



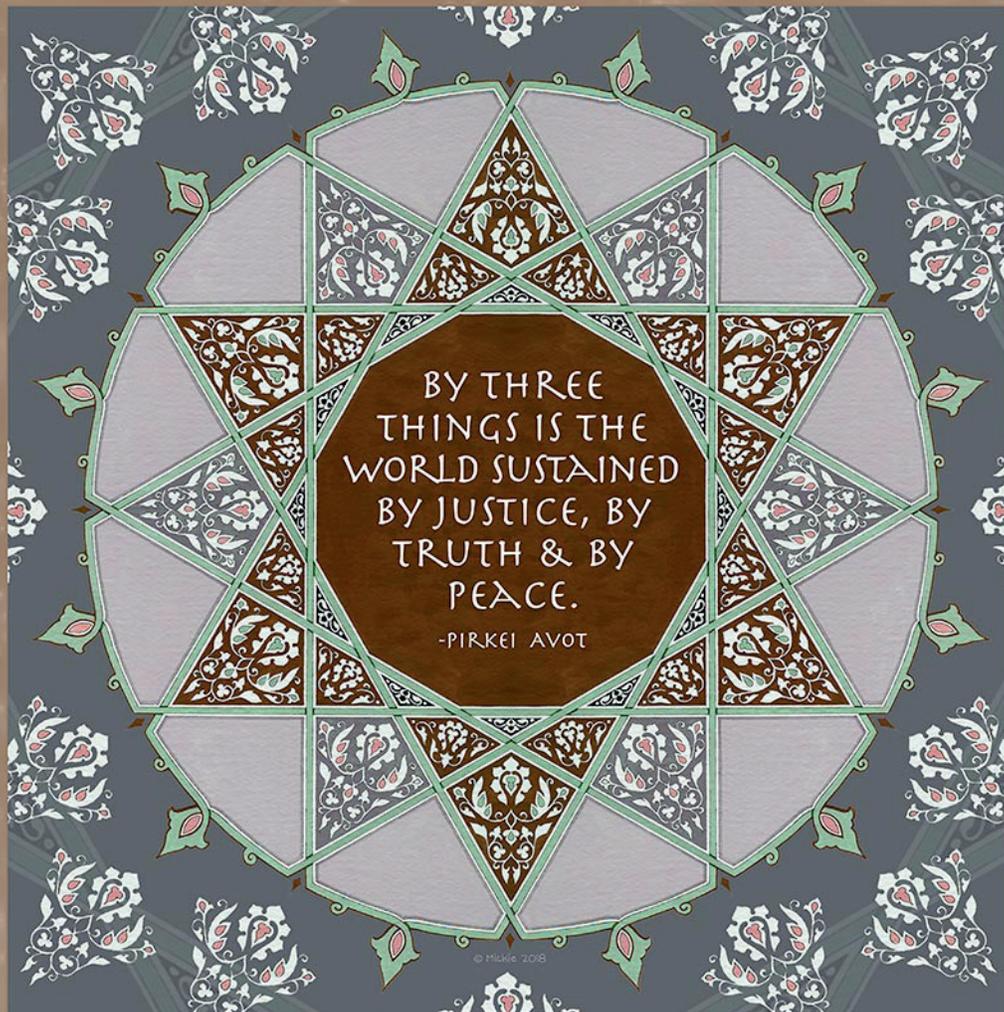
CONGREGATION CHAVERIM

CHAI LIGHTS NEWSLETTER

June/July Mitzvot of the Months:

Studying “The Sayings of the Father”

Celebrating Our Freedom



RABBI'S MESSAGE



You Are Entering a Safety Corridor

There is an experience we have had when driving down many highways in the U.S.; a sign will suddenly appear which reads: You are entering a safety corridor; please drive safely. It is always a bit jarring when this happens. We want to raise our hands and call out to the posters of signs: but we have been driving on this highway for miles and we thought we were already in a safety corridor!



“Stay safe!” We blithely call out to one another when saying good-bye. “He’s safe!”, rings out loudly throughout baseball fields across our country. One of my sisters-in-law Holly calls seat belts in cars ‘safety belts.’ We all want to be safe; to stay safe; to cross home plate in safety. We want to arrive at every destination from our schools to our jobs to the grocery store or to the park, safe and sound. Safety involves trust; we want to know and trust that we are in safe hands. Sometimes the hands are ours when we hold on tight to the little fingers that grasp hold of ours. When we babyproof our homes; when we fireproof our buildings. Safety involves trust and reliance; the Hebrew word for trust is bitachon. In modern Hebrew, bitachon is the root of the word, bitachunit, safety net. We yearn to be one another’s safety nets, to reassure each other, “Here I am; hineini, I am here, and I will catch you.” We exclaim, “I have your back”, and we mean it with all of our hearts. We are Shakespearean in our longing, shouting softly, “From this nettle danger, we pluck this flower safety.” I have always been intrigued by the fact that the Torah is called a 13-petalled rose. The Torah yields safe passage through the nettles of danger that appear in our lives by being the flower of safety. The fragrance of the Torah’s teachings on love: love of G-d, love of our neighbors and ourselves and our strangers are mixed in with the very real perils to that love. Those are the thorns of existence growing right there on the rose; the hatred, the prejudice, the callous and mean behaviors, the utter lack of compassion for other human beings, and disregard for all the other life forms that breathe air here on the planet with us. There is the harrowing thorn of anti-Semitism that just will not cease and desist.

