

# TABLET BRIEFS

August 2022 | Issue 3

## **August Means Home from Camp and Back to School!**

The heat persists but summer vacation is coming to a close. No need to sulk however; instead celebrate at our Welcome Back Erev Shabbat Service and Barbecue on Friday, August 19! Wear white for a camp style Rhythm and Jews Erev Shabbat service celebrating all of the children who attended summer camp and travel programs. Stay for a festive barbecue after the service complete with dancing, activities and Krewe Du Sno-Ball snow cone truck! Everyone welcome but you must register!

## **This Month's Featured Articles**

- "Ask the Chazzan" from Chazzan Cliff Abramson
- JQuest at Temple Sinai



**TEMPLE SINAI**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It might be summer, but Temple Sinai is buzzing with activity! Camp at the Gan brings many smiling faces and foot traffic every day and we are thankful to Laura Freedman, director of early childhood education, and her wonderful staff! Kudos to Marian Siegel and her team for preparing and sending commitment letters and I'm happy to report that the board has decided NOT to increase our fees for this coming year, with one exception, security. Our board and security team continue to work closely with the Jewish Federation to do what is necessary to keep us all as safe and secure as possible. The rest of our staff and volunteers continue to prepare for the robust and innovative services, programs and events we can all look forward to in the year ahead.



We held our third Open Forum on July 13. I'm pleased to report that it was well attended, with about 30 people each in person and on Zoom. Let me share some of the highlights for those of you that were unable to attend:

- **Temple Finances:** Let me begin by dispelling some rumors that the synagogue is in financial stress. We are on sound financial footings. While it's true that we are projecting a deficit for this coming year, the reality is the projected deficits that we had anticipated during Covid were mostly covered by two government PPP grants and increases in contributions to our last two annual appeal campaigns. There is reason to believe we can shrink the projected deficit in the coming year, as well. We are beginning to settle into our new "normal" and can look forward to new programs, fundraising events, the return of Erev Shabbat welcome receptions, community dinners and adult education classes.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

- **Membership:** Since April 1, we have lost 24 members, mostly attributable to normal attrition reasons- aging out, spouses passing, moving out of the area and a FEW due to the Rabbi's departure. On the bright side, we ARE continuing to sign up new members. Membership is the key to any synagogue's growth and fiscal health and we are no exception! This is where each and every member can make a significant impact. Please, bring guests; we ALL need to be ambassadors for Temple Sinai! If every family invited another friend or family to join them for a service or program, think of all the possibilities!
  - **Spiritual:** Chazzan Abramson and the Ritual Committee are working hard to develop meaningful, special High Holy Day Services which will blend old Sinai traditions with meaningful and creative new additions!
- In closing, let me remind you to get involved. We need and welcome your participation, as that is what makes Temple Sinai so special! Enjoy the rest of your summer!
- L'shalom, Alan Chalfin, President



From Chazzan Cliff Abramson

# ASK THE CHAZZAN

A congregant suggested to me that going forward, this article should be called “Ask the Chazzan.” Of late I have been asked many questions about the High Holy Days and what they really mean to all of us today. Since the most frequently asked question is, “What is the month of Elul and how does it relate to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?” This is the subject of the first “Ask the Chazzan” article.

It is during the month of Elul (beginning August 26) where we prepare ourselves for the *Yamim Noraim* (High Holy Days) through study and personal reflection. This period of reflection means different things for different people. The basic idea is to take a look back on the previous year to review how you might have done things acting as your best self.

On Yom Kippur we say two forms of a confessional. The long form begins with the words “*Al Cheit*” which loosely translated means, “for the sin” referring to a “sin” we have committed. But in fact, the word *cheit* does not mean “sin,” it means “target.” And so, when we look back at the year that has passed, we are not reflecting on how we may have sinned but rather how we may have missed the mark; the mark of being our best selves. As a result of this, we spend part of this time asking for forgiveness from those whom we may have wronged.

This reflective period culminates in a prayer service usually observed on the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah, although Ashkenazi custom is to observe this a bit earlier. Known as *Selichot*, this worship service asks for forgiveness from God. We are cognizant of God’s ability to forgive our transgressions from that target we try to find all year.

