

CHAI LIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Congregation Chaverim

January Mitzvah of the Month:
The Sacred Practice of Remembrance

YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

ISAIAH 43:10

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Remembering January 8, 2011

BY RABBI
STEPHANIE
AARON



On January 8, 2011, during “Congress on Your Corner,” our Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was gunned down on the streets of our town, our Tucson. These six Tucsonans were shot and killed: Christina Taylor-Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman. They were among the nineteen Tucsonans who had a gun aimed and discharged at them while they exercised their rights as citizens, to meet with their Congresswoman and discuss their concerns for our country. We remember them by saying their names and doing our work in the world to stand against the plague of violence in all its forms that threatens each one of us every day here in these United States of America.

I was recently asked to introduce Gabby at the International Lions of Judah, an international Jewish Women’s Philanthropic organization, Conference, which was held in Phoenix. In remembrance of January 8, 2011, of the extraordinary work that Gabby has done since that time and to inspire each of us to enter the secular New Year with a renewed sense of our individual purposes, please find my following remarks..



Public Art by CIRCA imaginepeace.com

For almost three decades, I have been blessed to know Gabby Giffords as her friend, her rabbi, her constituent, her fan and her ardent supporter. Many of us here in this room can bring a Gabby moment to mind. Here are some of mine: United States of America House of Representatives Congresswoman, the Honorable Gabrielle Giffords: Gabby serving our country with *chein*: G-d's grace and eloquence. In the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible, *Shlomo haMelech*, King Solomon, asks The Holy One for the gift of a *lev chacham v'navon*, a wise and an understanding heart, Gabrielle Giffords has also been gifted by G-d with a wise and understanding heart which was manifest in the bridges she built across party lines; in her ability to find ways to communicate with anyone and everyone; to bring people together to dwell in this village, this state, this country, we all built.

Gabby began her work here in the Arizona House and Senate. With her deep and heartfelt smile and her invigorating presence, she came to help ease the sense of aloneness in others. With her brilliance of mind, she came to help solve the problems that hover over all of our lives: loss of jobs, loss of homes, loss of the dignity of being human, loss of habitats, loss of air to breathe and clean water to drink. With her clear head and open heart, she stretches beyond herself to stand in the place of another human being, to enter his suffering, to dwell in her pain, to be in their heart; to exclaim unequivocally, I am here. You are not alone. In Hebrew, this is called saying *Hineini*. Gabby's *hineini* means that she says to each one of us: I am here to stand firmly with you against the plagues that would destroy us: bigotry, hatred, antisemitism, apathy, racism, cruelty, stinginess, mean-spiritedness and violence.

Over 25 years ago, Gabby, you dreamed a dream that you would become a bat mitzvah; last year, on November 27, 2021, with three of your closest friends, Joni Jones, Suzy Gershman, and Amanda Freed, by your side; you stood before our community as a bat mitzvah. Your Torah portion, *Vayeshev*; is the portion we are reading this week in Torah; today is the one year anniversary of your bat mitzvah! Woohoo, let me hear a resounding mazel tov from this gathered community! Mazel Tov, Gabby! Like Joseph the dreamer, in your portion your dream became a reality. You affirmed our ancient, yet vastly current teachings: to do the work of *tikkun haolam*, to repair the world, one tree planted at a time, one law for gun safety passed at a time, one family fed, clothed and sheltered,



one creature brought back from the brink of extinction, a book in every child's hand, one by one.

Gabby, you stand with Abraham and Sarah whose "I dissents" echo down through the ages. You stand with US Supreme Court Justice, of blessed memory, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, RBG, who carried on the challenge of pursuing justice with her firm, vibrant, "I dissents!" Gabby, at your bat mitzvah and every minute of every day, you confirm your commitment to these values and mitzvot: *tikkun haolam*, mending the world, *tsedek*, creating a just world, *rachmanes*, being compassionate, *g'milut chasadim*, doing acts of loving kindness. You live with an attitude of gratitude from which all of us draw breath. As we began your b'not mitzvah Shabbas service last November, I announced that I was experiencing "cascading joy"; this is the joy that Rebbe Nachman spoke about when he



NAFME website, Giffords Photo File

taught: *mitzvah g'dolah l'hiyot b'simcha tamid*; it is a great mitzvah to be in a state of joy always. This is the joy, the heart gladness, that we experience every morning chanting our prayer *Modeh Ani*, recognizing the gift that G-d has given us by returning our souls to us for another day of living. Gabby, you embody and embrace this teaching.