I recently spoke at a March against anti-Semitism. I began with these words: dear hatred, you are not for me and I am not for you. We are holding strength; holding courage and holding hope. We are standing strong for compassion and bravery. We are Jews and all those other human beings who stand with us. We learn in the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible, *admat kodesh hu*, the ground we stand upon is holy. We will not turn away from your hatred, but we will stand on this sacred ground; your ground, our ground, with brave love, with brave and holy love, we will not turn away from your hatred; instead, we turn our faces toward yours, our eyes toward yours with the strength of a thousand suns.



Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote these words about his March with Dr. King, “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.”

This evening, our legs were praying. Right here in Tucson, Arizona, our town, our legs were praying Moses’ words to Joshua, “chazak ve’ematz, be strong and of good courage.” Our legs were praying, Oseh Shalom and Sim Shalom, Holy One, help us make peace, wholeness and harmony, and help us put peace, completeness, fulfillment in this world, for all the world, beginning right here in our town. Elohei Ahavah, G-d of love, Help us to not turn our rocks and our paint into instruments of hurt and harm. Help us to find the way to each other where we can safely say: stand by me; take my hand; stand by me.

With the blessings of Shalom.

Rabbi Stephanie S. Aaron



BEIT T'FILLAH HOUSE OF PRAYER

JUNE

Early Shabbat Services
Friday, June at 6:00 p.m.

Early Shabbat Services
Friday, June 18 at 6:00
p.m.

Meditative Chant Service
Saturday, June 12
at 10:00 a.m.

JULY

Friday, July 9
Early Family Service at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Services at 6:30 p.m.

Early Shabbat Services
Friday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Meditative Chant Service
Saturday, July 24
at 10:00 a.m.



Stained Glass at a Jerusalem Synagogue

Ode to Fourth of July

I ponder what you mean to me, O fourth of this often brutally hot month of July. I cannot lie, O fourth of July; you are all wrapped up in family; our story enmeshed in ancestral lore, from Benjamin Franklin to General John Hooker; O, what have we stood for? We have carried flags, hoisted high in battle; we can name our personal dead and wounded. We have urgently rung bells to proclaim liberty throughout the land. But where have we taken our stand? What follows is our song.

“This land is your land; this land is my land”; family edit adds: this land is all of our land. “From California to the New York Island, from the Redwood Forests to the Gulf Stream waters”; from the rivers of Ohio to the hills of Arkansas; from the Texas coast lines to the Arizona deserts, this land was made for you and me; this land was made for the gang called ‘we’.

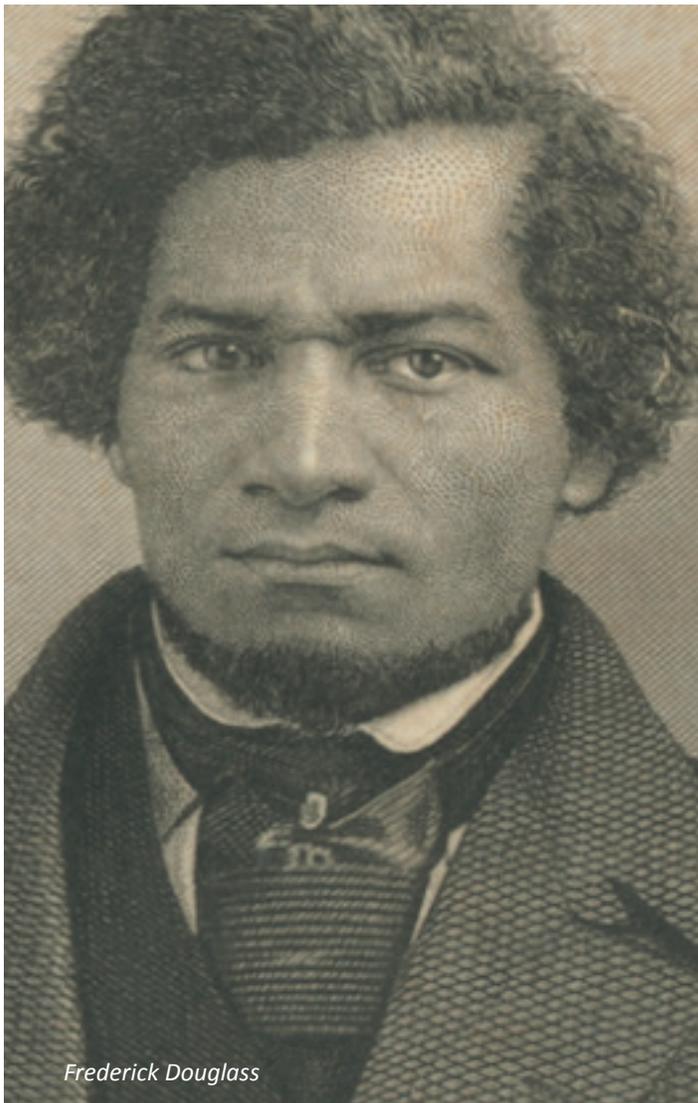
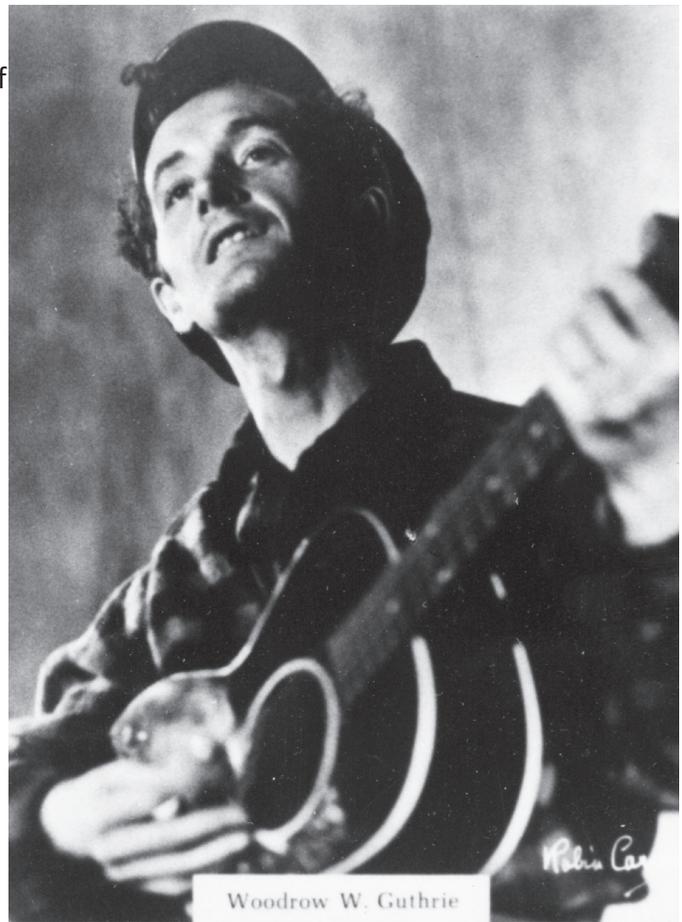
On July 5, 1852, the great orator and abolitionist, Frederic Douglas, who was born into slavery in 1818, was invited to speak to the Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society. I add his words to our song; to our fourth of July Ode.