While the service is all about repentance and similar in tone to Yom Kippur, it also is about purity. In many congregations the Torahs don pristine white covers to reflect the quote from Isaiah, “Through our repentance our sins will be made white as snow.” Traditionally, this service would start at midnight on Saturday evening based on Psalm 119.62: “At midnight I rise to praise thee.” Today in many synagogues, the service starts much earlier beginning with a dessert reception followed by a thought-provoking study session and then the service itself. This service often has some of the most beautiful Jewish music and liturgy heard all year, foreshadowing the themes for the Days of Awe.

This year *Selichot* will begin on the evening of September 17, with a wonderful program featuring Dr. Betsy Stone discussing the ways we can look back in order to move forward, followed by a service that you won’t want to miss! May these days of reflection lead all of you to a deep and meaningful *Yamim Noraim*.

L’shalom,  
Chazzan Abramson





# JUNE 15

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEETING BRIEF

Approximately 25 board members, staff and synagogue members were in attendance. Several more hoped to participate via Zoom, but a rainstorm knocked out the Internet connection moments before the start of the meeting.

#### **Meeting Highlights:**

- Alan Chalfin reported that he, Sherry Thomas and Greg Band (Concerned Congregants of Sinai) met prior to the board meeting and will be meeting again over the next few weeks to devise actions we can take to move forward with a joint goal to elevate Temple Sinai to the premiere synagogue in town.
- Kitchen manager Jerry Thomas reported that two welcome receptions have successfully taken place. He will be on vacation and upon his return plans to deep clean the kitchen with help from volunteers. Many congregants have already stepped up to volunteer and assist. Jerry is open to hearing feedback regarding the process of cleaning and also planning the welcome receptions.
- Sherry Thomas presented the new synagogue organizational chart. Suggested tweaks and conversation followed regarding which employees report to whom. Once finalized, the approved organizational chart will be shared with the congregation.
- Next on the agenda was commitment fees. The board agreed not to raise membership fees for the coming year. Once applications are received, the membership committee will handle them and convey the outcome to Marian. Commitment fee bills for the next fiscal year ran a little late but were sent well ahead of the timing of this publication. The board also stressed the importance of not turning away anyone in need.
- Trustee and head of Temple Sinai security, Chester “Pearl” Perlinski, gave a presentation about security fees and asked the board to reconsider the \$125 per household security fee because of the increased hourly security rate. We hired a private security firm based upon Jewish Federation recommendation but had some difficulty with consistent coverage. Pearl started researching other companies and recommended one with slightly higher hourly rates. Laura Freedman and Pearl shared information about the increase in Gan security fees and how the increase was spread throughout the rate of tuition. Pearl moved to raise the security fee to \$150 per family and the motion was approved.

# JUNE 15

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEETING BRIEF

### (CONTINUED)

- Barbara Pollack began a discussion about High Holy Day scheduling and planning. Ritual committee meetings are in process with Chazzan Abramson and Bonnie Sussman is helping to coordinate honors. Ticket fees and livestream availability were discussed and it was decided that livestreaming services would be free for members and non-members, but tickets would be required for those services if people choose to attend the services in person.
- Discussion then switched to gala. A committee is already starting to plan and determine theme and location. A meeting is scheduled to invite volunteer participation on various fundraising event committees.
- The Covid Advisory Committee met prior to the board meeting. The committee recommended to the board to keep the current Covid protocol already published on the website. It was also suggested that we emphasize website links to CDC and Sarasota County for most current Covid guidelines.
- Greg Band will form an advisory committee to the president which will provide congregants with a direct voice to the board. Alan Chalfin also stated that in order to get greater representation from the congregation as a whole at board meetings, he will begin inviting the presidents of WOS and SMC to attend. Like senior staff, they would have a voice but not a vote during meetings.
- Finally, the importance of hearing what our members have to say was stressed and a discussion commenced regarding the best ways for the board to be productive during their meetings and also hear from synagogue members. It was decided that similar to how the board submits topics ahead of time, non-board members could submit their agenda items to Alan or a respective vice president and request an addition to the agenda. If the item is added, the non-board member would be given two to three minutes at the board meeting to present his or her item. Additionally, the board will make a dedicated effort to submit their agenda items further in advance in order to present the agenda to the congregation prior to the meeting and enable them to submit questions specific to the agenda.