Rabbi Sidney Greenberg wrote each of us has a job to do which will remain undone if we do not do it. Each of us has love to bestow which only we can give. Each of us has compassion to show which this world will be denied if we suppress it. Being a Jew is about answering G-d's call: *Ayeka*; where are you? With a resounding, "*Hineini!*" I am here! Here I am! I'm ready to do the work that only I can do, being as strong as a lion! Holding up other people with a sure and steady grip. Being as strong as the sun! you shine the light of your soul out into the universe, searching out the problems, the aches and bewilderments, the crises and the dilemmas; the places where you are most needed and that is where you show up.

Gabby, on Jan 8, 2011, I was traveling and I had intermittent cell service when I learned that you had been shot; and then I had none for over an hour....that was the hour in which I thought you had died...A world without Gabby Giffords, no-- impossible...what you have shown us in these 11 , almost 12 years: your bravery, your courage, your, what I have always called your holy *chutzpah*, you learned to walk, again, to talk, again, to ride a bicycle, again, to play the French horn, again! You played the French horn at your bat mitzvah as we all sang our American Jewish poet, Allen Ginsberg's, new verses for Amazing Grace. I forgot to ask you to bring your French horn here today, but I will sing the first verse for us. "I dreamed I dwelled in a homeless place, where I was lost alone, folk looked right through me into space and passed with eyes of stone".....Gabby, you would never allow any human being to dwell alone in a homeless place; you would never look right through another person and pass with eyes of stone.

Many years ago, in our synagogue, I coined the term shero—I just couldn't abide the word heroine for female heroes. You have always been one of my sheroes. When you received your Hebrew name, Gavriellah, in a naming ceremony at our synagogue, I spoke about the meaning of Gavriel in Hebrew. *Gavri*, my strength, is *El*, my strength is G-d; G-d gives me strength; G-d empowers my life. Your faith, your *emunah*, is foundational for you. In the face of what has happened to you: you keep moving ahead, with elan, with hope and with the formidable *n'shamah*, *sou*, that is all you, Gabby.

In your hospital room, I held on tightly to your hand and as is our custom when a person is gravely injured or ill, I added the name *Chayah*, life, to your name and you became Gavriellah Chayah , a shero for all times and seasons; strong, brave, vitally alive; your name shines brightly and confirms your path and your mission: be bold! Be courageous; be your best! Love you, Gabby!

With the blessing of shalom for the New Year,
Rabbi Stephanie S. Aaron

Beit Tefillah - House of Prayer

Friday, January 6:

Early Tot-to-Ten and Beyond Shabbat Services
at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Services
at 7:00 p.m. remembering January 8, 2011

Sunday, January 8:

Mussar Yoga with Joey De La Rosa
at 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 14:

Shabbat Morning Services
at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 20:

Remembering Debbie Friedman Shabbat Services
at 7:00 p.m.
Come and sing and celebrate the wonderful
music of Debbie Friedman

Saturday, January 21:

Meditative Chant Shabbat Services
at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 22:

Mussar Yoga with Madison Barrow
at 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Friday, January 27:

International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Shabbat Services in partnership with the
Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center
at 7:00 p.m.
The service will be held at the Tucson Jewish Museum
& Holocaust Center. An Oneg Shabbat honoring
our local survivors will follow the service.