“This land is your land; this land is my land,” sang Woody and Douglas responded, “What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is a constant victim.” “I roamed and rambled and I’ve followed my footsteps to the sparkling sands of her diamond desert; all around me a voice was sounding; this land was made for you and me.” “O cry, our beloved country,” “to the slave, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy

license; your national greatness, swelling vanity...your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery.”

“When the sun came shining, then I was strolling and the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling; then a voice came a-chanting and the fog was lifting; this land was made for you and me.” Douglas cried out, “Fellow citizens, this murderous traffic is, today, in active operation in this boasted republic. In the solitude of my spirit, I see clouds of dust raised on the highways of the South; I see the bleeding footsteps; I hear the doleful wail of fettered humanity on the way to the slave markets, where the victims are to be sold like horses, sheep and swine, knocked off to the highest bidder. There I see the tenderest ties ruthlessly broken...my soul sickens at the sight.”

Family edit: how do we make this land, this beautiful, possible land, how do we make it a land for the gang of we; a land for you and me and all of us? A land where we each tell and hear our story as part of the one-shared story; the story of this land. We must know and live our history. We must walk with Woody Guthrie and Frederic Douglas and our individual ancestors. We must “see the bleeding footsteps and hear the doleful wail of fettered humanity on the way to the slave markets.” That land