# JQuest at Temple Sinai

## TEMPLE SINAI'S NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

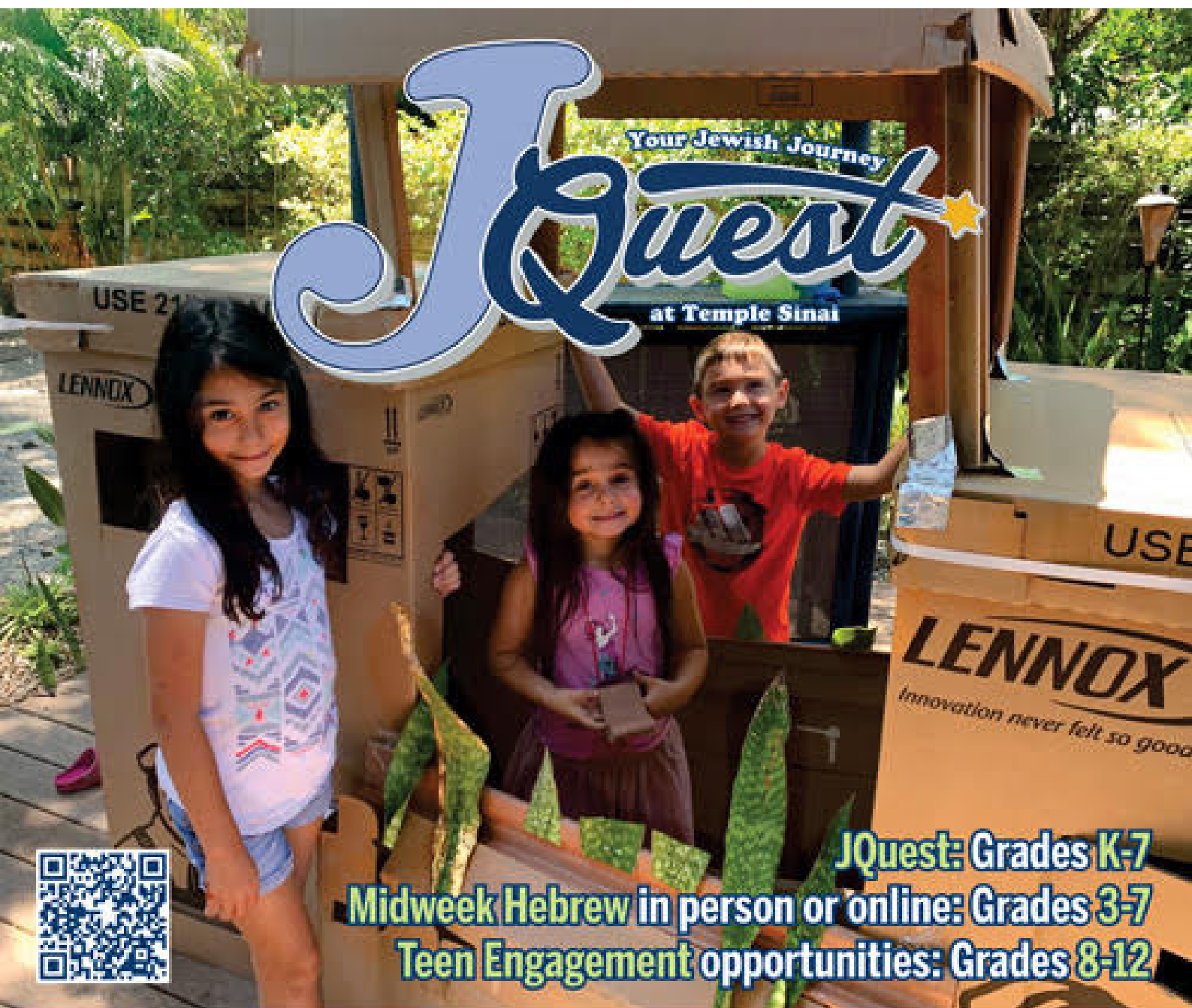
By Gail Glickman

JQuest, Temple Sinai's new education program, which will be implemented beginning August 14, is an exciting journey of Jewish learning. Temple Sinai acknowledges and celebrates the different ways to connect to Judaism and Jewish life. The name "JQuest" captures the spirit of Jewish learning, so Temple Sinai is changing the name "Religious School" to "JQuest" because Jewish education works best when it does not look, sound or feel like "school." The best forms of Jewish education are experiential, such as Jewish summer camping, youth group activities and trips to Israel. The less it resembles school the more successful it is in building Jewish identity, connection, knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment.