CHILDREN'S BEIT MIDRASH HOUSE OF STUDY

Beit Midrash Classes

Sundays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

January 8
January 22

January 29 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Travel the Butterfly Trail with
your family and friends

Hebrew Classes

Mondays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

January 9
January 16 (Special MLK Jr. Remembrance)
January 23
January 30

Poetry on the Bimah

January 2023

All the public places I've cried:
airports, beaches, parking lots—
so many—waiting rooms,
parks, train platforms,
benches. Whose loss
is shed? The bluish distillate
in Rilke's saucerless cup
was watered down with tears
to be more bearable.
In this morning's coffee
tears dissolved like
comets into the darkness.
If I need a good cry
I watch that astronaut singing
"Major Tom," playing his guitar.
Astronaut tears are Jell-O.
Even the physics makes my heart
confetti. You're too emotional,
you said, as my eyes irrigated
the flower beds. In India, Colombia,
Chile, Japan, and the Philippines,
You can still hire a professional
mourner. Crying in public
ought to be easier. Designated
trees or hilltops might help.
Or an hour of tears,
when we can howl in unison
and then return to our
diluteness. I mean dailiness.
Crying is inevitable
When the headlines read
like requiems. When
Cihuacoatl prophesied
the conquest of Mexico
all she could do was cry.

Llorona

by Gloria Munoz

A mirror will suffice, no doubt.
The high furrowed forehead,
The heavy-lidded Asian eyes,
The long-lobed Indian ears.
Brown skin beginning to spot,
Of an age to bore and be bored.
I turn away, knowing too well
My face, my expression
For all seasons, my half smile.

Birds flit about the feeder,
The dog days wane, and I
Observe the jitters of leaves
And the pallor of the ice-blue beyond.
I read to find inspiration. I write
To restore candor to the mind.
There are raindrops on the window,
And a peregrine wind gusts on the grass.
I think of my old red flannel shirt,
The one I threw away in July.
I would like to pat the warm belly of a
Beagle or the hand of a handsome woman.
I look ahead to cheese and wine,
And a bit of Bach, perhaps,
Or Schumann on
the bow
of Yo-Yo Ma.

A Benign Self-Portrait

by N. Scott Momaday

I see the mountains as I saw them
When my heart was young.
But were they not a deeper blue,
shimmering under the fluency of skies
Radiant with crystal light? Across the way
The yellow land lies out, and standing stones
Form distant islands in the field of time.
Here is a stillness on this perfect world,
And I am content to settle in its hold.
I turn inward on a wall of books.
They are old friends, even those that
Have dislodged my dreams. One by one
They have shaped the thing I am.

These are the days that swarm
Into the shadows of legend. I ponder.
And when the image on the glass
Is refracted into the prisms of the past
I shall remember: my parents speaking
Quietly in a warm familiar room, and
I bend to redeem an errant, broken doll.
My little daughter, her eyes brimming
With love, beholds the ember of my soul,
There is the rattle of a teacup, and
At the window and among the vines,
The whir of a hummingbird's wings.
In the blue evening, in another room,
There is the faint laughter of ghosts,
And in a tarnished silver frame, the
likeness of a boy who bears my name.



Being Shomrim for the Lessons of Remembrance

by Judy Rose Sensibar

Butterflies alight all around on the afternoon of January 29, when the Butterfly Project hosts a complete tour of all seven of its sites along our city's Butterfly Trail. The event runs from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, January 29. The event is free, and food and drink will be offered at most of the locations.

Every site along the trail features a special project to promote a prejudice-free Tucson and remember the significance of the clay butterflies; each one represents a child who perished in the Holocaust. Volunteers will be at every site to stamp your "Butterfly Passport," and those knowledgeable about the project and the Holocaust will be on hand to offer information and answer questions. Each center will also offer the chance to stand up to hate and say the Butterfly Pledge, which starts, "I will this world to be better." The

complete pledge follows this article on the Beit Knesset House of the Synagogue page.

At our very own Chaverim, the only temple on the tour, visitors get a chance to paint a clay butterfly. Even though our mosaic along the north side of the synagogue—an enormous tree filled with clay butterflies—is complete, the butterflies we decorate will be shipped around the world to create additional beautiful memorials. One and half million butterflies are needed to commemorate the one and half million children who were killed in the Holocaust.

Downtown at the Children's Museum, volunteers from Ben's Bells will provide "Kindness Coins" to paint and take with to treasure and to give away. Also south of downtown, The Jewish Museum and Holocaust Center will have readings from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a collection of poems, art, and letters created by children imprisoned in the Terezin Concentration Camp. Fifteen thousand children under the age of fifteen passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. Fewer than 100 survived.