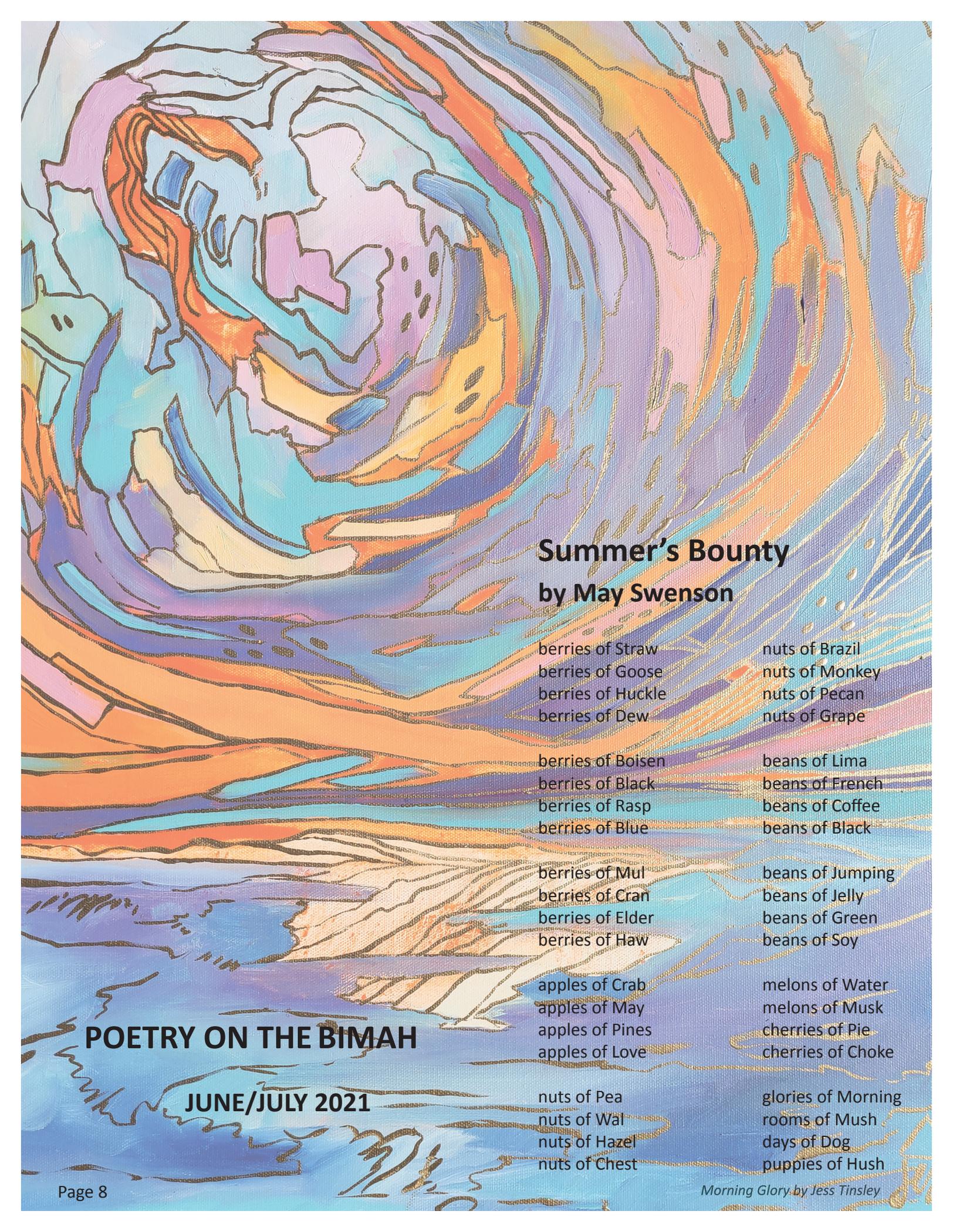


is our land, too. The land that enslaved and brutalized; we are all descendants of slaves and slave owners. We cannot pick and choose our history; this is our history; this is all of our story.

In response to the assassination of Dr. King, Robert Kennedy shouted out, “What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love and wisdom and compassion toward one another and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black.”

Add your Ode to mine; this Fourth of July, may the fireworks light up a huge dazzle of brave love and courage; of people gathered in harmony, pledging to make the way forward, a path of justice, fairness, compassion and shalom. May these ‘beautiful, spacious skies’ be big enough to hold all of our wishes, hopes and dreams for our country.

With the blessing of shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie S. Aaron



Summer's Bounty by May Swenson

berries of Straw
berries of Goose
berries of Huckle
berries of Dew

nuts of Brazil
nuts of Monkey
nuts of Pecan
nuts of Grape

berries of Boisen
berries of Black
berries of Rasp
berries of Blue

beans of Lima
beans of French
beans of Coffee
beans of Black

berries of Mul
berries of Cran
berries of Elder
berries of Haw

beans of Jumping
beans of Jelly
beans of Green
beans of Soy

apples of Crab
apples of May
apples of Pines
apples of Love

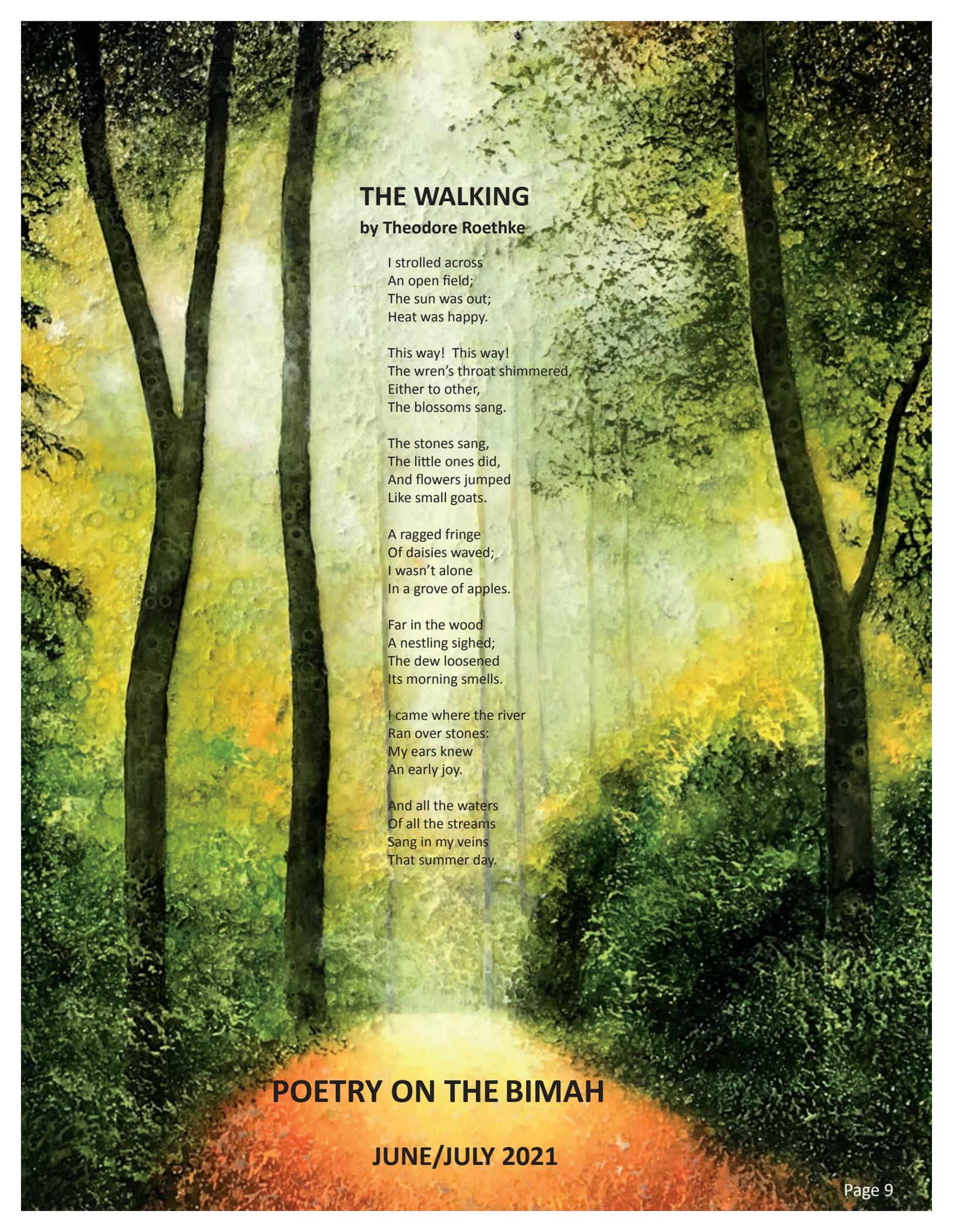
melons of Water
melons of Musk
cherries of Pie
cherries of Choke