The program includes music, art, dance, stories, Hebrew, prayer and discussion with a Jewish "quest" to explore Jewish holidays, values, traditions and Torah stories.




It includes occasional field trips and quests related to Israel, synagogue life and Jewish values. Your child's Jewish journey awaits! For more information, contact Bethany Leinweber, Director of Youth Education, at [bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org).



**JQuest**  
Your Jewish Journey  
at Temple Sinai

USE 21  
LENNOX  
Innovation never felt so good

**JQuest: Grades K-7**  
**Midweek Hebrew in person or online: Grades 3-7**  
**Teen Engagement opportunities: Grades 8-12**



**MORE INFO?**

Contact Bethany Leinweber, Director of  
Youth Education and Family Engagement:  
[bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org)



# Upcoming Featured Events

## WELCOME BACK SHABBAT AND BBQ

Friday, August 19  
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Rhythm and Jews Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00pm in our sanctuary followed by a festive barbecue complete with dancing, activities and Krewe Du Sno-Ball snow cone truck in the social hall. Wear white as we celebrate all of the children who attended summer camp and travel programs. Everyone is welcome but you must register!



WELCOME BACK 

## Welcome Home

Join us for our  
Welcome Back Shabbat  
**August 19**

RHYTHM & JEWS SERVICE 6:00PM  
FOLLOWED BY BARBECUE 7:15PM  
(Pre-registration and payment  
required for barbecue)

Temple Sinai, 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota  
[www.temple-sinai-sarasota.org](http://www.temple-sinai-sarasota.org)

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR *Speaker* SERIES

SUNDAYS | 10:30AM - 11:30AM

AUGUST 21, SEPTEMBER 18,  
NOVEMBER 13 & DECEMBER 11

4-Part Series

Free | Open to the entire community at



**TEMPLE SINAI**

4631 S Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota



The Jewish Federation

In partnership with The Jewish Federation's  
Holocaust Survivor's Speakers Bureau

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SPEAKER SERIES

THIS MONTH - FELICIA LIBAN

Sunday, August 21  
10:30AM - 11:30AM

During this 4-part series, local Holocaust survivors will share their personal stories and experiences during the Holocaust. This program is free, and open to the entire community.

## HIGH HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Sunday, August 28  
12:30PM - 1:30PM

Chazzan Abramson will lead the High Holiday Workshop.



FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT: [www.temple-sinai-sarasota.org/events](http://www.temple-sinai-sarasota.org/events)

# New Social Justice Initiative



## Old Computer? Use It to Help Others.



### Laptop Donation Drive for Area Foster Kids

The Children's Guardian Fund (CGF) and Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) have teamed up to collect used computer laptops. With a long history of recycling and safety, the STUG sanitizes the hard drive with a seven-step process that protects the donor's information. They then refurbish the laptop and install software that is typically required for school. Refurbished laptops are distributed to area students in foster or state care through the CGF and the Guardian ad Litem Program.



Children's  
Guardian Fund



**Drop Off At:** 1750 17th Street, Building J-1, Sarasota FL 34234  
**Arrange for Pickup:** Call MARK at (941) 374-1107 or email [msharff@gmail.com](mailto:msharff@gmail.com)

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

[www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org/adult-communities/socialaction](http://www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org/adult-communities/socialaction)

# WHO WE ARE

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



### CHAZZAN CLIFF ABRAMSON SENIOR CLERGY

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### SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS

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# TRIBUTES

## **TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND**

Aravilla

Betty and Donald Cahall, for Security

Fredda and Alan Chalfin

Marilyn and Stuart Goldfarb

Leigh and Michael Gordon

Robert S. Haft Bequest

### **In Honor of:**

The Bernsteins' and Goldblatts'