Make your way over to the UA Hillel Foundation (the Sun Link Streetcar goes right by here), to one of the original butterfly sites where you can take the pledge once again, ending with the line, "I will make hope the only choice when faced with hate."

Then head east to the other three stops: the Botanical Gardens, The JCC, and Tucson Medical Center (TMC). Be sure to visit the real butterflies in their special greenhouse at the Botanical Gardens, a very magical place. And you can't miss the memorial, which is right at the entrance. Each visitor to the Botanical Gardens will get a lavender pod to plant. At the J, arts and crafts materials will be provided to make dream catchers, and at the hospital, salvaged pages of children's diaries written during the Holocaust will be read and on display. Finally, the hospital is partnering with the Food Bank at this location, as so many of the children died of hunger and starvation during the Holocaust.

Please consider volunteering at one of these sites and remember to take the pledge at every place! Stand up to hate, discrimination, prejudice, and violence.

Beit Knesset House of the Synagogue

Raise Your Voices! Stand Up Against Antisemitism and all forms of Racism! On January 29, 2023, Travel The Butterfly Trail and take The Butterfly Pledge! Be an Upstander for a Prejudice-Free Tucson!!

THE BUTTERFLY PROJECT

REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

Promote a prejudice-free Tucson!

Sunday, January 29th, 1-4pm



Take the Butterfly Pledge

Hope is a commitment to action.

A rally cry:

“I will this world to be better.”

I will believe in the power of my own voice.

I will be a force for good and a source of compassion.

I will offer up some belonging to others who need it.

I will use the lessons learned in the Holocaust to warn against the dangers of staying silent.

I will challenge the dehumanization of others and stand up in the face of intolerance.

I will move mountains so that my neighbors do not have to live in the shadows.

I will make hope the only choice when faced with hate.

REMEMBER

Each hand-painted butterfly represents one of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished during The Holocaust.

STAND UP TO HATE

Take a stand with your family and friends against prejudice, violence, discrimination, and hate of any kind— against any person or group of people.

BUTTERFLY TRAIL TOUR

Tour the trail! Join your community making stops at each of the 7 sites on the Tucson Butterfly Trail.

Travel The Butterfly Trail

Stamp your Butterfly Trail Passport at each of these sites!



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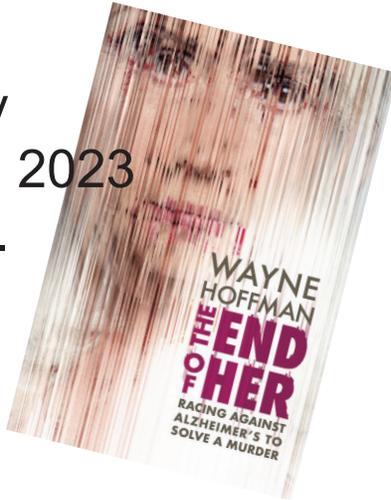
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ADULT BEIT MIDRASH

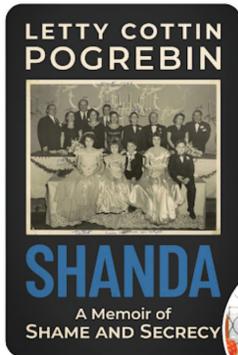
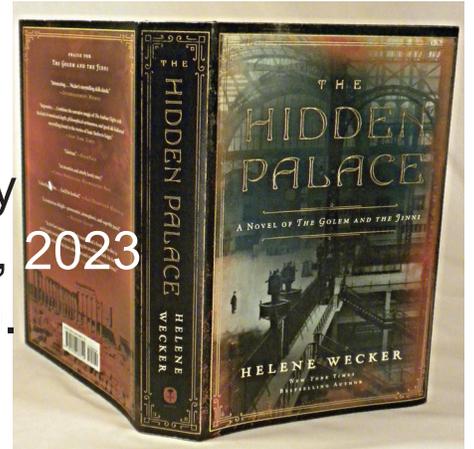
A Century of Jewish Books Book Club

Join the lively discussions! In person and/or on Zoom!

Wednesday
January 11, 2023
at 6:45 p.m.