nuts of Pea
nuts of Wal
nuts of Hazel
nuts of Chest

glories of Morning
rooms of Mush
days of Dog
puppies of Hush

POETRY ON THE BIMAH

JUNE/JULY 2021

The background of the page is a painting of a forest path. The path is a mix of orange and yellow, leading from the bottom center towards the middle of the page. On either side of the path are tall, slender trees with dark trunks and dense green foliage. The lighting is soft, creating a serene atmosphere.

THE WALKING

by Theodore Roethke

I strolled across
An open field;
The sun was out;
Heat was happy.

This way! This way!
The wren's throat shimmered,
Either to other,
The blossoms sang.

The stones sang,
The little ones did,
And flowers jumped
Like small goats.

A ragged fringe
Of daisies waved;
I wasn't alone
In a grove of apples.

Far in the wood
A nestling sighed;
The dew loosened
Its morning smells.

I came where the river
Ran over stones:
My ears knew
An early joy.

And all the waters
Of all the streams
Sang in my veins
That summer day.

POETRY ON THE BIMAH

JUNE/JULY 2021

Being Shomrim for Doing Mitzvot, Sacred Deeds, and Commandments

The following is Lyle Tumarkin's Confirmation Speech given on May 23, 2021.

Judaism has always been a core part of my family and my life. From attending Hebrew School every other week to celebrating the various holidays throughout the year, being Jewish has been a constant source of community for me in various ways. This is honestly my favorite part. While eating matzo-ball soup and playing dreidel are both great, the Jewish community is the part of this religion that has impacted me the most. Getting together with friends and family on Shabbat or any holiday, going through the seder, and just being present with the ones I love is one of the major parts of what being Jewish means to me.

As many of you know and can relate to, I am a very busy person. This meant that throughout my childhood, as I was trying to learn history, Hebrew, and other things that were included in Sunday School lessons, I was not always able to prioritize these studies. Despite this, I was still able to, with the help of my community of supportive family and mentors at Chaverim, stay caught up with my class and get Bat Mitzvahed. Now, speaking of getting Bat Mitzvahed, I feel like this event is seen as one of the biggest aspects to people outside of our religion, at least that is what I have gathered from talking with my non-Jewish friends. Studying and planning was hard work, and it really did pay off when the big day arrived. I did have a new sense of being and a new connection with my Jewish self after completing my Bat Mitzvah. However, while this ceremony is a big part of this religion, I would not say that this sole event is what being a Jew means to me.

Instead, as I mentioned, community is a large aspect of what being Jewish means for me and I want to share an example of a time when this applied. As I grew up and watched my sister complete various religious milestones such as getting Bat Mitzvahed and confirmed, she always had such a large class to participate in studies and these events with. This, however, was not the case for me. The year after my grade was designated to be Bar or Bat Mitzvahed, our congregation usually pairs with the other ones in Tucson to explore other religions and then go on a trip at the end of the year. During this time I sort of had another person in my class, but I was the only one who would consistently come. This was obviously not very ideal. So, after we figured that I was the only one in my class who was coming, another congregation opened their doors for me and I was able to go and study and take the trip with a new group of people so I wouldn't have to be alone. This is just such a great example of how the Jewish community is always doing what it can to involve each individual



Tree of Life Path of Mitzvot by Chaia Heller

the more profound meanings and see how I could apply them to my life.

Overall, having grown up with Judaism and its teachings interlaced into my life, I have gotten the opportunity to develop into the type of person I want to be. I am so thankful to have been shaped by this Synagogue and all my supportive teachers and mentors within it. I am grateful that my amazing parents, grandparents, and other family members have allowed for me to be a part of passing traditions l'dor vador and being a part of keeping Judaism alive and active in our family. With years of teachings from the torah now strong in my mind, I know that I will be able to move into adulthood and face challenges with my head held high, and I know that if I ever do fall, I will always have my family, friends, and this phenomenal community there to support me. Thank you.