Wedding Anniversaries: Judy and

Robert Goldblatt

Etta and Howard Raiken's 60th

Wedding Anniversary: Gloria Peretz

Jordana Sloane, granddaughter of Rho

and Stu Friedman, on becoming a bat

mitzvah: Rhoda and Stuart Friedman

Lauren and Jeffrey Pearl, on the birth

of their triplet grandchildren: Betty and

Richard Greenspan

Mackenzie Dyrda, daughter of Illene

and Skip Dyrda, graduating from the

University of Florida: Betty and Richard

Greenspan

Laurie Lachowitzer, honoring her son

Scott's wedding: Betty and Richard

Greenspan

### **In Appreciation of:**

Jason Collier, for all you do for Temple

Sinai: Betty and Richard Greenspan.

### **Speedy Recovery of:**

Mark Margolis: Harriet and Don

Gersman and Marty Gersman

Mark Margolis: Irene Hyman

### **In Memory of:**

Donald B. Greenspan, brother of Richard

Greenspan: Betty and Richard Greenspan

Ruth Baltuch Greenspan, mother of

Richard Greenspan: Betty and Richard

Greenspan

Annette Galland, aunt of Richard

Greenspan: Betty and Richard Greenspan

Moshe Horowitz, husband of Kathy

Horowitz: Betty and Richard Greenspan

Amy Hahn, daughter of Laurie and Mark

Criden: Betty and Richard Greenspan

Irving Stern, father of Annette Kirshner:

Annette and Arthur Kirshner

S. Martin Friedman and Allen Charles

Friedman, brothers of Stu Friedman:

Rhoda and Stuart Friedman

Helen Hilton, mother of Betty Greenspan:

Betty and Richard Greenspan

Debbie Dannheiser's mother: Betty and

Richard Greenspan

Norma Laub: Sheila Namiot and Marvin

Rosen

Phillip Weisberg, brother of Bonnie

Sussman: Bonnie and Harvey Sussman

## **CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Kathy and Myron Bernstein

Kathryn and Richard Stern, for office

improvements

Bonnie and Harvey Sussman, for office

furniture



# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## **In Honor of:**

The marriage of Lisa and Jeffrey  
Sivershein's daughter: Elana and Mark  
Margolis  
Etta and Howard Raiken's 60th  
Wedding Anniversary: Betty and Donald  
Cahall  
Judy and Robert Goldblatt's 60th  
Wedding Anniversary: Betty and Donald  
Cahall  
Chazzan Abramson on being named our  
Senior Clergy and Spiritual Leader:  
Judith and Leonard Swerdlow  
Judy and Robert Goldblatt's special  
anniversary: Elana and Mark Margolis

## **In Appreciation of:**

Chazzan Abramson: Betty and Richard  
Greenspan  
Chazzan Abramson, for the role he has  
assumed as Temple Sinai's Spiritual  
Leader: Elinor and Herbert Krasow

## **Speedy Recovery of:**

Don Gersman: Elana and Mark Margolis  
Mark Margolis: Elinor and Herbert  
Krasow  
Mark Margolis: Jane and Marvin  
Glusman  
Mark Margolis: Harriet and Marc Rosen  
Mark Margolis: Ellyn Bender and  
Pamela Paschall

## **In Memory of:**

Veda Diamond: Debbie and Michael Rubin  
Howard Katz, beloved husband: Marilyn  
Katz  
Kenneth Krasow, son; Elinor and Herbert  
Krasow  
Alvin Wendrow, father of Alene  
Wendrow: Alene Wendrow and George  
Neidich  
Babette Rice: Kathryn and Richard Stern  
Abe Casel, father of Caren Carr: Caren  
Carr and Anthony DiRamio

## **RABBI GEOFF HUNTING/LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Rob Krasow, our son being elected VP-  
Development to the Temple Sinai Board  
of Trustees: Elinor and Herbert Krasow

## **In Memory of:**

Nathan Weinblatt: Elana and Mark  
Margolis

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Snait and Gil Ben-Herut, Confirmation

## **Speedy Recovery of:**

Bethany Leinweber: Lisa Naiburg and  
Daniel Kisch

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## **DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In Honor of:

Laura Freedman's Birthday: Elana and  
Mark Margolis

### **In Memory of:**

Arnold Mendlowitz, father of Diana  
Levy: Joyce and Roger Fine

## **GAN FUND**

Illene and Skip Dyrda, Gan Silent  
Auction

Gillian and Chester (Pearl) Perlinski,  
Security

### **In Memory of:**

Sylvia Grubman, mother of Judith  
Polivy: Judith and Howard Polivy

## **ADULT PROGRAM FUND**

Speedy Recovery of:

Milton Richter: Ellyn Bender and  
Pamela Paschall

### **In Memory of:**

Gerald Schwartz, father of Andrea  
Eiffert: Andrea and Eric Eiffert

## **WOS BLOOM FAMILY MITZVAH FUND**

Speedy Recovery of:

Jane Glusman: Gloria Peretz

## **ANCHIN FUND**

In Memory of:

Rywka Pinski: Toby and David Weiss

## **MORTGAGE RETIREMENT FUND**

**In Memory of:**

Joseph Bergman, father of Diane  
Silverstein: Diane and Norman Silverstein  
Irving Silverstein, father of Norman  
Silverstein: Diane and Norman Silverstein

## **SHERRY LINHART FLOWER FUND**

Snait and Gil Ben-Herut

*Thank you*

# CONDOLENCES AND YAHREZEITS

## *(WE REMEMBER THEM)*

Howard and Dorothy Katz, on the death of his sister, and her sister-in-law, Rhoda Rand who passed away on June 24, 2022.

Jean Andriesse for her father, Jacob Falkow.

Cookie Bloom for Eve, Shel, Ann and Max Feldman.

Betty and Donald Cahall for Firman Cahall and Carol Watson.

Philip Chaikin for mother, Rhea Chaikin and father, Murray Chaikin.

Elyse and Marvin Diamond for Elyse's mother, Anne Copeland, and father, Dr. Solkin Copeland, and Marvin's father, Emanuel Diamond.

Stephanie Dluzneski for Teri Lindenberg.

Joan and Jerome Ennis for Florence Michlin and Penny Ennis.

Eleanor and Bruce Feldman for Jacob Doniger.

Judith and James Feldman for Barbara Hershey.

Sheila Fleischer for her brother-in-law, Marvin Fleischer and her mother, Miriam Silverstein.

Judy and Eric Fox for Jack Weintraub.

Irene and Robert Fritsch for Rose Drawas Kaplan.

Elaine and Theodore Gast for Seymour Gast.

Amanda and Andrew Gold for Nancy Gold's father, Milton H. Aronson, Nancy's mother, Cecily Aronson, and Nancy's brother, Robert Aronson.

Barbara Grossman for Richard Grossman.

Barbara and Jim Honeycut for Bernice and Robert Volk.

Lawrence Hurvitz for Arnold Hurvitz.

Sammy Hyde for Bess Finkelstein.

Irene Hyman for Mary Hyman, Frances Kessler and Harold Hyman.

Myrna and Herb Lauber for Sara Mayersohn.

Ida and Joseph Levin for Naum Levin.

Dobbie Linick for Rachel Raskin.

Carol and Elliot Livstone for George Miles.

Delores Lustig for Sam and Edna Lustig.

Barbara Mandel for R. Bruce Mandel.

Peggy and Bob Miller for Michelle Brailsford.

Susanne and Henry Mosler for Arthur R. Mosler.

Marilyn Ridgway for her mother, Dorothy Krane.

Judith and Zvi Rogovin for Zvi's father, Mordechai Rogovin.

Rona and Stanford Ross for Lillian Ross and Cecelia Freeman.

Francine and Paul Schatz for their beloved niece, Lindsey Anne Miller.

Gail and Ronald Schimel Gail's mother, Belle Springer.

Patricia and Allan Schreiber for Jaydene Schreiber.

Reb Ari Shapiro for Susan Lipper.

Inna and Gerald Sideman for Dora Sideman.

Marty Taffel for Alice Taffel Tenebaum.

Mark Weinberg for Annette Weinberg.

*Zichronam Livracha -  
May their memories  
be for a blessing.*