Wednesday
February 8, 2023
at 6:45 p.m.



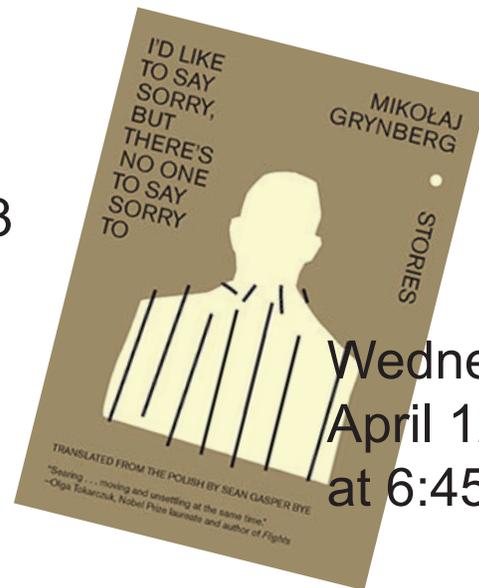
SHANDA



"Pogrebin writes with sympathy and affection... A wise, funny look behind the curtains of a family that, it would seem, has little to be ashamed of."

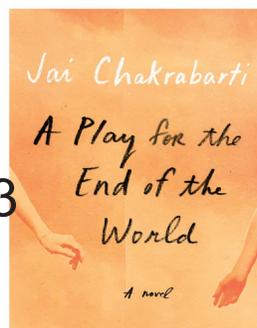
— starred Kirkus Review

Wednesday
March 8, 2023
at 6:45 p.m.



Wednesday
April 12, 2023
at 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday
May 10, 2023
at 6:45 p.m.



House of Thanks

Beit Todah

RABBI AARON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan Claassen in memory of Goldie
Debbie De La Rosa in memory of Morris
Resnick

Joseph and Bonnie Dombrowski in
memory of Julian Dombrowski

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Selma Lewis

Laurence J. Novak in memory of
Gertrude Novak

Iris Pearlman in memory of
Sara Pearlman

Debbie Yoklic in memory of
Miriam Flis

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Nancy Fenn in loving memory of
Alan Kumble

Su Neuhauser in memory of
Selma Fussteig Neuhauser

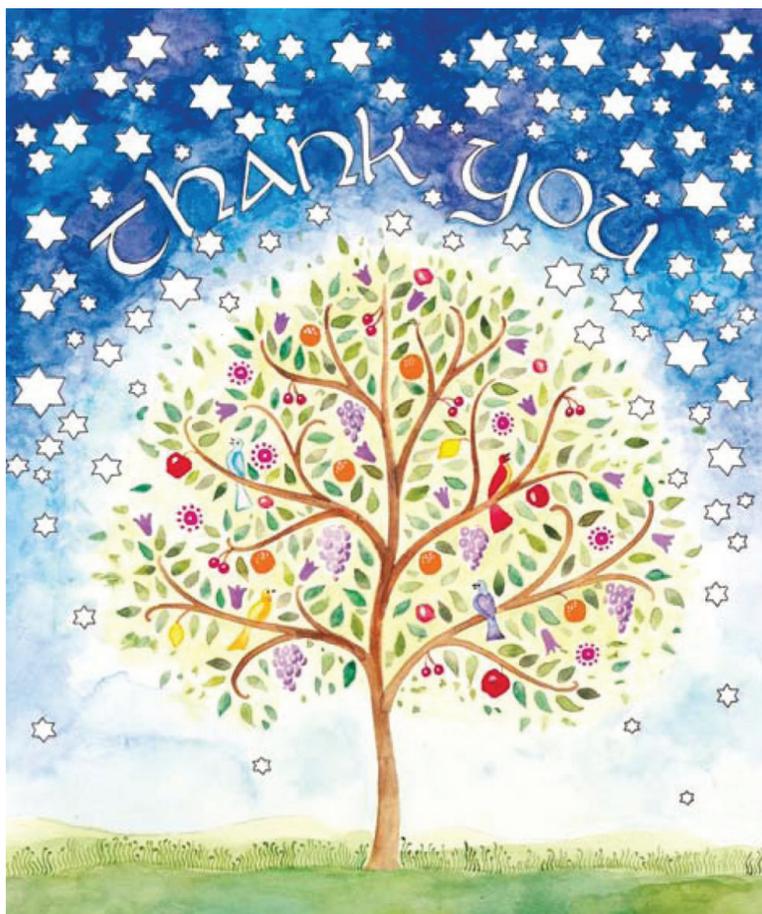
Debbie Yoklic in memory of
Martin Yoklic