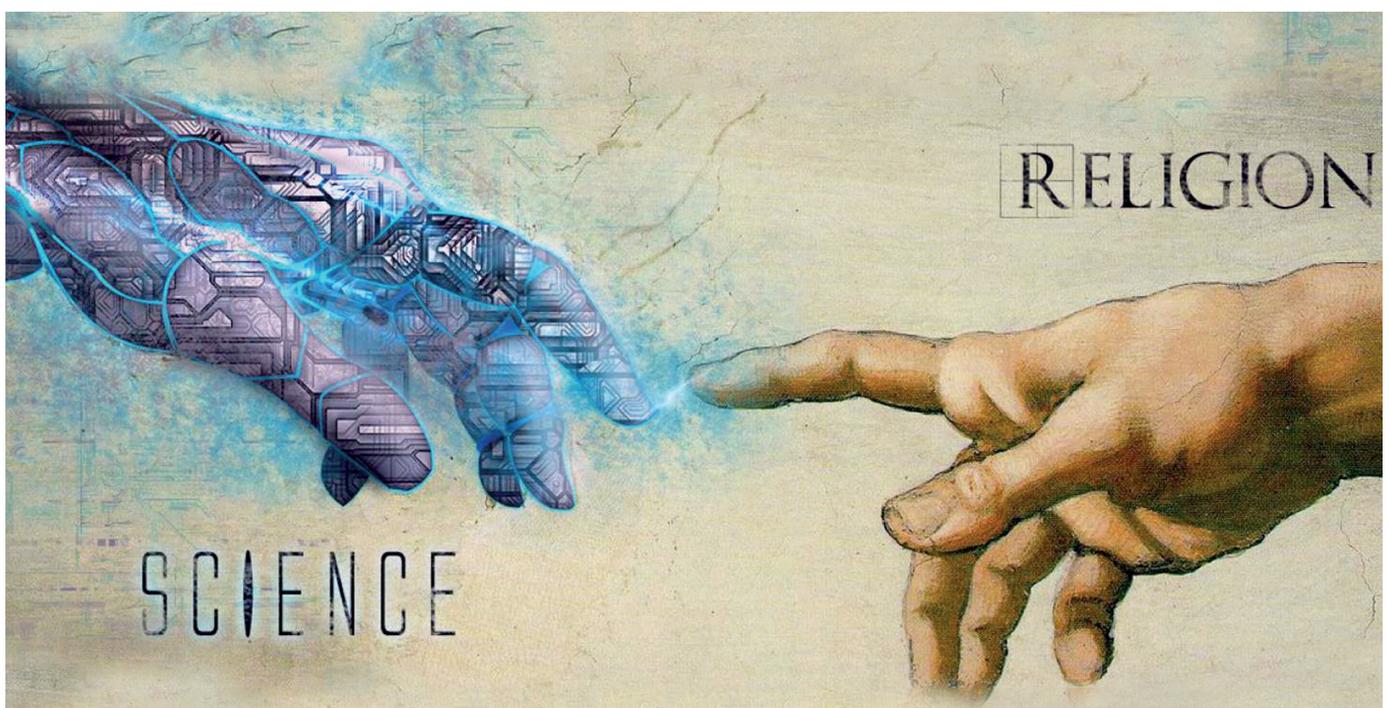
*Mazel Tov to Paige Feldman and Lyle Tumarkin on your Confirmation
on Sunday morning, May 23!*

The following is Paige Feldman's Confirmation Speech given on May 23, 2021.

Up until the last few years of my life, I had always chosen to participate in traditions but separated myself from any actual religion. I believed in science and evolution because of the origins in facts and proof. G-d is not something we can prove exists with physical evidence. The concept of just believing was, and still can be, a struggle for me.

My sister made the decision to be Jewish and put in years of effort to become a part of the religion. Because of her I also contemplated the idea of becoming Jewish, but my misunderstandings of Judaism persisted, leading me to keep away from being Jewish.

In the end I decided I wanted to be a part of a community, and because of Rabbi, I knew I would be welcome whether or not I knew how to be Jewish or held the same beliefs as those around me in the synagogue. Without even realizing it, I was participating in important Jewish morals revolving around a community. Taking the meaning of the Shma, prayer seriously, I show up and listen to those around me in the Jewish community and in return, by saying hineini, here I am, provide my support.



Going to services and my sister's Bat Mitzvah helped convince me to engage myself more. I came to classes and learned that I could still believe in scientific values and be Jewish. Science answers the questions of "How?" "What?" "When?" and "Where?" but never answers the question of "Why." As I started to become more a part of the Jewish community, I realized that "why" questions were really important to me, and I would never really find an answer through facts and history. Due to the vast amount of Jewish texts, I have learned that if I have a question, there will be a myriad of answers. Being part of the Jewish community is being part of something that is ancient but also eminently modern, everything makes sense because we can still apply past morals to today's world to some extent.

Religion started to click for me when I realized that evolution can still exist within religion. One main issue that arises when religion and science meet would be, how could the world possibly have been built in seven days? But one day for G-d equates to billions of years for humans, so when the creation of humans occurred on day six, the world and galaxies had already been developed. The sixth day signifies the necessary evolution that ended with humans most similar to who we are today. The sixth day was the moment in which humans had a spiritual awakening, which brought us closer to G-d.

Albert Einstein was a scientist who had strong connections to Jewish roots that brought him to the understanding that G-d did not randomly place everything on Earth for no apparent reason. Einstein insisted that G-d did not play dice with the universe, that there is an order to the chaos around us. Through evolution, we can see the work that was put into the universe and how important it is for humans to appreciate. Humans have an important role in the world to help the environment and the organisms that reside here, but G-d gave us the ability to have advanced emotions and knowledge so we can appreciate the earth provided for us. With this knowledge, it is hard not to appreciate the religion and want to be completely a part of it.



Canvas iteration of Banksy street art.

I wanted to be Jewish because of the community aspect, but as a result I feel I have gained a purpose in the world. G-d created humans for a reason, and as a result I am lucky enough to exist. Judaism encourages us to appreciate four relationships: love of G-d, love of self, love of neighbor, and love of stranger. These relationship values have become vital to my personal growth. I understand loving and appreciating the people around me, but loving myself and people that I have no connection to was a struggle. Being Jewish and studying sacred texts, I recognize that I need to be kind to everyone, including myself because even if someone hurts me or comes off as rude, I might never know why they acted this way, giving me no reason to respond in a poor way.

The real world can be hard to navigate but by choosing to be Jewish, I'm given the roadmap to a life that I personally can connect with. By choosing to be Jewish, I get the chance to be a part of a community that is connected to my roots and shares similar values with me. By choosing to be Jewish, I can continue to learn science and history while believing there is more to the world than just matter.

