyer, and explores the reconciling of life circumstances and traditions with a passionate desire to pursue a competitive and demanding career in New York's club scene. The movie streams on Amazon and YouTube. Here is a link to the trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r3e_HJk-_M. Invite friends, bring your own nosh, have a fun Saturday night! Contact **Carol McCardell** (847-727-0029) for more information.

Mishneh Torah: Zoom Meeting ID: 997 667 842

Our next session of Mishneh Torah (Jewish law) class will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, May 25** at **10:00 a.m.** Come join Rabbi Elder to learn more about what *Halacha* has to say on almost every aspect of life.

Hebrew Circle Zoom Meeting ID: 871 8801 8556

If you are a Hebrew speaker (beginners welcome!) looking to practice your Hebrew with other Hebrew speaking Hakafa members, please join on **Thursday, May 13** at **10:30 a.m.** for an hour of Hebrew conversation with Rabbi Elder!

Two Opportunities for Torah Study

Join Rabbi Elder via Zoom for one or both of our study sessions.

Tuesday Evening Class: 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 662 730 822

Wednesday Afternoon Class: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 813 358 443

Lunch & Learn: Zoom Meeting ID: 863 2720 5788

Lunch & Learn will take place via Zoom at **noon** on **Thursday, May 13**. Bring your own lunch and prepare to participate in a lively discussion with Rabbi Elder!

Siddur Class: Zoom Meeting ID: 242 631 590

How many of us know what our Hebrew prayers actually say? How many of us know what they mean? Join us via Zoom at **10:00 a.m.** on **Tuesday, May 11** as we explore the Jewish prayer book. During each session we will look at prayers in Hebrew, translate them together, discuss their theology, and parse what they might mean for us today.

Midrash Class: Zoom Meeting ID: 696 226 468

Join us on **Tuesdays, May 4 and 18** at **10:00 a.m.** to study *midrash*. Midrash is the creative, interpretative process of the rabbis over generations. Through midrash, we see how the rabbis saw the text of the Bible - its lessons, its messages, its practical applications, and its relevance to them throughout time. Through study, we will see how our understanding of the biblical text has been influenced by theirs.

Chadashot

Hakafa Youth News
May 2021

Note from the Director of Education

Happy Spring! This month in Religious School we will have an exciting Family Education Day celebrating the holiday of Shavuot on May 16. Our last day of Religious School will be on May 23 with a special program to end the year.

Hebrew School will have a regular schedule this month with our last day on May 18. We will have an all-school event (details to come) on that day.

Mazal Tov to our Confirmands who will be confirmed during Shabbat Services on Friday, May 14!

What a year this has been! It is hard to believe that it is coming to a close. We have enjoyed being together this year in the most creative ways. We are also so grateful for all of your participation and commitment to the offerings of our virtual program. Our teachers worked hard, learning all that Zoom has to offer, and perfected their computer prowess in the process. Thank you to all of the students who offered their help when glitches occurred! We enjoyed making deliveries to all of your homes throughout the year. It made us feel closer and connected with each and every one of you. Thank you for baking, building, crafting, creative writing, gaming, engaging in photography, comic arts, science, social action, music, holiday celebrations and for the K-2 class - listening to wonderful stories, Israeli dancing, music and Hebrew Club - with us! Our Hebrew students also had fun in their learning pods. We did all of that and learned so much about Judaism in the process!

As challenging as this year has been, we have accomplished a great deal. We were energized by this challenge to develop learning opportunities for all of our students. We have learned that we can do just about anything! We would like to thank all of the teachers who gave it their all this year. Thank you, again, to our assistant teachers who were an invaluable help to our teachers and contributed so much to all of our class sessions.

As we end a school year, it is always with a bittersweet feeling. It is an ending but also a new beginning full of hope and promise for a wonderful summer break. On behalf of our Religious School, we wish all of you health, happiness, and a chance for renewal. This summer we will be busy planning the next school year, and we are excited for all of the possibilities that it will present!

L'shalom, *Bibi*



Religious School All-School Shavuot Family Education Program

All Religious School students (grades K-8) and their parents should plan to join us on the morning of **Sunday, May 16** for an interactive and educational **Shavuot Family Education Program!** Detailed information will be emailed to Religious School families.

May Dates to Note...

May 2 – Religious School Classes
May 4 – Hebrew School
May 9 – No Religious School (Mother's Day)
May 11 – Hebrew School
May 14 – Confirmation Ceremony
May 16 – All-School Shavuot Family Ed Program
May 18 – Last Day of Hebrew School
May 23 – Last Day of Religious School Program



Save the Date – May 23: Last Day of Religious School

As this unique 2020-21 school year comes to a close, Religious School families are invited to **join us on the last day of Religious School (May 23)** for an in-person, socially-distanced celebration that will include a chance to **appreciate our teachers** and the opportunity to **say l'hitraot** for the summer. Of course, the **ice cream truck** will be there, too! Stay tuned for more details!



Congregation Hakafa Calendar May 2021 – Iyar / Sivan 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00-11:45 am Religious School Classes 10:30-11:30 am Adult Education – Muhammad Zoabi: <i>Living as an Israeli Arab in Israel</i> 3:00 pm Confirmation Class Service Prep Session II 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	3 7:00 pm Endowment Meeting	4 10:00 am Midrash Class 4:00-6:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Torah Study	5 1:00 pm Torah Study	6 	7 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	8 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan
9 Mother's Day	10 Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) 7:00 pm Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting	11 10:00 am Siddur Class 4:00-6:00 pm Hebrew School 7:30 pm Torah Study	12 1:00 pm Torah Study	13 10:30 am Hebrew Circle 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm COVID Working Group Meeting	14 Newsletter Articles Due 7:30 pm Shabbat Service and Confirmation Ceremony	15 6:30 pm – NOTE NEW TIME Film Group
16 10:00-11:45 am Religious School All-School Shavuot Family Education Program 1:00 pm Congregation Annual Meeting 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 pm - Erev Shavuot Concert 9:00 pm - Tikkun L'eil Shavuot Erev Shavuot	17 Shavuot 10:00 am Yizkor Service	18 10:00 am Midrash Class 4:00-6:00 pm Last Day of Hebrew School 7:30 pm Torah Study	19 1:00 pm Torah Study	20 	21 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	22 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan 11:00 am Shabbat Shechina: Drag Queen Story Hour
23 10:00-11:45 am Last Day of Religious School 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	24 	25 10:00 am Mishneh Torah Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	26 1:00 pm Torah Study	27 	28 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	29
30 	31 Memorial Day					

Congregation Hakafa Calendar

June 2021 – Sivan / Tammuz 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 am Midrash Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	2 1:00 pm Torah Study	3	4 7:30 pm Shabbat Service & Installation of Officers	5
6 12:00-3:00 pm Buffalo Grove Pride Drive 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7	8 10:00 am Siddur Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	9 1:00 pm Torah Study	10 9:00 am Nosh & Know	11 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	12 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan
13 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00 am Midrash Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	16 1:00 pm Torah Study	17	18 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	19
20 Father's Day	21	22 10:00 am Mishneh Torah Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	23 1:00 pm Torah Study	24	25 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	26 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan
27 1:00 pm Public Memorial for Rabbi Robert Marx z"l 4:15 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	28	29 10:00 am Midrash Class 7:30 pm Torah Study	30 1:00 pm Torah Study			



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The Circle

May 2021

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