L'CHAIM GENERAL FUND

Martha Baron in memory of Allen Baron

Lee and Andrew Comrie in memory of Emeile Loewenheim
Miriam Galilee

Shelley and Bob Schwartz in memory of Phillip Sacks, uncle of
Bob Schwartz



CHANNUKAH CHAPPENINGS AT CHAVERIM THANK YOUS

Ari Ginsburg and family for amazing decorations and hot chocolate and doughnuts!

Suzy Gershman for Channukah Gift Bags for the kids and uncovering the many
Channukiyot we lit!

Paige and Natalie Feldman and their mom, Judy Krentzel, for amazing face painting!

Maggie Rawlings Smith for pin the ner, candle, on the Channukiah and many won-
derful prizes!

Mellie Balasa for our amazing Channukah tsedakah card project!

Tom Cracovaner and Paul Tumarkin for making beautiful Channukah music!

Beit Knesset House of the Synagogue

January Board Meeting:
Monday, January 9, 2023
at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome our board members: Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, Allen Brailey, Suzanne Baron-Helming, Rick Oestreich, Alma Hernandez, Suzy Gershman, Ann ReVelle, Consuelo Hernandez, and Rebecca Crow

Please welcome Our New Member:
Kathleen Friedman!

For more information on how to order, email us at admin@chaverim.net!



Congregation Chaverim Facebook's Page:
(www.facebook.com/ChaverimTucson/)

Love us? Then like us on Facebook! Stay up-to-date with all the Chaverim Happenings! Check out services and events along with photos of our vibrant, welcoming multigenerational community!



JANUARY ADULT BIRTHDAYS

1	Steve Andresen	24	Ginger Linde
3	Tom Cracovaner	24	Noah Sensibar
7	Jerome Weiss	24	Susan Simon
9	Lisa Friedman	24	Ted Warmbrand
10	Judith Brown	30	Robert Lewis
11	Katie Oseran	31	Megan Addis
12	Suzanne Baron Helming		
12	Paul Tumarkin		
15	Emily Brailey		
15	Max Rubin		
15	Lee Surwit		
22	Monica Putt		
22	Eric Freedberg		
24	Melinda Balasa		

January Life Cycles

Art by Eric Sloane (1905-1985)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Bonnie Dombrowski

January 3

YELADIM

Isaac Hunter	January 8, 2011
Asher Kruger-Tor	January 28, 2013
Darcy Linker	January 28, 2009
Georgie Meier	January 28, 2012
Etai Martin	January 30, 2014