Beit Knesset – House of Meeting

Board Meetings: Monday, June 14 & July 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome our board members: Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, Allen Brailey, Suzanne Baron-Helming, Alma Hernandez, Rick Oestreich, Bob Schwartz, and Judy Weymouth.

From the President

This is the time of year when Congregation Chaverim solicits your support to renew your membership with us. Joining and supporting a congregation like ours is a very personal decision. Chaverim aims to be your Jewish connection and to provide for the spiritual, communal, and educational needs of every generation. Each synagogue is unique, with its own distinct character and culture. Chaverim offers a personal experience, a cozy facility, a vibrant religious school, and a great Rabbi. We are here for you whether you are a young family, empty nesters, or recent graduates. But we can't do any of this without your support. Please respond to our annual pledge notice with generosity. Please contact our Treasurer, Suzanne Baron Helming (chaverimtucson@gmail.com) with any financial questions. We don't turn anyone away!

We plan to kick off 5782 by returning to in person services. And we are planning to return to Mt. Lemmon for Rosh Hashanah! Due to the residual COVID concerns, we will have limited space. Please make your arrangements for your membership as soon as possible to reserve your tickets.

Looking forward to greeting all of you in person in 5782! ~ Allen Brailey

Did you know . . .

If you shop at Office Depot OfficeMax and give Chaverim's phone number (520-320-1015) at checkout, we will receive rebate and recycling credits from your purchases? This works for copy services also. We use these credits to purchase office supplies. Thank you!

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Mazel Tov

To the Boling and Anderson families
on the marriage of Ellie and Danny

Chaverim All Stars

Laura Ember, Grand Canyon University Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Health with an Emphasis in Child and Adolescent Disorders

Mari Bangoura graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arizona with a bachelor of arts in economics and minors in global business and nutritional sciences. She will be attending Bastyr University for a masters in nutritional sciences

Linnea Krieger is now Dr. Linnea Krieger. She just completed her Ph.D. in psychology from UC Riverside

Brennen Feder, graduating summa cum laude from The University of Arizona Eller College of Management, the Education College and the Honors College majoring in business management, entrepreneurship, education leadership, literacy, and learning with minors in business administration, adolescence, community, and education. Honors include DPS National Collegian of the Year, DSP President of the Year, Eller Outstanding Scholar of the Year, Eller Outstanding Senior of the Year, Bobcats Senior Honorary, Poets and Quants Best and Brightest, and Dean's List with Distinction. Brennen is moving to Seattle to begin a career with Proctor and Gamble.

Paige Feldman, University High School, will attend Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University majoring in Math

Connor Oseran, graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in finance from the Eller School of Management. Connor has accepted a job offer in San Francisco working for Financial Technology Partners

Lyle Tumarkin graduated with High Honors from Empire High School. She will be attending Northern Arizona University

BEIT OLAM - HOUSE OF BLESSED MEMORY

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

The family of Valorie Putt, Sister-in-Law of David and Jill Putt, Aunt of Jordan, Monica, and Aaron; May 19, 2021

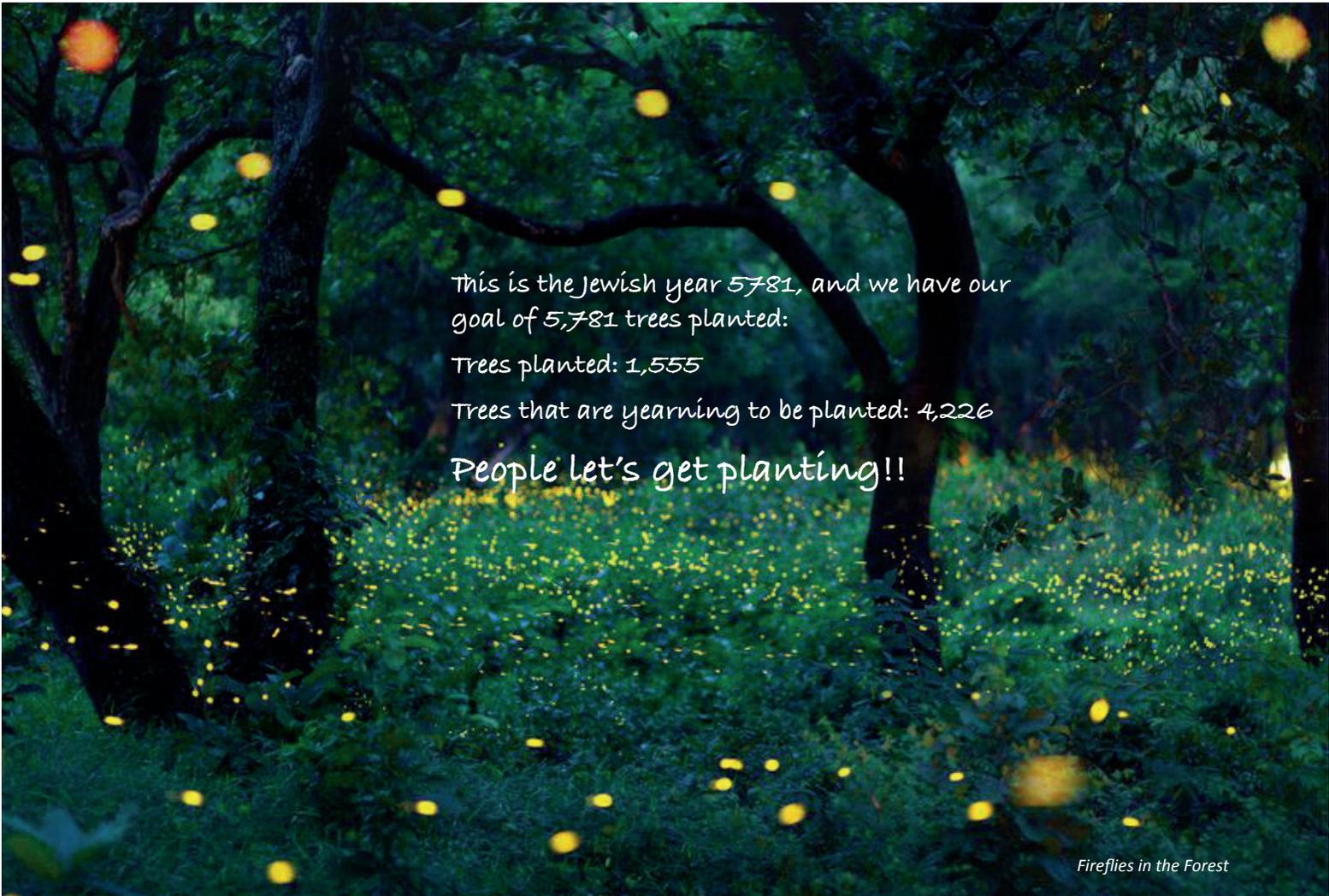
The family of Gloria Jacobs, Beloved mother of John (Mary All), Ken Phillipa), and Jim (Debra), June 4, 2021

The family of Carol Stern, Beloved wife of Al, z"l; Mother of Beth, z"l; Ellen, Stephen and Lora; Grandmother of Christopher, Oren, Nadav and Noa; Great Grandmother of Yanai, Yair, Yamit and Omer; May 14, 2021

The family of Harriet Feldman, Mother of Gayle Marksamer, Stefanie Feldman, Melissa Siegel, and Jon Feldman; Grandmother of Marni Levassuer, Amy Merksamer, Emily Siegel, and Natalie and Paige Feldman; Great-grandmother of Lucie and Juliette Levassuer; February 7, 1931 – May 27, 2021

The family of Sonia Gale Bram, Beloved mother of Gary and Denise Bram and Andrew and Barbara Bram; Grandmother of Jason Bram, Allyson Bram Mahoney, Nicole Bram, Ryan Bram and Shannon Castro; Great-Grandmother of Armand, Andres and Zane and Rachel, Jackson and Gavin; July 27, 1919 – April 7, 2021

May they rest in Shalom.



This is the Jewish year 5781, and we have our goal of 5,781 trees planted:

Trees planted: 1,555

Trees that are yearning to be planted: 4,226

People let's get planting!!

Fireflies in the Forest



Congregation Chaverim Facebook's Page

(www.facebook.com/ChaverimTucson/)

Be sure to like  Congregation Chaverim on Facebook! Stay up-to-date with the happenings at Tucson's greatest synagogue! Please follow our page and share with family and friends. Check out service and programming events along with photos of our vibrant, welcoming multigenerational community!

June Lifecycles



JUNE ADULT BIRTHDAYS

1	David Gibbs	11	Toni Esquibel	22	Braden Vincent
1	Marc Goodman	13	Audrey Levy	22	Isaac Dombrowski
1	Grace Weiss	15	Richmond Fenn	23	John Barrow
2	Ann Tumarkin	15	Elise Konigsberg	26	Rabbi Stephanie Aaron
7	David Putt	17	Diane Ealy	26	Michael Wyman
8	Gabrielle Giffords	17	Steve Randall	28	Brad Feder
9	Debbie De La Rosa	21	Joyce Cook	28	Sarah Hofstadter

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 1	Cherie & Oded Lamdan	June 18	Tim & Angelle Alberts
June 3	Richard & Yvonne Morris	June 18	Bruce Helming & Suzanne Baron Helming
June 4	Allycyn & Rex Jacobs	June 19	Neil & Ilana Markowitz
June 16	Heather & David Alberts	June 20	Elliot & Lorraine Glicksman
June 17	Gary Emerson & Laury Goll	June 24	Richard & Elise Oestreich

YELADIM

Paxton Clark	June 5, 2012
Zeke Bradshaw	June 14, 2004
Vera Hunter	June 20, 2013
Aisha O'Neil	June 22, 2006



July Lifecycles

JULY ADULT BIRTHDAYS

2	John O'Dowd	22	Braden Vincent	26	Stephanie Bernstein
4	Sabrina Plattner	22	Isaac Dombrowski	28	Miriam Galilee
7	Kathy Gerst	19	Mike Cracovaner	28	Gennady Sare
11	Jerry Braun	20	Michael Richter	30	Hans Bradshaw
13	Harold Loewenheim	23	Allycyn Jacobs	30	Naomi Present-Tor
13	Madison Barrow	25	Nancy Kumble Fenn	31	Pam Nirenberg
17	Ellie Emerson	25	Paul Rubin	31	Reyna Sanchez
17	Maya Collier	26	Jim Mackie		

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 2	Michael & Judy Marks
July 22	Javier & Debbie De La Rosa
July 28	Leisy & Michael Wyman

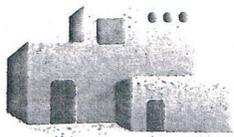
YELADIM

Taraji Beryhill	July 9, 2010
Carolyn Feldstein	July 13, 2010
Naomi G. Holtzman	July 22, 2004

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Holy One, help us make peace, wholeness and harmony, and help us put peace, completeness, fulfillment in this world, for all the world, beginning right here in our town. Rabbi Stephanie Aaron

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