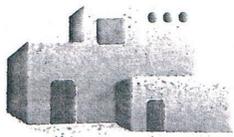
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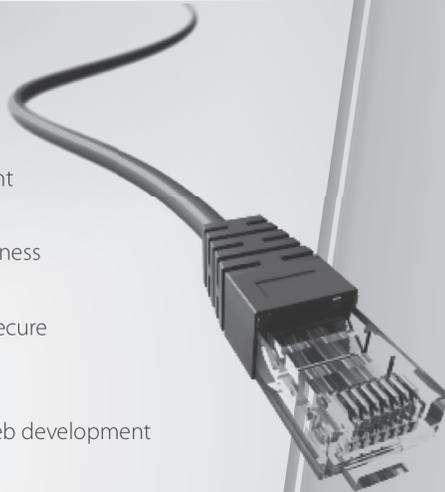
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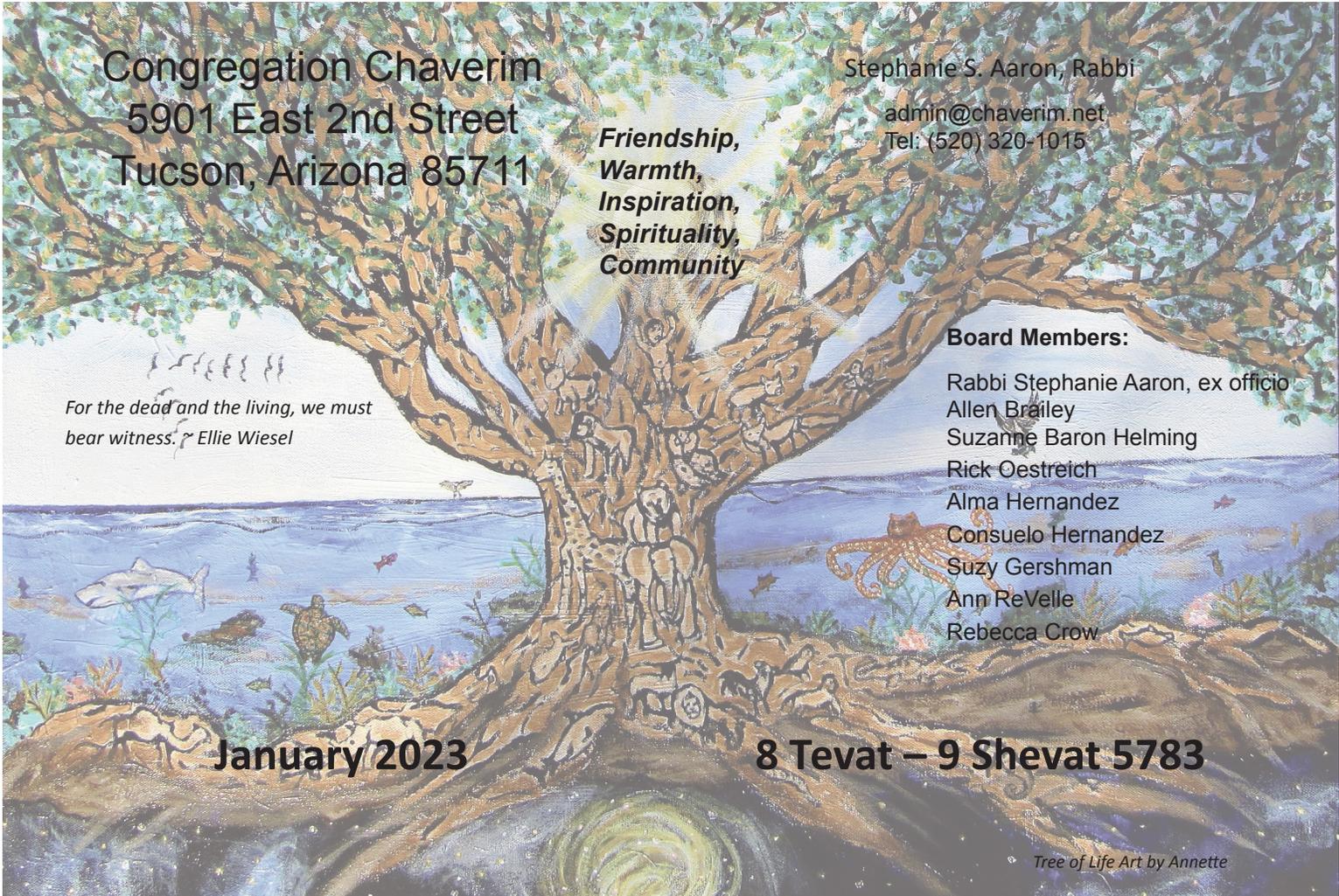
Diana Povolotskaya

Lisa Friedman

Paul Tumarkin

Tom Cracovaner

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*Friendship,
Warmth,
Inspiration,
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Community*

Board Members:

- Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, ex officio
- Allen Brailey
- Suzanne Baron Helming
- Rick Oestreich
- Alma Hernandez
- Consuelo Hernandez
- Suzy Gershman
- Ann ReVelle
- Rebecca Crow

*For the dead and the living, we must
bear witness. ~ Ellie Wiesel*

January 2023

8 Tevat – 9 Shevat 5783

Tree of Life Art by Annette